

King Herod and the Cock

*Traditional, collected by Cecil James Sharp (1859-1924)
arranged; Kim Tame*

Cecil J. Sharp was a prolific collector of folk songs and dances; including this old Christmas carol, which he recorded in Worcestershire.

The tune is a variant of another well-known air, 'Dives and Lazarus'.

The song is a fragment of a 30-stanza version, telling a much longer story.

For more traditional folk tunes and Christmas music, see the extensive collection at The Sheet Music Stack.



Version: Lead sheet - treble with chords - and lyrics

Arrangement: Kim Tame

Difficulty: easy

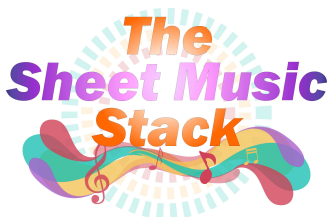
Edited by: Kim Tame

Pages (including cover): 2

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The musical score is written on two staves in G minor, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first five measures of the melody, with lyrics: 'There was a star in Dav - id's land, in Dav - id's land ap - peared; And_'. The second staff starts at measure 6 and contains the next five measures, with lyrics: 'in King Her - od's cham - ber So_ bright it did shine there.' Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Gm, Eb, F7, Gm, Dm, Eb, Cm, Bb, F, Gm.

*There was a star in David's land,
In David's land appeared;
And in King Herod's chamber
So bright it did shine there.*

*The wise men they soon spied it,
And told the King a-nigh
That a princely babe was born that night,
No King shall e'er destroy.*

*If this be the truth, King Herod said,
That thou hast told to me,
The roasted cock that lies in the dish
Shall crow full senses three.*

*O, the cock soon thrustened and feathered well,
By the work of God's own hand,
And he did crow full senses three,
In the dish where he did stand.*