



I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men.
—Longfellow



Carols are one of the oldest types of musical compositions, the best of which are perhaps mostly derived from mediaeval Latin Christmas hymns. No other songs that are reserved for festive occasions are as universally loved as the carols of Christmas time. The joyful and inspiring music instills within the hearts of young and old the spirit of Christmas and love for their fellowmen.

Among the 18th century religious carols, perhaps the most famous is "Hark, How All The Welkin Rings," better known in the variant, "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing." Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy is credited with the composition of this tuneful carol, the melody of which is taken from the second chorus of a cantata he wrote in 1840. The words were written by Charles Wesley, brother of the famous theologian, John Wesley.

The children's choir of the Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church, under the direction of Mrs. James Winget, is shown singing Christmas carols. Front row, left to right: Betsy Ferrell, Martha Kimzey, Claire Matheson, Gayle Lance and Diane Galloway. Center, left to right: Jimmy Winget, Robert Neumann, William Patton, Johnny New, Bill Kimzey and Happy Straus. Back row, left to right: Barbara Schmidt, Eleanor Ferrell, Martha Kaye Smith, Ann Brittain, John Matheson and Jimmy Garrett. The following members were absent when the photograph was taken: Laddie Hart, Walter Hart, Virginia Cook, Stewart Cook and Thea Schulze. All members of the choir except five are children of Ecusta Employees.

