

# King Herod and the Cock

*Traditional, arranged by Cecil James Sharp (1859-1924)*



*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: Piano with added chord symbols.*

*Arrangement: Cecil James Sharp*

*Difficulty: intermediate*

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*Gm*

Voice

1. There was a star in Dav-id's land, in

Piano

*p*

5 *E<sub>b</sub>* *F7* *Gm* *Dm*

Dav - id's land ap - peared; And\_ in KingHer - od's

*mf*

8 *E<sub>b</sub>* *Cm* *B<sub>b</sub>* *F* *Gm*

cham - ber So\_ bright it did shine there. 2. The

*p*

12 *E♭ B♭ E♭ B♭ Gm B♭ E♭ B♭*

Wise Men they soon spi-ed it, And told the King a - nigh That a

16 *Gm Dm B♭ F B♭ F*

prince - lybabe was born that night, No\_ king shall e'er\_ des -

19 *E♭ Gm E♭ Gm F*

troy. 3. If this be the truth, King Her - od said, That

23

*E<sub>b</sub>*

*F7*

*B<sub>b</sub>*

*Dm*

thou has told to me, The\_ roast - ed cock that

26

*Gm*

*Cm*

*Gm*

*F*

*E<sub>b</sub>*

*Cm*

lies in the dish Shall\_ crow full sen\_ ses three.

29

*Gm*

*Dm*

*Gm*

*Cm*

4. O the cock soon thrusted and

31

*Gm Bb Eb Gm*

fea-thered well, By the work of God's own hand; And\_

34

*Dm Bb Eb F7 Bb F*

he did crow full sen - ses three in the dish where he\_ did

37

*Gm Eb Gm Eb Gm*

stand.

# *King Herod and the Cock*

*Traditional, arranged by Cecil James Sharp (1859-1924)*

*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 thrusted 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.*