The Holly and the Ivy

There is a lovely, uplifting quality about this song, created partly by the skip of a sixth on the third beat. It is well to avoid singing this note too loudly, however, since *the* is not an important word. It should be pronounced *thee* before the vowel sound in ivy. The stress belongs on the first syllable of the word *ivy* in the first line and on the words *sun* and *deer* in the refrain.

A good way to recognize which words should have the stress is to speak them aloud. As the words are spoken, think of breathing at the end of each phrase. It is acceptable to take a quick breath after organ in the last line, even though there is no rest and more short notes follow.

If the rhythm seems unfamiliar or difficult, clap it along with the tape before singing the song. In 3/4 time the down- beat is the only note which receives emphasis.

On verse two, be sure to sing the word *blossom* with only a small amount of *s* sound on the second syllable. When singing the word *lily*, place the second *l* sound at the beginning of the second syllable, even though the word is not divided that way on the song sheet.

Here is the third verse, not recorded:

3. The holly bears a berry,As red as any blood,And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,To do poor sinners good.

The Holly and the Ivy

Trad. English



