

5th Day of Christmas

December 29th, 2020

Christmas Cradle Song	Arthur Poister
Prelude on "Christmas Carol"	Morgan Simmons
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	Al Fedak
Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella	Al Fedak
<i>Gesu Bambino</i>	Pietro Yon

Today's "Day 5" music also contains some pieces that have a personal connection for me. Arthur Poister taught at Oberlin (my *alma mater*) before teaching for many years at Syracuse University. He made a recording on the organ there that was the first Bach record I ever owned. Al Fedak was my successor at Emma Willard School and remains a friend and active composer. *Gesu Bambino* is the best-known work of the Italian-born Pietro Yon, who was for many years the organist at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. The work is originally for soprano (and sometimes chorus), and is based around *Adeste fidelis* (O come, all ye faithful).

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows
Upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,
The King of Love and Light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang,
The grateful earth rejoiced;
And at His blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced.

O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night,
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,
Its King of Love and Light.

Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name,
The grateful chorus swell.
From paradise to earth He came
That we with Him might dwell.