

23. COVENTRY CAROL

(First version)

Original tune of 1591

Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, 15th century

SOPRANO
or ALTO

Lul - ly, lul - la, thou lit - tle tiny child, By by, lul - ly lul -

TENOR

Lul - ly, lul - la, thou lit - tle tiny child, By by, lul - ly lul -

BASS

- lay, thou lit - tle tiny child, By by, lul - ly lul - lay.

- lay, thou lit - tle tiny child, By by, lul - ly lul - lay.

1. O sis - ters too, How may we do For to pre - serve this day This

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poor young - ling, For whom we do sing, By by, lul - ly lul - lay?

poor young - ling, For whom we do sing, By by, lul - ly lul - lay?

we do

The above Refrain and First Verse is scored from the original.

2. Herod, the king,
In his raging,
Chargèd he hath this day
His men of might,
In his own sight,
All young childrén to slay.

3. That woe is me,
Poor child for thee!
And ever morn and day,
For thy parting
Neither say nor sing
By by, lully lullay!

This song is sung by the women of Bethlehem in the play, just before Herod's soldiers come in to slaughter their children.

* The original manuscript has F and D in tenor part here.