**6 – Rocking Carol**

I first met this carol as a young instrumentalist asked to perform for the whole school Carol service in a local church. My first ever solo on the oboe which was hard to contain at the best of times. It started on a relatively low note and the fear and trembling was at the forefront of my emotions as the introduction began. The music teachers risk paid off and the sense of achievement was lasting.

It was a number of years later I met it chorally and fell in love with its lullaby feel and simple words. If I dare even say I prefer it to Away in a Manger at the point of the nativity service when Jesus is born.

Translated into English by Percy Dearmer from a Czech carol in 1928 it is one of our “newer” carols in the repertoire. It’s popularlity waned leading up to the 1960’s until Julie Andrews (of Sound of Music/mary Poppins fame) released a version. It was then picked up by John Rutter and David Willcocks and has retained it’s place in the wider Christmas repertoire since.

It has very little biblical reference within it and no real historical precision but as you listen may you hear the rocking of the cradle and the peace of a sleeping baby. Enjoy.

<https://youtu.be/wDvk8MwTtDw> with words

<https://youtu.be/Y0vA06KwB0Q> choral

<https://youtu.be/R-yJ_C7_KYc> soloist with images

**The Rocking Carol**

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;
We will lend a coat of fur,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:
See the fur to keep you warm,
Snugly round your tiny form.

Mary's little baby, sleep, sweetly sleep,
Sleep in comfort, slumber deep;
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:
We will serve you all we can,
Darling, darling little man