

Wassail!

CAROLS OF COMFORT AND JOY

1. What sweeter music can we bring?

Words: from *A Christmas Carol* by Robert Herrick (1591–1634)

Music: *The Wexford Carol* (Irish traditional)
arr. Alexander L'Estrange

Free and contemplative ♩ = c. 56

1 Solo or small group* 2 Add 1 or more singers at each new numbered phrase 3

Unison Children

What sweet-er mu - sic can we bring Than a ca - rol, for to sing The

5 birth of this our heav'n - ly King? *piu f* **Slower** A - wake the voice! A - wake the string!

2. The Sussex carol

Words: English trad.
(after Bishop Luke Wadding, d. 1686)

Music: Trad. (collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams
from Mrs Verrall, of Monk's Gate, Sussex, in 1904)
arr. Alexander L'Estrange

Jolly rollick ♩ = c. 100

9 **Piano** *f*

13

16

* Feel free to make the most of your venue: perhaps the first soloist could be offstage or in a balcony.
Experiment also with lighting effects – e.g. start in darkness and add lights as the voices join in...

6. The first tree in the greenwood

Words: Trad.

Music: Cornish melody, transcribed early 20th century
(often known as the *Sans Day carol*)
arr. Alexander L'Estrange

565 **Gentle, folkly** ♩ = c. 102

Piano *mp*

570 CHILDREN *mp*

VERSE I (Children only)

Now the hol - ly bears a ber - ry as

p

575

white as the milk, And Ma - ry bore Je - sus, all

CHORUS I

579 *più mf*

wrapped up in silk. And Ma - ry, she bore Je - sus, our

mp

30 CHORUS 2

323 CHILDREN

ri - sing of the sun And the run - ning of the deer, The play - ing of the

S./A.

ri - sing of the sun And the run - ning of the deer, The play - ing of the

T./B.

ri - sing of the sun And the run - ning of the deer, The play - ing of the

mf

328

mer - ry or - gan, Sweet sing - ing all in the choir.

mer - ry or - gan, Sweet sing - ing all in the choir. Oh the

mer - ry or - gan, Sweet sing - ing all in the choir. The

mp

mp

V.3 (both tunes)

333 S./A.

hol - ly bears a ber - ry, As red as a - ny blood, And

T./B.

hol - ly bears a ber - ry, As red as a - ny blood, And

p