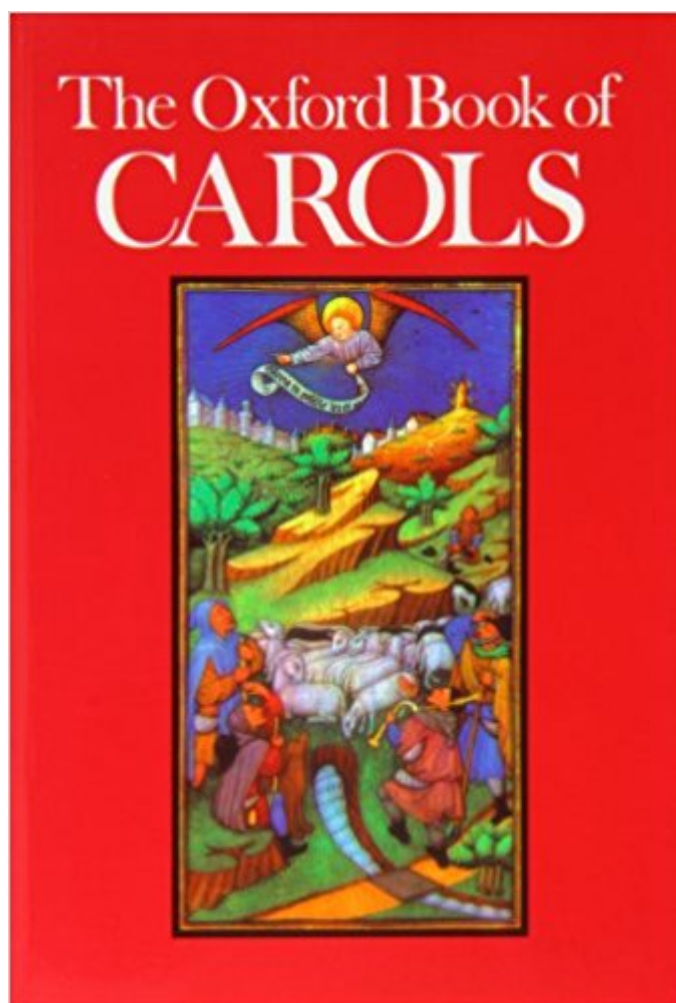


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# The Oxford Book Of Carols: Music Edition



## Synopsis

A firm favourite with choirs for many years, this is a classic collection of traditional carols. With its breadth of material, notes on sources, extended introduction and indexes, it is indispensable both as a choral collection and as a standard reference book.

## Book Information

Paperback: 476 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (March 21, 1985)

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1.1 x 5.8 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #673,614 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Vaughan-williams](#) #142 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Choral](#) #168 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Religious & Sacred Music > Chorale](#)

## Customer Reviews

Perfect for madrigal or four-part singing, this book contains many familiar carols, and some that are less familiar, including Easter and Harvest carols. I became familiar with this book when we used it as a backbone for our Christmas Caroling group several years ago, it was fun to sing from, and the music was enjoyed by the listeners.

This book is an excellent read. The depth of the historical research and wealth of fascinating information on the development and use of the carols is invaluable. This book would be worth the purchase if it did not contain any music at all. As it is, the collecting of carols for this book had saved many pieces from being lost forever. The musical arrangements are very singable and allow the words to shine through wonderfully. Some are challenging others are simple. All are thoroughly enjoyable. The carols and text are a true part of the folk history of northern Europe.

"THE OXFORD BOOK OF CAROLS" IS THE MOST FAMOUS AND THE MOST COMPLETE OF ALL CAROL COLLECTIONS."It contains 197 carols, most of which are for the Christmas season,

but some are for Passiontide or Easter, or for other seasons of the year. All but thirty have traditional carol tunes, mostly with traditional carol texts. The remainder have music by 19th- or 20th-century composers, including such famous carols as Holst's 'In the Bleak Midwinter' and 'Lullay my liking', Cornelius's 'Three Kings from Persian lands afar' and Tchaikovsky's 'The Crown of Roses' (one of my personal favorites). Percy Dearmer edited the words and Martin Shaw and Ralph Vaughan Williams the music. Vaughan Williams also composed four carols and collected a number of folk carols. Carols are songs with a religious impulse that are simple, hilarious, popular and modern. But there is considerable variance among them; some are narrative, some dramatic, some personal and a few are secular. The typical carol expresses common emotions of ordinary people in language that can be understood with music that is shared by all. The tunes in this book are real carol tunes set to appropriate harmony, preserving the freshness and buoyancy of the true carol. There are five parts in this book that I now list for your convenience: PART ONE: Traditional Carols with tunes proper to them; Nos 1-72 English, Welsh and Irish - Nos 73-113 foreign carols with word translations. PART TWO: Traditional carol tunes set to other traditional or old texts nos 114-132. PART THREE: Modern texts written for or adapted to traditional tunes nos 133-167. PART FOUR: Traditional carols set to tunes by modern composers nos 168-185. PART FIVE: Carols by modern writers and composers nos 186-197. The carols are arranged in the index for use throughout the Church Year either by the first line of the song (Italics) or the title. There is also a separate index with just the titles alphabetically arranged. There is no doubt that many of these carols might not be as familiar to Americans as to the British from whence this book came, and possibly more familiar to Europeans. However, it is a good opportunity for all to pick up on some very attractive tunes that we might learn to enjoy. This really is an exceptional book both musically and historically for the information is extensive, well organized and most informative. The arrangements are in four-part harmony and certainly very singable and playable by the average singer or pianist.

This is the standard. If you don't have at least one copy of this in your library, don't call yourself an organist, church musician, or musicologist. Really, it is indispensable. Voice teachers, you should use the lesser known tunes as sight singing exercises for your students. Composers, these texts have inspired countless Christmas pageants and have yet to exhaust their full potential.

This is a total classic - edited and collected by three world class musician/composer/liturgist people. If you can not find a suitable carol in here, it is likely because you have not looked close enough - If

a carol isn't in here, it's probably not worth having. I use this frequently in planning from Advent through Epiphany, and enjoy simply looking at (and poorly playing) carols not seen by me previously. A must have book for church musicians and musical scholars, as well as anyone who (like me) loves Christmas Carols.

I LOVE carols, and I love learning all of the verses. I like this book because it is such a complete set, and includes many that I hadn't heard before. My sister and I have a lot of fun sitting in front of the fire and going through this book. Nice to add to my collection.

Better than the shorter NOBC, more old stuff, much more affordable than the comprehensive OBC. Really a great value, contains carols for use throughout the year not just xmas.

I love this comprehensive, informative and well-made book of carols, many with alternative music and words. As a pianist I personally prefer A4 size to A5. However this is largely overcome by the quality of both the paper, print and binding.

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