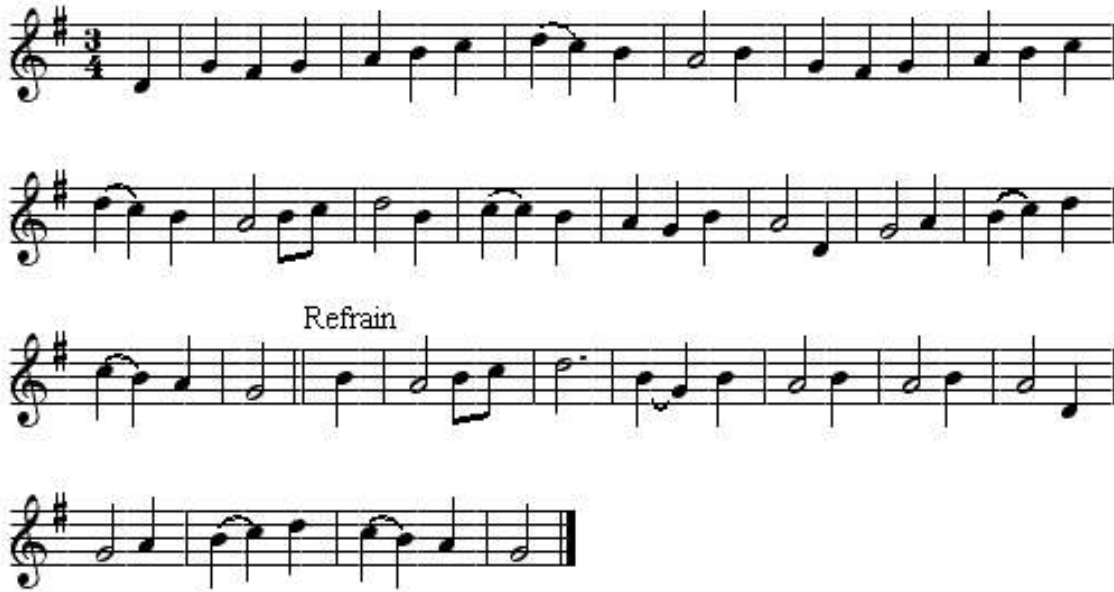


Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day



1. Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance;

Refrain

Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,
This have I done for my true love.

2. Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance
Thus was I knit to man's nature
To call my true love to my dance.

Refrain

3. In a manger laid, and wrapped I was
So very poor, this was my chance
Between an ox and a silly poor ass
To call my true love to my dance.

Refrain

4. Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard I from above,
To call my true love to my dance.

Refrain

5. Into the desert I was led,
Where I fasted without substance;
The Devil bade me make stones my bread,
To have me break my true love's dance.

Refrain

6. The Jews on me they made great suit,
And with me made great variance,
Because they loved darkness rather than light,
To call my true love to my dance.

Refrain

7. For thirty pence Judas me sold,
His covetousness for to advance:
Mark whom I kiss, the same do hold!
The same is he shall lead the dance.

Refrain

8. Before Pilate the Jews me brought,
Where Barabbas had deliverance;
They scourged me and set me at nought,
Judged me to die to lead the dance.

Refrain

9. Then on the cross hanged I was,
Where a spear my heart did glance;
There issued forth both water and blood,
To call my true love to my dance.

Refrain

10. Then down to hell I took my way
For my true love's deliverance,
And rose again on the third day,
Up to my true love and the dance.

Refrain

11. Then up to heaven I did ascend,
Where now I dwell in sure substance
On the right hand of God, that man
May come unto the general dance.

Refrain

"Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day" is an English carol usually attributed as 'traditional'; its first written appearance is in William B. Sandys' **Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern** of 1833. It is most well known in John Gardner's adaptation, but numerous other composers have made original settings of it or arranged the traditional tune including Gustav Holst, Igor Stravinsky and others. Several phrases and words in the carol suggest a pre-Reformation origin. There are no traceable sources predating Sandys' version. There was probably a dancing event associated with this that has been lost.

The lyrics inspired Sydney Carter to compose "Lord of the Dance" following a similar pattern. It is included in **The New Oxford Book of Carols** (#132) where there are extensive notes.