

Program Notes

The Huron Carol is believed to be the first Canadian Christmas carol. It was composed in 1643 by Father Saint Jean de Brébeuf (1593–1649) and was intended as a present for the Huron people. Father Brébeuf served as a Jesuit missionary with the Hurons in Ste. Marie.

Initially penned in the Huron language, *The Huron Carol* was eventually translated into French. In 1926, Jesse Edgar Middleton translated this carol into English using a French translation. Middleton subsequently renamed the carol.

Father Brébeuf was abducted and killed by the Iroquois tribe on March 16, 1649, in their revolt of 1648–1650. Pope Pious XI canonized Father Brébeuf on June 29, 1930.

The tune for *Iesous Ahatonnia* is based on a sixteenth century French Canadian melody.

Pronunciation Guide

e - like “eh”

8 = “w” before a vowel

u = “u” before a consonant

i - like the “ee” in “freeze”

y = “y”

a - like “ah”

th - “t” followed by an aspiration

on - as in the French word “*bon*”

en - as in the French word “*chien*”

an - as in the French word “*viande*”

Accents tend to fall on the second-to-last syllable.

This pronunciation guide based on one by John Steckly of Humber College and Leslie Rejminiak, is used by permission.

Pronunciation Guide for Verse 1

Iesous Ahatonnia (*Jesus, He Is Born*)

1. Estennia, on de tson8e les8s ahatonnia

1. eh-sten-nyah-yon deh tson-weh ee-sus a-ha-ton-nyah

1. *Have courage, you who are humans, Jesus, he is born*

Onn'a8ata8a d'oki n'on, 8andas8aentak

on-nah-wah-teh-wah do-kee non-ywah-ndah-skwa-en-tak

Behold, the spirit who had us as prisoners is fled.

Ennonchien sk8atrihotat n'on, 8andi, onrachatha

en-non-shyen skwah-tree-hotat non-ywa-ndee-yon-rah-shah-thah

Do not listen to it, as it corrupts our minds.

Iesous Ahatonnia

ee-sus a-ha-ton-nyah

Jesus, he is born.

Verses 2-4

2. 'Twas in the moon of winter time,
when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wondering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born.
in excelsis gloria.

3. Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found,
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria.

4. O children of the forest free,
O sons of Manitou,
the holy child of earth and heaven
is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace and joy:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria.

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Publisher's Note

The seven titles in *Carols of the Nativity* are:

1. As I Lay Upon a Night (#7.0451)
2. Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella (#7.0452)
3. The Huron Carol (#7.0453)
4. A Christmas Lullaby (#7.0454)
5. The First Noël (#7.0455)
6. Wassail (#7.0456)
7. Angels We Have Heard On High (#7.0457)

Carols of the Nativity is also available with accompaniments for harp (#7.0736), brass quintet (#7.0467 [score], #7.0468 [parts]), or orchestra. Score and parts for orchestra are available on rental from the publisher.

*Commissioned by the Canada Council and B. C. Arts Council for the Phoenix Chamber Choir, Vancouver,
Dr. Ramona Luengen, director*

Carols of the Nativity

3. The Huron Carol ('Twas In the Moon of Winter Time)

for Soprano and Baritone Soli, SATB Chorus, opt. Piano, Organ, or Harp or Brass Quintet, or Full Orchestra

Huron: Father Saint Jean de Brébeuf (1593–1649)

English tr. Jesse Edgar Middleton (1872–1960)

Tune: *Iesous Abatonna*

(sixteenth century French Canadian)

arr. Stephen Chatman

* *Verse I*

Sweetly and simply, in 2♩ = 50

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Piano
or
Organ
(optional)

pp

pp sempre

Organ: hold throughout

8vb

6

S
nah — wah - teh wah - do kee non - ywah - ndah - skwa - en - tak en - non - shyen skwah tree

A
nah
Tenors and Baritone

T
nah — wah - teh wah - do kee non - ywah - ndah - skwa - en - tak en - non - shyen skwah tree

B
nah
Basses

Piano accompaniment (P) is shown at the bottom of the page.

* Verses I and IV are optional.
** Huron - see "Guide to Pronunciation."

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11

ho - tat non - ywa - ndee - yon - rah - shah - thah — ee - sus a -

ho - tat non - ywa - ndee - yon - rah - shah - thah ee - sus a -

8

rit.

8^{vb}

15

ha - ton - nyah ee - sus - a - ha - ton nyah ee - sus a - ha - ton - nyah

ha - ton - nyah ee - sus - a - ha - ton nyah ee - sus a - ha - ton - nyah

8

rit.

8^{vb}

Verse II

20 **Faster** ♩ = 60-63

Sop. Solo *p*
'Twas in the moon of win - ter time when all the birds had

S A *pp*
Ah*

T B *pp*
Ah*

Faster ♩ = 60-63
(Org: Flutes) *pp*

25 *p*
Sop. Solo fled Be -

Bar. Solo *p*
That might - y Git - chi Man - i - tou sent an - gel choirs in - stead. Be -

S A

T B

* Covered "Ah."

30

rit.

fore their light the stars grew dim, and won - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn: -

fore their light the stars grew dim, and won - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn: -

rit.

*Refrain**a tempo* (♩ = 60)*poco rit.**a tempo**rit.*

34 *p* Je - sus, your King, is born; Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri -

p Je - sus your King, is born; Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri -

p Je - sus, your King, is born; Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri -

p Je - sus, your King, is born; Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri -

a tempo (♩ = 60) *poco rit.* *rit. mp*

39 *Fine* *Verse III*
mp smoothly

a! With - in a lodge _____ the ten - der babe was

a! With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found. A

a! With - in a lodge _____ the ten - der babe was

a! With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found. A

Fine
mp

Sost. pedal, let ring

44

found. A rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped, And

rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round. As

found. A rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped, And

rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round. As

48 *cresc. poco a poco* *rit.* *poco f* to Refrain

as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high, —

cresc. poco a poco *poco f*

braves drew nigh, the an - gel high: —

cresc. poco a poco *poco f*

as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel high: *poco f*

cresc. poco a poco

braves drew nigh, the an - gel high: —

cresc. poco a poco *rit.* *poco f* to Refrain

cresc. poco a poco *rit.* *poco f*

Verse IV

(51) **Slow, in 4 ♩ = 72-76** *pp* like a flower opening **Faster ♩ = 88** *p, pp*

...chil - dren of the for - est, sons — The

pp like a flower opening *p, pp*

...chil - dren of the for - est free, O sons — The

pp like a flower opening *p, pp*

O chil - dren of the for - est free, O sons of Man - i - tou, The

pp like a flower opening *p,*

O chil - dren, O sons — **Faster ♩ = 88**

Slow, in 4 ♩ = 72-76

Cue sized notes are for rehearsal only.

A little faster

♩ = 96

56

Ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come , *p*

Ho - ly child is born _____ for you. Come , *p*

Ho - - - ly, born _____ for you. Come , *p*

pp Ho - ly child is born for you. Come , *p*

A little faster , ♩ = 96

60

rit. to Refrain (slow)

kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy who brings you beau - ty peace and joy: —

kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy who brings you beau - ty peace and joy: —

kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy who brings you beau - ty peace and joy:

kneel be - fore the boy, peace, joy:

rit.