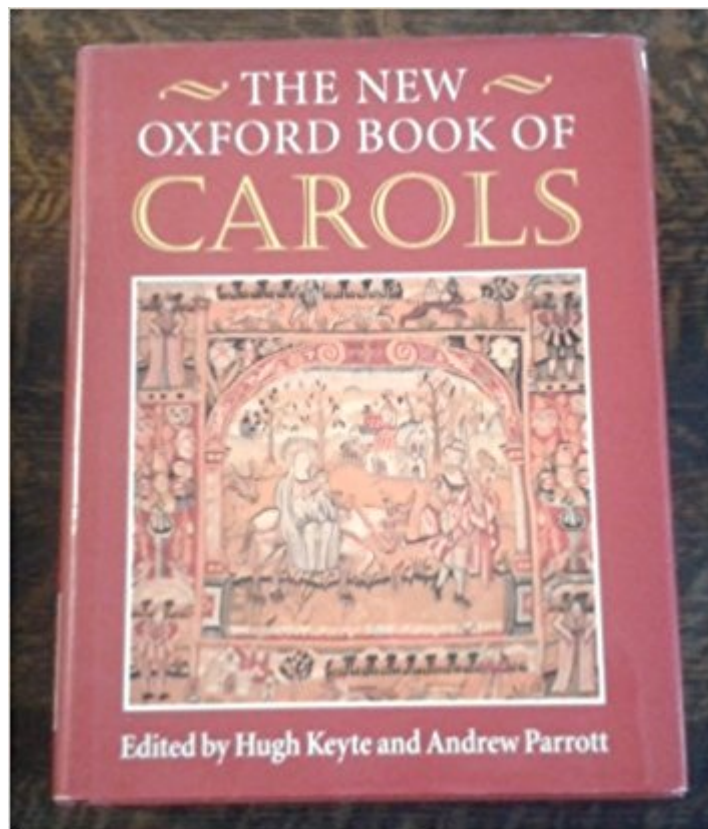


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# The New Oxford Book Of Carols



## Synopsis

Edited by early music experts Hugh Keyte and Andrew Parrott, this anthology of Christmas carols is the most comprehensive collection ever made, spanning seven centuries of caroling in Britain, continental Europe, and North America. Containing music and text of 201 carols, many in more than one setting, the book is organized in two sections: composed carols, ranging from medieval Gregorian chants to modern compositions, and folk carols, including not only traditional Anglo-American songs but Irish, Welsh, German, Czech, Polish, French, Basque, Catalan, Sicilian, and West Indian songs as well. Each carol is set in four-part harmony, with lyrics in both the original language and English. Accompanying each song are detailed scholarly notes on the history of the carol and on performance of the setting presented. The introduction to the volume offers a general history of carols and caroling, and appendices provide scholarly essays on such topics as fifteenth-century pronunciation, English country and United States primitive traditions, and the revival of the English folk carol. The Oxford Book of Carols, published in 1928, is still one of Oxford's best-loved books among scholars, church choristers, and the vast number of people who enjoy singing carols. This volume is not intended to replace this classic but to supplement it. Reflecting significant developments in musicology over the past sixty years, it embodies a radical reappraisal of the repertory and a fresh approach to it. The wealth of information it contains will make it essential for musicologists and other scholars, while the beauty of the carols themselves will enchant general readers and amateur songsters alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'It is hardly an exaggeration to say that the publication in 1992 of The New Oxford Book of Carols caused a sensation. For many of us it showed for the first time the extent of the carol repertoire from all over the world, and in particular, presented those carols we thought we knew best in versions that were as near to being authentic as could be deduced. The performance traditions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were stripped away, and the pieces could be appreciated afresh.' Esther Jones, Church Music Quarterly, December 03 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Andrew Parrott is Director of the Taverner Choir, Consort, and Players.

There are some badly-researched and written books on Christmas carols, so beware. This one is the genuine thing. It's very scholarly, which may be a turn-off to some, but if you want the full history of a carol (and sometimes it's complicated), go with this one. I bought a used copy, and was very satisfied. Note that this book deals with traditional American, English and European carols, not popular songs like "White Christmas" or "The Little Drummer Boy."

If you are a musician and love Christmas music, there is no better collection available.

The original book was a wonder. This, while being less restrictive in principle, is even more of a wonder, with numerous additions that are musical and textual gems.

Heavy and expensive, useful for research, I wish it could be more so on a practical level.

Bought this for a musician in the family who requested it and she is MOST pleased (or so she tells me!) with it!

The New Oxford Book of Carols has been in my collection for several years in the hardcover form. OUP discontinued this book for a while and I am glad to see its return. In addition to all the Carols, both familiar and unfamiliar, there is a ton of information about the history of and the performance of Carols. Any Choir Director should have this book in their collection. You will use it often.

I purchased this book as a gift to my husband who misplaced a very old copy of this book. He is

thrilled to now have a new updated version of a classic !!

The Holly Olde Time Dickens festival up in Holly, Michigan, is the place to go to experience an old fashioned Dickensian Christmas. Held every weekend from Thanksgiving through the weekend before Christmas, this free festival includes the 'Christmas Carol' play, recitations of 'The Night Before Christmas,' 'The Twelve Days of Christmas,' as well as having chestnut vendors, sellers of fish and chips, and numerous gift shops set up in shanties among the Victorian streets laced with Victorian buildings. Seeing the 30+ period dressed Dickens actors roaming the entire area completes the picture. The sounds you will hear as you stroll with Mr. Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, or even the Ghost of Jacob Marley is the beautiful music of the holiday. Whether it is the amazing choir of the Festival Singers or the quaintness of the Simply Dickens singers, the sounds of Christmas fill the air. Much of what you hear at the festival stems from the 'New Oxford Book of Carols,' the old style tunes of long ago such as "Gloucestershire Wassail," "Boar's Head Carol," "Riu Riu Chiu," "A Virgin Unspotted," "The Holly Bears a Berry," and so much more. For the three and four part harmony needed to accurately portray these carols, this book cannot be beat. Broken down by era (from the middle ages up into the 20th century) as well as by country (mostly European and American), whatever period of Christmas you would like to sing of, it's here. Since this Book of Carols also includes "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," and many other well-known songs, it could very well be the only Christmas Carol book you may ever need!

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