

## Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Verse

Refrain

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| <p>1. 'Twas in the moon of winter-time<br/>         When all the birds had fled,<br/>         That mighty Gitchi Manitou<br/>         Sent angel choirs instead;<br/>         Before their light the stars grew dim,<br/>         And wandering hunter heard the hymn:<br/>             <b>Refrain:</b><br/>             "Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,<br/>             In excelsis gloria."</p> | <p>3. O children of the forest free,<br/>         O sons of Manitou,<br/>         The Holy Child of earth and heaven<br/>         Is born today for you.<br/>         Come kneel before the radiant Boy<br/>         Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.<br/>             <b>Refrain</b></p> |
| <p>2. Within a lodge of broken bark<br/>         The tender Babe was found,<br/>         A ragged robe of rabbit skin<br/>         Enwrapp'd His beauty round;<br/>         But as the hunter braves drew nigh,<br/>         The angel song rang loud and high.<br/>             <b>Refrain</b></p>   |  |

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"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" was written in the Huron language by Jesuit priest Father Jean de Brébeuf in 1643 with the title "*Jesous Ahatonhia*" ("Jesus, he is born"), and set by him to an old French tune, "*Une Jeune Pucelle*" ("A Young Maid").

This is considered to be the first Canadian carol.

The text and music version as it appears in most hymn books was translated by Jesse Edgar Middleton; the music was arranged by H. Barrie Cabena.

I learned it long ago from **The Burl Ives Songbook**.