

S T E P H E N   B A R K E R

**A Becket Carol**

PREVIEW



*Nunc gaudet ecclesia.*

Lestnytgh, lordynges, bothe grete and smale,  
 I xal you telyn a wonder tale,  
 How Holy Cherche was browt in bale  
*Cum magna iniuria.*

The greteste clerk of al this lond,  
 Of Cauntyrbury, ye understonde,  
 Slawyn he was with wykkyd hond,  
*Demonis potencia.*

Knytes kemyn fro Henry kyng,  
 Wykkyd men, withoute lesyng;  
 Ther they dedyn a wonder thing,  
*Ferventes insania.*

They sowntyn hym al abowtyn,  
 Withine the paleys and withoutyn;  
 Of Jhesu Cryst hadde they non dowte  
*In sua malicia.*

Beforn his aunter he knelyd adoun;  
 Ther they gunne to paryn his crown;  
 He sterdyn the braynys up and doun,  
*Optans celi gaudia.*

The turmentowres abowtyn sterte;  
 With dedly wondys thei gunne him hurte.  
 Thomas deyid in Moder Cherche  
*Pergens ad celestia.*

From Richard Greene's *A Selection of English Carols*,  
 based on the fifteenth-century MS. Sloane 2593

For Peter Cook and the Canterbury Medieval Pageant in lockdown,  
on the 800th anniversary of the Translation of Thomas Becket, July 2020

# A Becket Carol

From Richard Greene's *A Selection of English Carols*,  
based on the fifteenth-century MS. Sloane 2593 (modernised)

Stephen Barker  
b. 1977

Lively, with a folk feel (♩ = 66)

**SOPRANO**

*f*

Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a,<sup>1</sup> Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a.

**S. A.**

*f*

Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a.

**T. B.**

*f*

## TENORS

**T.**

*f*

1. List - en, lords, both great and small, I shall you tell a wond - 'rous tale, How

Ho - ly Church was brought in bale<sup>2</sup> Cum mag - na in - iu - ri - a.<sup>3</sup>

Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a.

<sup>1</sup> *Nunc gaudet ecclesia* = Now the Church rejoices <sup>2</sup> in bale = into sorrow <sup>3</sup> *Cum magna iniuria* = By a great wrong

21 *unis. mf*

Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a. 2. The

## SOPRANOS &amp; ALTOS

25

S. A.

great - est clerk<sup>4</sup> of all this land, of Can - ter - b'ry, you un - der - stand,

29

Slain he was with wick - ed hand, De - mo - nis po - ten - ci - a.<sup>5</sup>

33

Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a.

37 *f*

S. A.

Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a.

T. B.

*f*

## TENORS &amp; BASSES

41 *mf unis.* *agitated* *f*

T. B.

3. Knights came from Hen - ry king, Wick - ed men, with out ly - ing;

45 *ff* *mf*

There they did a ter - ri - ble thing, Fer - ven - tes in - sa - ni - a.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> clerk = cleric <sup>5</sup> *Demonis potencia* = By the power of the devil <sup>6</sup> *Ferventes insania* = Raging in madness

*Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a.*

49

*Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a.*

53 *f*

S.  
A.

*Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a. 4. They*

T.  
B.

*f*

57

sought for him all a - bout, with in the pa - lace and with - out; Of

61

Je - su Christ had they no thought In su - - a ma - li - ci - a.<sup>7</sup>

65 *unis.*

*Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a.*

*unis.*

*Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det*

<sup>7</sup> *In sua malicia* = In their wickedness

69

Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a.

unis.

*p* 5. Be -

## TENORS &amp; BASSES

73

T. - for his al - tar he kneeled down; There they gunne<sup>8</sup> to paryn<sup>9</sup> his crown; They

B.

77

stirred the brains up and down; Op - tans ce - li gau - di - a.<sup>10</sup>

81

S. *unis.*  
*p* Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det ec -

A.

T. Gau - det, gau - det, gau - det, gau - det, gau - det, gau - det,

B. *p*

84

*f*

- cle - si - a. Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a. 6. The

gau - det, gau - det, *f*  
*molto*

<sup>8</sup> gunne = began <sup>9</sup> paryn = cut open <sup>10</sup> *Optans celi gaudia* = He hoped for the joys of heaven

89 *ff*

tor - men - tors a - bow - tyn start;<sup>11</sup> With dead - ly wounds they gunne him hurt.

*ff*

93 *p sub.* *mf* *p*

Ah Per - gens ad ce - les - ti - a.<sup>12</sup>

Tho - mas died in Mo - ther Church

*p sub.* *mf* *p*

**SOPRANOS**

97 *pp*

s. Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a.

**SOPRANO SOLO**

101 *mp* *soft & light* *rall.*

S. Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a.

S. A. Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a, Nunc gau - det ec - cle - si - a.

T. B. *mp*

Fordwich, Canterbury  
Feast Day of St Peter & St Paul, 2020

<sup>11</sup> abowtyn start = began their work <sup>12</sup> Pergens ad celestia = Attaining to heaven

**PREVIEW**

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