

The Coventry Carol

Traditional

Arranged by Nicholas Stuart

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

6

8

10

S

A

T

B

lay, thou lit - - - tle ti - ny child, By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay,

lay, thou lit - - - tle ti - ny child, By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay,

lay, thou lit - - - tle ti - ny child, By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay,

lay, thou lit - - - tle ti - ny child, By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay,

Coventry was founded as a Benedictine monastery in the 12th century by Earl Leofric and his wife, Lady Godiva, and it was listed as such in the Domesday Book. However, by the 14th and 15th Centuries, the monastery had grown into a prosperous wool town and sponsored lavish religious events such as the Coventry Mystery Plays which went on for several days. These attracted thousands of people from all over the country including Cardinal Wolsey, Thomas More, and Erasmus, and royalty such as Margaret, Queen of Henry VI, Richard III, Henry VII and Henry VIII. There was also an annual Corpus Christi procession in which large carts with 18ft diameter wheels would carry enactments of Biblical scenes such as Noah's Ark and the life of Jesus. This Coventry Carol derives from these festivities.