

CHRISTMAS *with tasc*

AS most people know, carols were originally tunes to dance to. TASC thought it would be a good idea to try and revive that idea through the medium of the ceilidh, and for three or four years early in the millennium the Llandinam Village Band tried to put the idea into practice.

In time we found it harder and harder to find a slot before Christmas that everyone could manage so the event evolved into the Twelfth Night Event that has proved so successful.

The event still has the occasional carol tune in it, and the Llandinam Village Band is usually there in name.

(For those who are confused the Llandinam Village band was never intended as a fixed and settled group, but rather the name given to a teaching band with an open door policy. Any musician could join for the duration of a project, for the band worked on specific projects.

For more about some of those projects see www.tradartsupport.org.uk/archive.html

ONE of the first carols we pressed into service was Good King Wenceslas. This fine tune has been groaning under the weight of Victorian sentimental lyrics for so long that it is a surprise to find a sprightly tune underneath.

It is in fact a spring carol from Burgundy, first found in a collection of 1582. Play it vigorously and be amazed!

As ever, the chords are just one way of doing it.



Good King Wenceslas

Trad. - Piae Cantiones, 1582

G Em D7 G D7 C G C D7 G

D7 G D7 Em C G C D7 G

C B7 Em D7 G C D Em C G

THIS tune is slow and stately. There are some mediaeval dances to which this would fit. Or at least that's what we've been told.

We usually used this as a kind of Introit, with the band entering playing their instruments.

In Dulce Jubilo

Musical score for 'In Dulce Jubilo' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, stately style. The second, third, and fourth staves provide accompaniment with various chords. The chords are labeled as follows: Staff 2: G, D7, G, D7, G; Staff 3: D7, G, D7, G; Staff 4: Am, D7, G, D7, G. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

ANOTHER very straightforward tune that is full of life. Play fairly up tempo and it is ideal for many set dances. Note, however that it's only 16 bars long

Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

Musical score for 'Oh Little Town of Bethlehem' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, stately style. The second, third, and fourth staves provide accompaniment with various chords. The chords are labeled as follows: Staff 2: G, C, D7, G; Staff 3: D7, G; Staff 4: Am, D, G; Staff 5: C, D7, G. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

WE also occasionally had fun with tunes. This is boz Boswell's adaptation of the slightly sickly *Away in a Manger* into a more robust Mazurka.

A B part was written for the tune and a second line was added. It could be played as either a 16 bar or 32 bar tune.

MAZURKA DU MANGER

Em B7 Em

D 1. Em B7 2. Em

Em Am B7 Em

Am B7 2. Em



Twelfth
Night
2011

A GREAT dance tune - not much more to be said.
Good up tempo playing is required.

God Rest Ye

Em Em B7

Em B7

Am Dm Em D

Em D Em A

Em D Em

THIS favourite is another lively tune. Play it without the drawn out "Oh ..." in the middle, though. We sometimes used it to dance Chapeloise to.

We Three Kings

THE first of these two is from the excellent Penguin Book of English Carols by Elizabeth Poston. The notes on the carols are a mine of information, as well as being very easy to use. This will be unfamiliar to many, but is well worth adding to the repertoire.

The other will be familiar and, as with so many songs we learnt in childhood it can come as a surprise to realise it's a jig.

The second line in both tunes was created for the band.

La Guignolee

Elizabeth Poston - Penguin Carols

Chords for the first system: Bm, A, Bm, D, Bm, A, Bm

Chords for the second system: A, Bm, D, Bm, A, D, Bm

Chords for the third system: A, Em, D, Bm, Em

I Saw Three Ships

Chords for the first system: G, D, G, D, Em, C, D

Chords for the second system: Em, D, G, D, G, D, G

ONE of the very few traditional Welsh tunes to gain a big following, this was a tune we still play for Twelfth Night. It is a tune associated with New Year's Eve.

The setting was written to accommodate the less advanced players in the band.

Nos Galan (Deck the Halls)

Musical score for 'Nos Galan (Deck the Halls)'. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 2/4 time signature. It consists of three systems of three staves each. The first system has chords D, Em, B7, A7, and D above the notes. The second system has chords Em, D, Am, D, D7, G, and Am above the notes. The third system has chords D7, G, Bm, Em, Am, and D7 above the notes. The melody is primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, with some quarter notes and rests.

Llandinam
Village Band
2004

