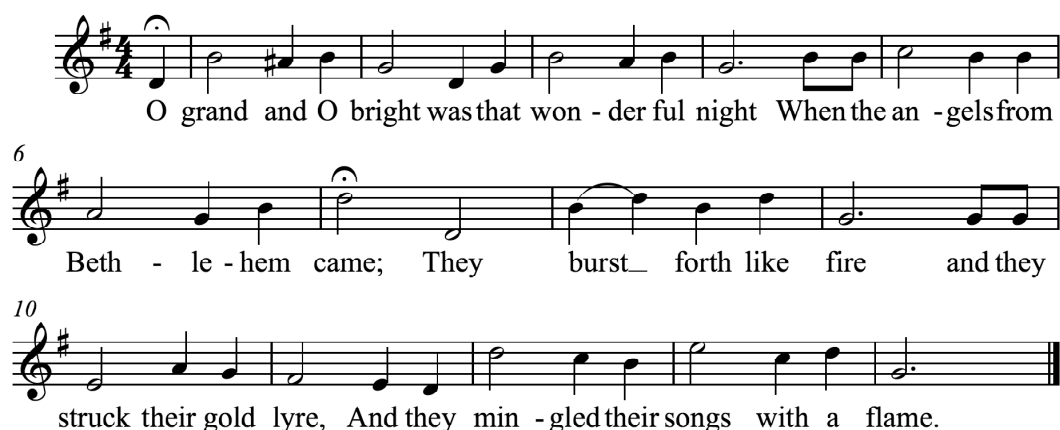


O Grand and O Bright (as collected)

Collected by Gwilym Davies 12-Oct-1995

Sung by Betty Aldridge () of Cam, Glos



O grand and O bright was that won - der ful night When the an - gels from
Beth - le - hem came; They burst_ forth like fire and they
struck their gold lyre, And they min - gled their songs with a flame.

O grand and O bright was that wonderful night
When the angels from Bethlehem came;
They burst forth like fire and struck their gold lyre,
And mingled their songs with a flame.

‘I bring you’, said he, ‘from a glorious dream
A message both gladsome and bold
A saviour has come to this world unknown,
And he lies in a manger of wood’.

The shepherds amazed, the little lambs gazed,
As the darkness was turned into light;
No voice was then heard but his wonderful word,
And his wonderful conquest was won.

Then goodwill to men, our life’s but a span
Our souls are so sinful and bright;
So pray, Christians, pray, and let Christmas Day
Have a tear as well as a smile.

Song as collected by Roy Palmer and Gwilym Davies

Source: Recording of Betty Aldridge and Let us be Merry by Roy Palmer and Gwilym Davies

Notes: 1. The recording of the singer may be in Bflat and not G as shown above
2. See ‘Let Us be Merry’ for alternative words the give end of line rhymes

Audit Transcription prepared by VL Oct 2011/HT Oct 2011/Checked tbc

‘From Let Us Be Merry’ by Gwilym Davies and Roy Palmer 1996

Mrs Betty Aldridge of Cam sang this to Pat and Roy Palmer in January 1995. She learned it from her late husband, Ray Lord, who prized it so much that she had the opening words inscribed on his tombstone at Frampton-on-Severn. It can be traced back to George Lord, who was born in Gloucestershire’s Cambridge in 1861, though how he acquired the carol remains unclear. The text was published in the mid-nineteenth century by a Birmingham ballad printer under the title of ‘The Worcestershire Carol’. Versions have been reported from 1920s carol singers in the Epney-Longney-Morton Valence area, from around about Worcester in the 1930s and from Castle Frome, Herefordshire in 1978. Even so, the carol is now very rare. Tune transcribed by Pat Palmer.