

# THE OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

*Text and Music*  
*Performer Edition*





## PREFACE

The history of the Oberufer Shepherds Play goes something like this: in medieval times a play was performed on Oberufer, an island in the Austrian Danube. Characters were played by members of the community who kept the same roles from year to year.

Karl Julius Schröer published this play along with others in 1858 in "Deutsche Weihnachtspiele aus Ungarn" (German Christmas Plays from Hungary).

Sometime later, his student, Rudolf Steiner, edited this play and set the language in the regional dialect, retaining much folk humor and liveliness.

Around 1940 A. C. Harwood translated the plays into English, a challenge, given the obscure Austrian dialect. The nearest American equivalent would be like translating Brer Rabbit into German. How do you do this? Harwood chose a kind of Shakespearean/Biblical language, which is of course nothing like a true folk dialect. But it was a good solution

to a difficult problem, and has become much beloved over the years.

Steiner worked with an anthroposophical musician named Leopold van der Pals for the music we use here. There are also other scores, but we like the van der Pals music and it's the one that's familiar in America.

This edition of the play is prepared for performance. It's not scholarly, and while we've looked at many sources (including the original version prepared by Rudolf Steiner), we have no particular authority for this. We've done the best we can. The need we're filling is for a version that's readable, easily shared on the internet or email, and includes the music for singers. The piano music is separately available. We've taken a few liberties with the music, transposing to more singable keys.

We also take some liberties in performance with instrumentation. The Shepherd's song has been performed with some mischievous fun on mandolin.

*Your humble servants: Daniel Birns and Daniel Bittleston*

# ALL OF US

MAY CALM WARMTH WORK IN US,  
DEEP LIGHT SHINE THROUGH US,  
THE WATER'S POWER SOUND IN US,  
AND THE GROUND'S STRENGTH LIVE IN US.

WE ARE ALL JOURNEYING,  
WE ARE ALL SINGING,  
WE ARE ALL WEeping.  
WE KNOW EACH OTHER  
AS DEEPLY  
AS WE CAN SEE.

IF I DO NOT KNOW YOU,  
I AM BLIND OR YOU ARE BOUND.  
LET MY WARMTH THAW YOUR BONDS.  
CREATE MY EYES WITH YOUR LIGHT.  
SILENTLY AND TOGETHER  
WE ARE ALL JOURNEYING:  
LIKE THE RIVERS UNDERGROUND,  
LIKE TRAINS THROUGH TUNNELS,  
LIKE STARS THROUGH THE EVENING.

LET US LOOK AT EACH OTHER  
AND KNOW IT .

*Christy Barnes*

*Verse read before every cast gathering. It is also traditional to read the fourth panel of Rudolf Steiner's Foundation Stone Meditation before the performances.*

# OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

COMPANY

## 1. BLESS O LORD

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the first line of lyrics: "Bless o Lord the way we tread Bless our com - ing / Bless like - wise our dai - ly bread. Bless our leav - ing". The second staff contains the second line: "and our go - ing Bless our death with thy death's / and our do - ing.". The third staff contains the final line: "leav - en that to us they life be gi - ven". The music consists of a simple melody with a final cadence on the third staff.

Bless o Lord the way we tread Bless our com - ing  
Bless like - wise our dai - ly bread. Bless our leav - ing

and our go - ing Bless our death with thy death's  
and our do - ing.

leav - en that to us they life be gi - ven

STARSINGER

Come, gather round me, my merry choir,  
Like chestnuts roasting round the fire.  
Spread yourselves, Masters. Fill your lungs—  
But ere you sing your lusty songs,  
In God's name greet me one and all,  
And on the Trinity first we call.  
God bless the Holy Ghost; God bless the Son  
God bless God himself on his heavenly throne;  
God bless them as Three; and God bless them as One.  
God bless goodman Joseph and Mary his spouse,  
And God bless the stable that stood them for house.  
And God bless the child that was born in the stable.  
And the ox and the ass that stood by his cradle.  
God bless sun and moon and the stars of the night  
And God bless the darkness that makes them so bright  
And the grass, and the dew on the grass,  
and the weather God bless it, that wets you and us, sirs, together.  
God bless the king with his scepter and crown  
And God bless the council and the Mayor of this town.  
And now, my fine singers, this way turn your hands

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

And greet me the star, and the staff where it stands,  
And greet the star-scissors, though nothing they cut,  
God bless them open—and  
God bless them shut.  
And the bolts and the bars, so stout and so strong,  
God bless them that carry the brave Star along.  
And our master, who learned every player his part,  
Until (by God's grace) we had got them by heart,  
And lastly God bless all good folk in this hall.  
And end me your greetings with —

### COMPANY

—God bless us all.

*[Bless O Lord Reprise]*

*The company sits down on the benches sideways before the stage. The angel Gabriel speaks:*

### ANGEL

In right good faith I enter this place,  
God give you good evening of his grace,  
a right good evening, the best of cheer,  
The Lord of Heaven grant each one here.  
Most reverent worships both master and dame,  
Our service. To you, pretty maidens the same.  
Pray of your courtesy this day  
For one brief hour to mark our play.

We bring you here no heathen tale,  
Nor things men gossip o'er their ale,  
Which for your worships were all unfit,  
But all is ta'en from holy writ;  
Namely of Christ and Christes birth,  
Who for our help was man on earth.  
So, silence, good people all we pray,  
And grant your hearts to hear our play.



## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

COMPANY

### 2. SO WHEN GOD

So when God the al-might - y Lord, would keep his pro-mised word, all  
for that Bles-sed end his an-gel he did send, and Gab-ri - el his name  
Un-to Na-za-reth he came and Mar-y on that day sa - lu - ted with A - ve  
who was un - to her own be - tro - thed man un - known.

*The Angel Gabriel enters, stands before Mary and speaks:*

ANGEL

Hail, thou gracious one,  
God the Lord is with thee,  
Blessed art thou amongst women.  
Behold thou shalt conceive,  
And bring forth a Son,  
And shalt call his name Jesus  
And he shall be a Lord over his folk for ever.

MARY

How shall this be,  
Seeing I know not a man?

ANGEL

Behold, I am the Angel Gabriel  
That proclaim it unto thee.  
The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee.  
And the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee,  
Therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee  
Shall be called the Son of God.  
And behold thy cousin Elizabeth  
She hath also conceived a son in her old age.  
And this is now the sixth month with her



## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

Whose reproach it was to be called barren.  
For with God all things are possible.

MARY

Lo, I am the Lord's handmaid.  
May it come to pass with me as thou hast said.

*The company form their procession and Mary joins them.*

COMPANY

*All sit, only Mary and Joseph standing.*

### 3. SO WHILE MARY

So while Mar-y\_\_is with child in Au-gust-us' day\_\_ See the pro-phe-cy ful-filled  
No man can gain say.\_\_ Cae-sar send-eth forth de-cree: All the world shall tax ed be,  
in their num - ber tru - ly Now u - pon the ap-poin - ted morn  
to the place where they were born all be - take them du - ly.

JOSEPH

Caesar Augustus has made decree  
All the world shall taxed be,  
On every house the tribute laid  
Straight and strictly must be paid,  
Or all its goods shall forfeit be.  
Ah God, what will become of me?  
What shall I do? Where shall I turn?  
My daily bread I scarce can earn.  
My shaky hand and dimming eye  
No more avail my craft to ply,





## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

And all I have my little store,  
Scarce keeps the wolf from out the door.  
Yet needs I must the tribute pay  
And Caesar's dread decree obey.

MARY

Ah, Joseph, be not in such fear,  
Certain some good man dwelling near  
Will give us help and timely rede  
and lend us money in our need.

JOSEPH

And pray where will you find a friend  
That has so great a sum to lend?  
Gold groweth not on every tree—  
Nay, wife, talk not vain hopes to me.

MARY

Husband, one thing is left us still  
Whereby to do Augustus' will.  
Come, let us drive our ox to town,  
And when to Bethlehem we come down,  
Sell him at market as best we may,  
And so get money the tax to pay.

JOSEPH

Without our ox how shall we stead?  
Where shall we look for daily bread?  
As well might Caesar take life and blood  
As the beast that gains our livelihood.  
Yet all you say and more must we do.  
I doubt the ox will pay for two.  
Take we the ass—on him you may ride,  
And I with the ox will journey beside.

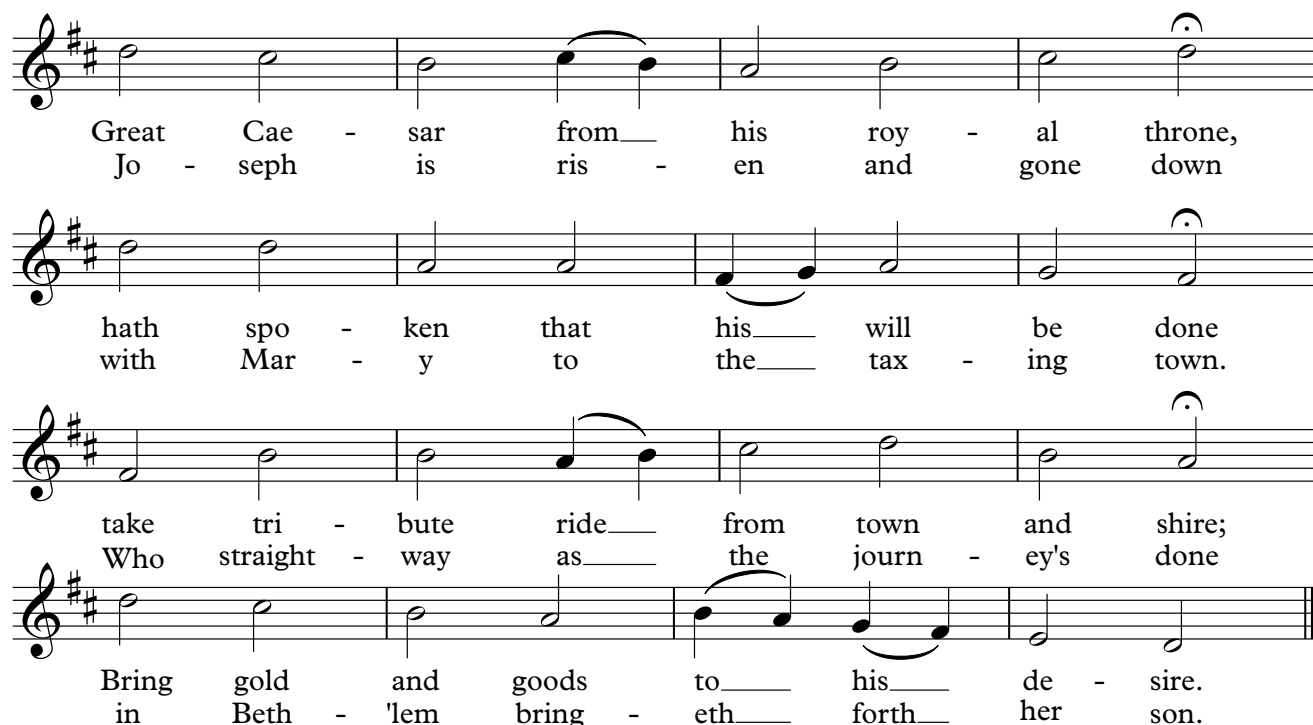
*They begin their journey.*



## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

### CHORUS

#### 4. GREAT CAESAR



Great Cae - sar from his roy - al throne,  
Jo - seph is ris - en and gone down  
hath spo - ken that his will be done  
with Mar - y to the tax - ing town.  
take tri - bute ride from the town and shire;  
Who straight - way as the journ - ey's done  
Bring gold and goods to his de - sire.  
in Beth - 'lem bring - eth forth her son.

### MARY

But in the crowded city's wall  
Where shall our cattle find a stall?

### JOSEPH

I know an innkeeper, by name  
Rufinus, and my friend—the same  
Shall ease us well with bite and sup  
And put our weary cattle up.

### MARY

But how if others come before  
And house be full, and they shut the door?  
For many the folk, both young and old,  
That ride to the taxing when all must be told.

### JOSEPH

Fear not, the town lies here before  
Come, let us prick our beasts the more,

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

Lest doors be barred and folk abed,  
And on cold stones we rest our heads.

MARY

Ah Joseph be not in such a haste  
Too heavy am I to go so fast.  
The way with ice is coated o'er  
To slip and fall I tremble sore,  
My limbs with cold are numb and dead,  
And of some evil I have great dread.

JOSEPH

This evening you shall warm them through  
By good inn fire, I promise you.

*Pause.*

For see, before the house I stand,  
And shall my friend's good help command.

*Joseph knocks three times with his staff on the ground. The innkeeper comes.*

Rufinus, my friend, now welcome us right—  
Hast thou not lodging for us this night?  
Needs not to say, what thou well canst see,  
Full weary we come from a far journey.  
Hard in our face the north wind did blow,  
And battered us sore with ice and snow.

FIRST INNKEEPER, RUFINUS

My friend you must apply next door,  
My house is packed from roof to floor.  
You are not the first—this very day  
I've turned them by the score away.  
I'm master of this hostelry  
And order my house in my degree.

JOSEPH

Alas, this was my only friend,  
Unless the Lord some other send.  
Come, let us try our luck elsewhere—  
A good heart never knows despair.  
The neighboring host we'll kindly greet,

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

And call for lodging, drink and meat.

*Joseph knocks three times with his staff on the ground. Another Innkeeper, Servilus, comes out.*

God bless you, friend, we would enquire  
Have you a room that we could hire?

SECOND INNKEEPER, SERVILUS

What's this? Bah! Beggars, on my life,  
What care I, fellow, for you and your wife?  
I take in folk with money in purse,  
And keep for tramps a kick and a curse.  
Pack up, the pair of you. Off from my door.  
Don't trouble us here with your din any more!

MARY:

Sure God's own heart in truth would melt  
To see such scorn to poor folk dealt.  
Needs must we die of frost and fear  
For certain no other lodging is near.

*Mary weeps. The third Innkeeper, Titus, comes with his lantern.*

THIRD INNKEEPER TITUS

What, lass? So full of tears and cries?  
Come: mean you to weep out your eyes?  
My house is full and it grieves me sore  
That I cannot open to you my door,  
But if you would lie in the stable here  
You are welcome and more to such poor cheer.

MARY

Ah, good mine host, we stand not in mind  
This night to lie soft on a goose feather bed.  
We ask but a wall to ward the wind  
And a roof to keep the snow from our head.

TITUS

Come, enter then—till it befall  
My house have room—within this stall.

*The innkeeper leads Mary and Joseph to the crib. Mary sits.*

And God rest you all, both man and beast!

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

JOSEPH AND MARY

### 5. O MAIDEN HERE

Joseph: O mai-den here is shel-ter o'er thee a cra-dle for thee where we with God shall  
sleep. who made and shall us keep O maid-en mine o maid-en mine

Mary: Ah Jo-seph mine thou must a-lone my com-fort be the  
pain - ful hour I now do see in sor - row shall there  
come to me my lit - tle babe, my Je - su kin.

JOSEPH

Tomorrow with the break of day  
I must be stirring and away,  
In Cana market my ox to set,  
And see what offers I shall get;  
Then with the money back to town  
Posthaste, and pay the tribute down.

MARY

A single ox will sell so dear,  
Think you, to pay the tribute clear?

JOSEPH

Nay, never doubt when I come back  
No single farthing shall we lack.

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

*The angel appears with the star behind the crib.*

MARY

Ah, Joseph, now the hour is come  
To loose the burden of my womb,  
Fulfilled is Gabriel's word aright  
And I must bear my child this night.  
Then pray you again mine host to rouse  
And beg he take us in his house.

JOSEPH

Alas, my mind misgives me sore  
We'll fare no better than before.  
Yet will I knock and tirl the pin,  
And beg he give us room within.

*Joseph leaves. The Child is born while music plays. (Music: Praetorius. 16. c.)*

### Es Ist Ein Ros

Legato

The musical score for 'Es Ist Ein Ros' is presented in three systems. The first system (measures 1-6) features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/2, then to 2/4, and finally to 4/4. The second system (measures 7-9) is in 4/4 time. The third system (measures 10-12) features a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a time signature of 3/2, which changes to 3/4 and then 2/4. The score includes various musical notations such as chords, single notes, and rests.

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

JOSEPH

Sir Titus hearken to our plight,  
A child is born to us this night,  
And we all frozen in yon shed—  
Open, and give us board and bed.

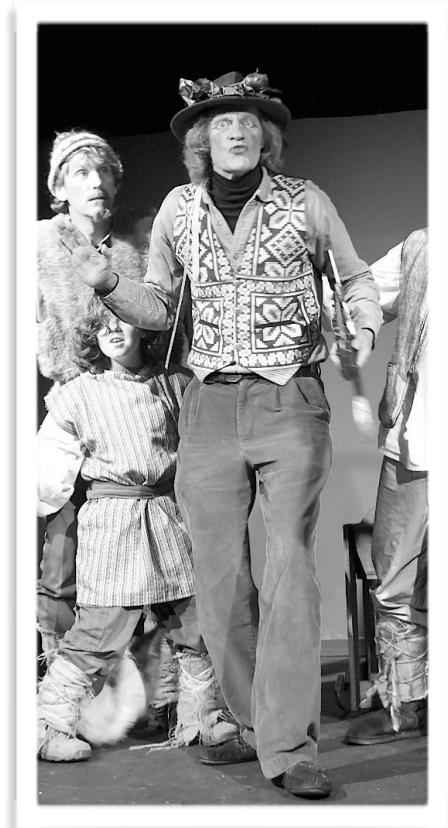
TITUS

Gladly old sir I would you please,  
You and your wench and do you ease;  
But here lie four and twenty head  
Packed like peas-in-pod abed,  
And folk asprawl on bench and floor—  
Knock, friend, at some neighbor door  
I'm master of this hostelry.  
And order my house in my degree.

*Joseph returns to Mary.*

JOSEPH

Mary, our prayers are all denied  
In stable still we must abide,  
But see, for cold our babe doth cry,  
Lay we him in this manger nigh,  
Where ox and ass, on either hand,  
To warm him with their breath do  
stand.



## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

### MARY AND JOSEPH

*Joseph sits down, staying with Mary. Meanwhile she sings:*

#### 6. AH JOSEPH MINE

Ah Jo-seph mine why is— this world so faith-less grown to spurn us out— of  
house and hall and leave us in— a cat - tle stall Ah Jo - seph mine, Ah  
Jo-seph mine! Reach down a sheaf of hay to spread and make our child a bow-ry bed.  
**Joseph:** Dear Heart, my love and all— my joy, Bring hi-ther now thy lit - tle boy  
**Mary:** Ah Jo seph mine, Help me rock our lit - tle boy— God there for— shall  
give me joy Ah Jo-seph mine, Ah Jo - seph mine **Joseph:** Oh thou dear-est  
Mar-rie-o lu - llay— I sing lu - lli lu - llo I help tshee rock thy lit - tle boy  
God there-fore shall give me joy Ma-rie-o Ma-rie-o Ah  
Jo-seph Ma-ry's an - gel sings sings glo - ri - a for these tid-ings the love. to earth is  
brought for which we strove and wrought our lit-tle child our Je - su kin.



## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

COMPANY

### 7. A CHILD IS BORN

A child is born in Beth-le-hem This year this year where  
Now lies he in a man-ger stall. This year this year who  
fore re-joice Je - ru - sa - lem This year we joy and sing we  
shall at last be Lord of all!  
sing the mo-ther of our Lord and Je - sus her sweet boy and  
Je - sus her sweet boy. Christ we sing a - bove all thing this  
year with mirth and joy! this year with mirth and joy!

*Pause. Company leaves and sits down. Enter Gallus.*

GALLUS

Ut Hoy!  
What? Am I not last? I thought so to be,  
Yet nor Huckle nor Muckle before me I see.  
So freezing cold in face it blows  
No longer can I feel my nose.  
This day to Huckle, my good friend,  
I, Gallus my two gloves did lend.  
Then canst thou figure in thy pate  
What makes friend Huckle come so late?  
I look around. Lo, clear as day  
Comes Huckle, fast as Huckle may.

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

HUCKLE

Ut Hoy! What? Am I not first?  
I thought so to be,  
But here brother Gallus before me I see.

GALLUS

Huckle, how fare our flocks on the wold?

HUCKLE

With thy sheep, Gallus, I was right cold.

GALLUS

Cold, Huckle? Of that I am full sad.  
But look on my two hands, my lad.

HUCKLE

What, hast thou but two? Thou liest by this head:  
Take here a hundred of mine in their stead!  
But canst thou figure in thy pate  
What makes friend Muckle come so late?  
I look around. Lo, clear as day,  
Comes Muckle fast as Muckle may.

MUCKLE

Ut Hoy! What, am I not first? I thought so to be,  
But Gallus and Huckle before me I see.

HUCKLE

Eh, Muckle, hast been round the world? By this head,  
Waiting for thee we were like to be dead.

MUCKLE

Aye, for my good wife would not let me out,  
Until I had stitched her shoes all about.  
But brothers, if this frost shall keep,  
Must have a care of us and sheep.

GALLUS

Good Huckle, hast not heard men say  
The Lord Cyrinus hath laid this day  
A mighty tax on every head,  
Which all must pay, in fear and dread  
That all their goods shall forfeit be?

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

Who now shall you find from terror free?

HUCKLE

Eh, Gallus, what is't thou dost say?  
A mighty tax that all must pay?  
Is there no end to poor folk's need?  
The last crumb taken of their bread?

MUCKLE

Great God, will taxes never bate?  
Must trouble still on trouble wait?  
T'is time the poor man's sweat and swink  
Brought him at least his meat and drink.  
A load of trouble I see in store,  
And hunger stalking at every door.

GALLUS.

Ah, Muckle, thou hast nought to bewail,  
If thou talk trouble, hear first my tale.  
Sure never did shepherd such woes befall,  
By night nor day I sleep not at all;  
I hold such watch and ward o'er my sheep,  
I scarce can tell when I last did sleep.  
Yestreen was I in field with my men,  
To count our sheep began we then,  
Full short was the tale we found by our tally;  
I shall tell you now how they did miscarry.

*He takes Gallus aside*

HUCKLE

Say on; old gibberer.

GALLUS

Say part—the wicked *wolf* had eaten them.

*With the the word “wolf” the shepherds look frightened and hunch down.*

HUCKLE

Belike the butcher's dog had bitten them.  
So untoward this hap did befall—  
Must the wolf bear the blame for all?

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

GALLUS

What, must thy tongue be still a-jog?  
See, the wolf can bite you as hard as the dog.

HUCKLE

Nay, harder, by this head!

GALLUS

What further wouldst say hereof, must thou keep.  
Time is it now to be watching thy sheep.

*They sit.*

MUCKLE

Look you, my wife has put something up—  
Turf cakes and pasties. What, shall we sup?

HUCKLE

And is there no hunk of dripping, man?

MUCKLE

Whist! Three pieces, and each as big as your fist!

*Muckle shares his food and they eat with much mutual courtesy.*

MUCKLE

Late have I heard it told in some fashion  
How God from eternity on men hath compassion  
And sendeth Messiah his word to fulfill  
To redeem and to comfort men of good will;  
The sickness of earth he shall amend,  
And of all burdens shall make an end.

GALLUS

Ah, were that day already here,  
That unto us Messiah appear,  
For joy and bliss would we leap and spring,  
And shout to God in thanksgiving.  
Ut Hoy!

*Here they stand in a triangle resting on their long crooks. After each speech they jump into the air with shouts of joy.*

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

HUCKLE

O in what hour? And in What place,  
Shall he be born that brings such grace?  
Ut hoy!

MUCKLE

The hour we may not truly tell,  
But what the place we know right well.  
In Bethlehem born shall he be,  
And of a choice maid certainly.  
Ut hoy!

GALLUS

Now, brothers, be our wills agreed,  
I rede you rest is shepherd's need  
So on the ground let each him lay  
And sleep a little till it be day.

*The Shepherds Lie Down and Sleep*



# OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

ANGEL

## 8. GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glo - ri - a Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis Joy Shep-herd Joy and  
Good ti - dings To you and all man - kind I bring O Shep-herds wake get  
up and run to Beth - le - hem sta - ble to Ma - ry and son run run run run  
Run to the man - ger O shep-herds with joy Take pipe and ta - bor and  
play shep-herds play Has - ten to Beth - le - hem in - to the stall  
Greet there the lit - tle babe there one and all there one and all  
there one and all O Ye Shep-herds O ye Shep-herds do  
not be cast down. Hark to the news that I make known

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

GALLUS

*speaks in his dream*

Eh, Huckle, who is this so late  
That thus doth sing and jubilate?  
Some ghost this night has lost his way,  
And leads us in our dreams astray.

HUCKLE

*dreaming...*

I marvel greatly what this may be.  
Somewhat under my hat did I see,  
When lo, a great and shining light—  
What should it be?—before my sight.

MUCKLE

*dreaming...*

And in my ears a sound did ring.  
Sure, none but angels can so sing!

ANGEL

### 9. FROM HEAV'N ABOVE

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "From Heav'n a - bove to earth I bring a bless - ed word of good tid - ing Yea news of joy and mirth this day to all Man - kind I sing and say". The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together. There are also rests and a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

From Heav'n a - bove to earth I bring a  
bless - ed word of good tid - ing Yea  
news of joy and mirth this day to  
all Man - kind I sing and say

OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

GALLUS

*Gets up and speaks to Muckle*

Have a care, 'tis frozen over.

MUCKLE

Ay, blockhead, 'tis smooth as glass.  
My beard is full of ice.

GALLUS

Huckle, get up. The sky is cracking!

HUCKLE

Let it crack! Its old enough to have cracked before.

GALLUS

Huckle, get up! The little birds are singing.

HUCKLE

Let 'em sing. They've got small heads; they're soon awake.

GALLUS

Huckle, get up. The drivers are cracking their whips on the road.

HUCKLE

Let 'em crack 'em. They've far enough to go.

GALLUS

Come, man, thou must get up.

*He Raises Huckle, Who at Once Falls Again*

Have a care, 'tis frozen over.

HUCKLE

Frozen it is, by this head.  
Couldst not open thy mouth to say so,  
before I laid open my brains?

MUCKLE

But Gallus, good Gallus, what hast thou dreamed,  
that thou didst so mumble and rumble by me in thy sleep?  
What hast thou dreamed then?



# OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

GALLUS


What have I dreamed? That can I well say.

*Before each song the shepherds jump round on their crooks so as to face outwards in a triangle.*


GALLUS

*Sings first verse.*


## 10. AS BY A STALL




G: As by a stall I rode this night of ox and ass I saw a sight, that  
M: All in the ho - ly night so still a slum-ber deep u - pon me fell, and  
H: I dreamed and lo an ang - gel came and led us un - to Beth - le - hem, in



from a man - ger fed\_\_\_\_\_ O child most rare of maid - en fair that  
soon as I lay sleep - ing A sweet-ness like to hon - ey stole or  
Jud - ah's land so far.\_\_\_\_\_ and there a wond-rous thing be - fell, good



1.  
stood be-side his bed\_and when I woke from slum-ber deep"fore God I would a sen-night sleep for



such a dream"I\_said! frag - rant ros - ses on my soul with joy my heart was leaping  
news good news on earth to tell in heav'n a shin - ing\_star!

HUCKLE

But Muckle, good Muckle, what hast thou dreamed,  
That thou didst so mumble and rumble by me in thy sleep?  
What hast thou dreamed then?

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

MUCKLE

What have I dreamed? That can I well say.

*Sings second verse.*

GALLUS

But, Huckle, good Huckle, what has thou dreamed  
That thou didst so mumble and rumble by me in thy sleep?  
What hast thou dreamed then?

HUCKLE

What have I dreamed? That can I well say.

*Sings third verse.*

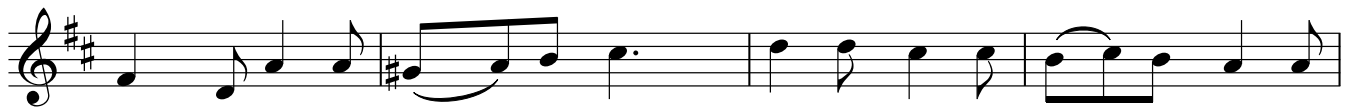
*The Shepherds sing and dance.*

SHEPHERDS

### II. THE SHEPHERDS SONG



Lus - ty trus - ty she - pherd boys That love to make a cheer - ful noise\_\_  
Lusy - ty sing - ing by\_\_ our sheep When we have no mind to sleep\_\_  
Af - ter many a might - y stroke,\_\_ He shall raise his cho - sen folk\_\_



Heigh ho foot it while\_\_ you sing! E - vil fails and good doth spring  
Who to stop our mouths dare try Shout ing praise to God\_ on high\_\_  
Kings and po - ten - tates\_\_ put down He shall wear at last\_\_ the crown



Da - vid was a shep herd young Dav - id cheers both heart and tongue.  
Sing lads, who shall say you nay? Dav - id him - self loved to sing and play.  
Eve - ry soul in Dav - id joys Are\_\_ not shep - herds lust - y boys!

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

GALLUS

Have with you to Bethlem, then, say I,  
To see this sight beyond compare.  
Yet what should we take to one so high,  
What gift can we give when we come there?

HUCKLE

A bottle of milk have I for this need  
That mother and child alike shall feed.

MUCKLE

A lamb, the best my flock can yield—  
Of which full worthy is such a child—  
On my two shoulders will I lift,  
And to that child will make my gift.

GALLUS

A bundle of wool with me will I take  
That his mother full soft his bed may make.

*They go off into the dark*

HUCKLE

So dark grows the night, no more can I say  
Whether or no we have kept the way.  
What say you, fellows, go we aright?

GALLUS

Huckle, I see before me a light—  
There let us go and ask them fair  
If God's Son haply be lodged there.  
Or beg they tell us, as best they know,  
Whither to find him we must go.  
Hallo there! Open the door, we pray.  
Shepherds we are that would ask our way.

JOSEPH

My friends, let one among you speak  
And freely say what here you seek,  
With searching looks and eager mind



## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

You come—what think you here to find?

HUCKLE

It is God's Son we would find out  
That lies in a stable hereabout.  
For so to us it has been revealed,  
And we seek him, leaving our flocks afield.

JOSEPH

Come, enter then, if such your mind.  
Here is the child you look to find.

*The three shepherds place themselves before Joseph and Mary and sing.*

SHEPHERDS

### 12. WAKE UP MY HEART

Wake up my heart and look o'er there what  
lies with - in the man - ger bare it  
is the bless-ed Je - sus there it is the ho - ly ba - by fair.

The musical score consists of three staves of music in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and folk-like, with lyrics underneath. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics. The third staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

GALLUS

*Speaks as he offers his gift.*

Greeting to thee, child most rare,  
That liest in manger cold and bare.  
No feather bed hast thou this day  
Thy pallet the spiky straw and hay.  
Thou camest not with summer's rose  
But with the winter's ice and snows.



## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

And for thy lily thou must see  
White fields of frost encompass thee.  
Ah, youngling, pity it is to behold  
Thy little cheeks so pinched with cold,  
To see thy pretty golden eyes  
Weep bitter tears, to hear thy cries.  
Look, little one, take this wool for thy bed,  
Whereon thou softly mayest rest thy head.  
I bring thee, too, some meal to bake  
That thy Mother may make thee therewith a cake,  
And if again I come by the door  
Thou shalt not fail of presents more.

HUCKLE.

*Speaks as he offers his gift.*

Greeting to thee, child most rare,  
All stiff with cold thou liest there.  
In Heaven thou hadst a mansion great,  
Yet cold and naked is here thy state.  
Take thou this milk to stay thy weeping  
Whereby I give me to thy keeping.

MUCKLE

*Speaks as he offers his gift.*

Greeting to thee, child most sweet,  
Yea, little Jesus, God thee greet.  
In cattle stall thou, King, dost rest,  
Thy mother giveth thee her breast.  
I bring thee, King, this lambkin white  
Wherein thou mayest much delight.

JOSEPH

Shepherds I thank you that you bring  
Your gifts and worthy offering.

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

MARY

### 13. O SHEPHERDS I THANK YOU

O Shep-herds I thank you that you bring your gifts and worth-y off-er-ing.

God grant you sus - te - nance and keep and bless - from ev - ery harm your sheep

SHEPHERDS

### 14. TO ROCKING THE CRADLE

To rock-ing the cra-dle we lend us as o-ver the cra-dle we bend us, the Je-sus babe

bles-sing now giv - ing for he it will be who mends us O Je - sus mine o Je - sus mine.

*The shepherds go away from the crib.*

GALLUS

Eh, lads, how is't befallen thus  
That he is born where none could guess?  
In such poor place to see the day  
Who doth the whole world rule and sway?

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

MUCKLE

On earth is he born in this poor fashion  
So that on us he have compassion,  
And make us rich in Heaven great  
That like to angels shall be our state.  
Yea, poorly is he born this day  
That so from pride men turn them away,  
And choose not riches and glorification,  
But to live content in humble station.

HUCKLE

Now may we be of courage good  
That he is born of kingly blood.  
King David was a shepherd bred—  
In holy writ so have I read—  
That all alone with might and main  
Goliath, that dread giant, hath slain.

GALLUS

But when we to our fellows tell  
The sight that here to us befell,  
They'll not believe what we report,  
But will of us make mock and sport,  
In such strange fashion is this bestead  
It much may rack the wisest head.

MUCKLE

It were great peril that this be unknown;  
Forthwith to the gentry it must be shown.  
Tomorrow to Jerusalem will I repair  
And tell it likewise to the Mayor.

*The shepherds sing and dance*

SHEPHERDS

*Reprise "Lusty Trusty Shepherd Boys", first verse.*

HUCKLE

See, Crispin, good Crispin cometh this way,  
Who hath sought us without our yea or nay.  
God give you good morrow, Crispin!

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

CRISPIN

I thank you in God's name, old friend.

GALLUS

How goes it with our sheep, Crispin?

CRISPIN

Truly, the sheep in shippon do bide,  
Both the big and the little by their side;  
But, brothers, what news have ye found out?  
Is it true what makes such stir hereabout?

GALLUS

Truly in Bethlem that child most high  
Twixt ox and ass we saw him lie:  
And wouldst thyself behold this sight,  
Thou mayest rise with morning light  
And with us to Bethlem journey aright.

CRISPIN

Is it far to go?

GALLUS, HUCKLE & MUCKLE

Till thou comest there!

CRISPIN

Must think upon that child.  
Mayhap Shall get a tassel from my cap!

*(The Shepherds Sing, and Dance)*





# OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

## SHEPHERDS

### 15. THUS THE SHEPHERDS

Thus the shep-herds mer-ri-ly Their flocks and herds were keep-ing Meat they took and  
down they lay— All to-ge-ther sleep-ing to them an an-gel did ap-pear and  
God shown a - bout them clear. and they were sore a - maz - ed the an-gel spake:  
Fear you no - thing Good news to all man -  
kind I — bring with joy your hearts be — rais - ed!



## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

*The whole company sings*

COMPANY

ANGEL

### 16. LET ALL MANKIND



Let all man-kind re - joice this morn both rich and poor be glad! For  
O man be-think you\_ how this child of earth no-thing a - fraid! In



un - to us a\_\_ child is born and all things hath he\_\_ made. A  
Beth - l'em born of\_\_ maid-en mild was in a sta - ble\_\_ laid. Was



ho - ly child this same And Je - sus Christ his name.\_\_\_\_ Who  
laid in man - ger low, as ho - ly writ doth show Who



all for sin - ful\_\_ man's mis-deeds to earth from heav - en came!  
is the king of\_\_ all the world, both now and e - ver more!

*Moves to center front of stage.*

Most reverent worships, both master and dame,  
Our service. To you, pretty maidens, the same.  
I come but to say, now all is ended,  
We trust there are none that we have offended.  
So think no evil nor chide our play,  
But if in aught we have gone astray,  
And shown your worships what was not fit,  
Blame not our will, but our lack of wit.  
Show we have pleased, so all's made right—  
And we wish you from God Almighty—

## OBERUFER SHEPHERDS PLAY

COMPANY

—Good Night!

