

A Virgin Unspotted

William Billings

D A7 D A D A D E A7

D G D G D A D

D G D

1 G D A D 2 G D A D

1. A Virgin unspotted, the prophet foretold,
Should bring forth a Savior, which now we behold.
To be our Redeemer from death, hell and sin,
Which Adam's transgression involved us in.
Chorus (2x)
Then let us be merry, put sorrow away,
Our Savior, Christ Jesus, was born on this day.
2. Through Bethlehem city in Jewry, it was
That Joseph and Mary together did pass,
All for to be taxed when thither they came,
Since Caesar Augustus commanded the same.
Chorus
3. But Mary's full time being come as we find,
She brought forth her first born to save all mankind;
The inn being full, for this heavenly guest,
No place there was found there for to lay him to rest.
Chorus
4. But Mary, blest Mary, so meek and so mild,
Soon wrapped up in swaddlings this heavenly child;
Contented, she laid him where oxen do feed;
The great God of nature approved of the deed.
Chorus

5. Then presently after the shepherds did spy
Vast numbers of angels to stand in the sky;
So merrily talking and sweetly did sing,
All glory and praise to our heavenly King.

Chorus

6. To teach us humility all this was done,
Then learn we from thence haughty pride for to shun:
A manger's His cradle who came from above,
The great God of mercy, of peace, and of love.

Chorus

"A Virgin Unspotted" is one of the most widespread English folk carols. It had come to America by the eighteenth century. This melody from William Billings is apparently original. It appears in **The Singing Master's Assistant** (1778) where Billings printed only one verse. The others are from John Arnold's **The Compleat Psalmist** (1756). It is included in **Christmas Carols New and Old**, by Henry R. Bramley & John Stainer (1871) and **The New Oxford Book of Carols** (#80).