

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FW 6845

Christmas Songs of Portugal

recorded by
Laura Boulton



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1955

MUSIC LP

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FW 6845

SIDE I

- Band 1: QUEM DIREMOS NOS QUE VIVA?
Whom shall we tell that He lives?
(Female solo with mixed chorus)
- Band 2: BOA NOITE ... SENHORES
Good Evening, milords (Mixed Chorus)
- Band 3: ENCONTREI A MARIA
I met Mary
(Female chorus with flute)
- Band 4: SAO CHEGADOS OS TREZ REIS
The Three Kings have arrived
(Male solo with chorus and bells)
- Band 5: VIEMOS DO MANDO DE DEUS
We come here sent by God (Boy solo)

SIDE II

- Band 1: VIMOS DAR AS BOAS FESTAS
We come to bring you our best wishes
(Boy solo with children's chorus)
- Band 2: A SENHORA DA PAZ
Our Lady of Peace
(Male solo with mixed chorus)
- Band 3: CANCAO DOS REIS
Song of the Kings (Mixed chorus)
- Band 4: VIVA LA!
Long live there!
(Male solo with chorus)
- Band 5: FEMALE CHORUS
- Band 6: PINHEIROS DO NATAL
Christmas pine trees (Female solo)

CHRISTMAS SONGS OF PORTUGAL

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

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Laura Boulton



NOTES BY LAURA BOULTON

Christmas in Portugal is a traditional family celebration as well as a sacred festival. Charming colorful traditions and much gaiety mark the season for old and young from the feast on Christmas Eve when families gather in the home of the oldest living relative until January sixth, the Feast of the Three Kings (Epiphany). Each family has its own creche or "presepio" which is placed in front of the fireplace on Christmas Eve and filled with toys, candy and gifts when the children have gone to bed; it is the Child to whom the children have written who brings gifts down the chimney to reward good children. After the Midnight Mass (Missa do Galo) there is breakfast which includes the traditional "Bolo rei"

(King cake) a large cake, shaped like a doughnut with icing of nuts and sugar. A trinket and a bean are baked in this cake. Whoever gets the trinket has good fortune but the one who gets the bean must pay for the cake the next year.

Every family and every church has a "presepio" which is brought out only for Christmas. After Midnight Mass, the priest takes the Infant from the crib, places it on the altar where the congregation comes to kiss the Child. The most famous for its artistry is that of the Estrela Church in Lisbon, built in 1796, created by the sculptor Machado de Castro one of Portugal's greatest artists. It shows the Nativity scene, the visit of the Wise Men, and the worshipping people of Bethlehem in hundreds of terra cotta figures. It has not only the heavenly choir but also a bagpiper and even an elephant.

Notes:

Portuguese Christmas Carols such as the widely known "Adeste Fidelis" are traditionally sung un-accompanied; in some instances however a flute of the recorder type accompanies the song. Many of the tunes are gay and lively suggesting the traditional meaning of the word "carol" -- "a dance accompanied by song." Very often there is a leader who sings the solo parts and a chorus that sings the refrains.

Of all the songs sung during the Christmas festivities the "Reis" (Kings) (or "Janeiras" - Januaries) which

usher in the New Year are the most lively. The texts of these songs are similar. Young people go from house to house wishing good fortune to the families, receiving in return food and money. If they are welcomed to the feast and given wine as well as money they sing compliments to the hosts; if not, they sing such insults as "this house stinks of balm; there dwells here some corpse." Only those who reward the singers generously may share the good luck which they offer as they go singing around the village. Very often the three Kings accompany the carolers.

TRANSLATIONS AND PORTUGUESE TEXT BY TRANS-LINGUA

P O R T U G U E S E

E N G L I S H

SIDE I, BAND 1

QUEM DIREMOS NOS QUE VIVA?
(Barqueiros)

Quem diremos nós que viva?
Do mar e quem - o vento?
Vivam Senhores e Senhoras
Que estão das portas para dentro.

CHORUS: (Twice)
Anjos, arcanjos em Jerusalem -
O Menino Deus nasceu em Belém.

Quem diremos nos que viva?
Na folhinda da nabica?
Viva o Senhor Abade
No altar a dizer missa.

CHORUS: (Twice)

Quem diremos nos que viva?
No graosinho do arros?
Viva o Senhor Doutor
Por muitos anos e bons.

CHORUS: (Twice)

Quem diremos nos que viva?
Do mar - o quem? o vento?
Vivam Senhores e Senhoras
Que estão das portas para dentro.

CHORUS: (Twice)
Anjos, arcanjos em Jerusalem -
O Menino Deus nasceu em Belém.

WHOM SHALL WE TELL THAT HE LIVES?

Whom shall we tell that He lives?
The sea? Whom else? The wind?
Long live ye gentlemen and ladies,
Who are here within these portals.

Angels and archangels in Jerusalem -
Child Jesus is born in Bethlehem.

Whom shall we tell that He lives?
The tiny leaf of the cauliflower?
Long life to our gentle abbot
Saying Mass upon the altar.

Whom shall we tell that He lives?
Shall we tell that grain of rice?
Long life to our gentle Doctor,
May he live for years to come.

Whom shall we tell that He lives?
The sea? Whom else? The wind?
Long live ye gentlemen and ladies
Who are here within these portals.

Angels and archangels in Jerusalem -
Child Jesus is born in Bethlehem.

SIDE I, BAND 2

BOA NOITE, ..SENHORES
(Tomar)

Boa noite, meus Senhores,
Boas festas vimos dar;
Vimos pedir aos Senhores,
Boas festas vimos dar.
Vimos pedir aos Senhores,
Licena para cantar.
Vimos pedir aos Senhores,
Licena para cantar.
Vem-me agora ao pensamento
Una lembranca divina,
Convidar nossa Senhora
Para ser nossa madrinha
Para ser nossa madrinha.

GOOD EVENING, MILORDS

Good evening, good my lords,
Our best wishes, we've come to give
We have come to ask you gentlemen
Our best wishes, we've come to give
We have come to ask you gentlemen
To permit us here to sing.
We have come to ask you gentlemen
To permit us here to sing.
To my mind there comes a vision,
A remembrance quite divine,
Calling me to invite our Lady
To be godmother to us all.
To be godmother unto us all.

Ela nos queira ajudar
Mais o Santo Sao Jose,
Que nos queira acompanhar.

Debaixo de um sol divino
Esta um tanque de agua fria
Onde se baptiza o Deus.
Filho da Virgem Maria -
Filho da Virgem Maria -
Nossa Mao do coração

Venha dar a esmola ao Rei,
Venha com toda atencao
Venha com toda atencao

Nao se venha arrenpeder
Nas suas aflicções -
Só Dues lhe pode valere

May she come here for to help us,
May St. Joseph come here, too,
May he sing along with us.

Underneath the sky in heaven
Is a trough of water cold
Where they baptize our Lord,
Son of the Virgin Mary;
Son of the Virgin Mary
Who is so dear to our heart.

She comes with gifts for the King,
She comes with tender care
She comes with tender care

She comes not to beg forgiveness.
In her afflictions
God alone can help her.

SIDE I, BAND 3

ENCONTREI A MARIA

I MET MARY

(Whole Song Repeated
Several Times.)

Encontrei a Maria
Nó vava a Turinho
Lavando os panhales
Na beira do rio,
Lavando os panhales
Na beira do rio.

Na agua do seu bendito rio
Os ninhos lloraban...
Na agua de seu bendito rio
Os ninhos lloraban.

I did meet our Mary
On the road to Turino,
Washing the swaddling-clothes
On the banks of the river.
Washing the swaddling-clothes
On the banks of the river.

In the waters of her holy river,
All the children there were crying
In the waters of her holy river,
All the children there were crying

SIDE I, BAND 4

SAO CHEGADOS OS TREZ REIS
(Braganza)

THE THREE KINGS HAVE ARRIVED

Ainda agora aqui cheguei
Puz o pe na sua escada
Logo o meu coracao disse
Que aqui mora gente honrada.
Logo o meu coracao disse
Que aqui mora gente honrada.

CHORUS

Sao chegado os trez Reis
Lá das partes do Oriente,
Visitar o Deus Menino
Grande Deus Omnipotente.

Esta vai por despedida,
Por mima do meu capote,
Viva la Senhora Lourdes,
Que é uma estrelhina do Norte.

Viva lá o Senhor 'Toninho
Com o seu raminho ao peito;
Quando passa pelas mocas
Pisca-lhe o olho direito.

Esta via por despedida,
Por cima dumas ortigas
Viva la o Joaosinho,
Que é o rei das raparigas.

And now at last that I've found my way here
Setting foot upon your step,
Something in my heart it says:
Here live good and upright folk.
Something in my heart it says:
Here live good and upright folk.

There have arrived here the three Kings
Here from far-off Eastern lands,
For to visit the Infant Jesus,
God of great and infinite power.

'Tis now time that I be going,
Up I rise, my cloak about me,
Long life to my Lady of Lóurdes,
She who is my Northern Star.

Long live Mister Antonino,
Jaunty with his boutonniere,
He just cannot pass a maid by
Without winking his right eye.

This time really means good-bye,
Peeping out above the nettles,
There he lives, our little Johnny,
King among the buxom maidens.

SIDE I, BAND 5

VIEMOS DO MANDO DE DEUS
(Sinfaes)

Viemos do mando de Deus
Do Santissimo Sacramento,
Dar noticias do Menino
Do Seu Santo Nascimento.
Dar noticias do Menino
Do Seu Santo Nascimento.

CHORUS:

Estes Reis que nos cantamos
Pouca graca devem ter,
Mas a sede ja e tanta
E o que queremos e beber.

Venham as acafatas cheias
Do ouro, vinho, brancas faces;
Dentro delas devem vir
As suas divinas gracas.

CHORUS:

Gloria seja a de Deus Padre
E a de Deus Filho tamben,
Gloria e pr'a todos qu'ouvem
Para todos sempre Amen.

CHORUS:

Vamos dar a despedida
Como a cereja ao ramo;
Se nos nao tornar a ver,
Meus Senhores, ate ao ano.

SIDE II, BAND 1

VIMOS DAR AS BOAS FESTAS
(Sinfaes)

(Lines 3 & 4 two times of each verse)

Vimos dar as Boas Festas
A estes nobres Senhores
Que ja nasceu o Menino
Em Belem entre os pastores.

CHORUS:

Nos andamos por aqui
O que queremos e dinheiro
Venha o vinho do tonel
Venha a carne do fumeiro (Rep.)
Venha o vinho especial
Nos vamos todos contentes
Fazen borga em geral.

Entrai pastorinhos
Por esse portal sagrado.
Vin de ver o Deus Menino
Numas palhidas deitado.

CHORUS:

Nos bem vimos Nos Senhora,
Nos alpendres de Belém,
Com e seu Menino nos bracos
E Lhe parecia tao bem.

CHORUS:

Gloria seja a de Jose
E tambem a de Maria;
Que pr'o ano, se Deus quizer,
Voltaremos neste dia.

WE COME HERE SENT BY GOD

We come to you sent here by God
From the Holiest of Sacraments
To bring you tidings of the Child
News about His Holy Birth.
To bring you tidings of the Child
News about His Holy Birth.

These Three Kings we sing about
Are so simple laughing-matter.
Our own thirst is so consuming-
All we want is ought to drink.

Gather round us, maids of honor,
With your gold, wine and white faces.
In them we should see reflected
All their graces so divine.

Glory unto God, the Father,
And unto His Son also.
Glory to all within our hearing,
Glory - always - unto all. Amen.

We must stop and take our leave now,
Like a cherry unto its branch.
If we chance no more to meet here,
We'll meet again a year from now.

WE COME TO BRING YOU OUR BEST WISHES

We come to bring you our good tidings,
To all you noble gentlemen;
That there is born a Child called Jesus
Among the shepherds in Bethlehem.

We come here to ask your help-
What we want from you is money -
Bring the wine from out the barrel,
Bring the meat on off the fire.
Bring us out your special wine.
So we'll leave you quite contented,
And go elsewhere to raise cain!

All the little shepherds entered
Here through this one gate divine.
For to see the newborn Christ Child
Lying on His bed of straw.

We have gone and seen Our Lady
In the stalls at Bethlehem,
With her Christ Child in her arms,
And He looked so happy there

Glory - glory unto Joseph -
Glory unto Mary, too.
A year from now, if God is willing
We'll be back again with you.

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SIDE II, BAND 2

A SENHORA DA PAZ
(Braganza)

A primeira, excelencia
Que tiveste, Virgem Pura,
A Rainha, Mãe de Deus,
E a Sua divina c'roa;
Humildemente lhe ofreco
Uma Ave-Maria a Senhora.

CHORUS

Ave-Maria, cheia sois de graça
O Senhor é convosco, bendita
Sois Vos entre as mulhere,
Bendito é o fruto
Do Vosso ventre, Mae de Deus.
Santa Maria, Mae de Deus,
Rogai por nos, pecadores,
Agora e na hora da nossa morte,
Amen, Jesus.

SIDE II, BAND 3

CANCAO DOS REIS
(Duas Igrejas)

O meu Senhor Jesus Cristo...
....

SIDE II, BAND 4

VIVA LA!
(Barqueiros)

Viva lá Senhor Amárral,
Correntinha de ouro ao peito
Quando lhe chega ao pe de nos,
Todos lhe guardam com respeito.

CHORUS:

Tambem os anjos do ceu
Vivem cheios de alegria.
Tambem nos os festejamos,
Vivam todos, vivam, vivam!

Viva lá menina Olinda
Vestidinha de cambraia,
Quando se põe a janela
Alumia toda a praia.

CHORUS:

Viva o menino Otilio,
Quem traz meias tambem traz ligas,
Tem os olhos pisqueirinhos

CHORUS:

Quem diria o que dizem
Na folhina do coêntro?
Vivam senhores e senhoras
Que outros nomes não conheco.

SIDE II, BAND 5

JOSE EMBALA O MENINO
(Bencatel)

Jose embala o Menino,
A Senhora logo vem,
Foi lavar os cuerinhos
As pocinhas de Belém.

(Repeat)

OUR LADY OF PEACE

Greatest of all Thy great Glories
Thou, Virgin Pure, hast revealed,
Oh Queen Mother of God -
Is Thy Crown of Glory Divine. -
To Thee I humbly offer here
An Ave Maria, oh Lady Divine.

CHORUS

Hail, oh Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with Thee;
Blest be Thou of all women,
Blest be the fruit
Of Thy womb - Jesus
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Oh pray, pray for us sinners,
In this, the hour of our dying breath-
Amen, Jesus.

SONG OF THE KINGS

Oh, my Lord, Jesus Christ...
....

LONG LIVE THERE!

Long life to good Sir Amarral
His chain of gold across his chest
When he comes and passes near us,
All greet him with a respectful bow.

Even angels up in Heaven
Live their hearts all full of joy,
Let us also cry rejoicing:
Joy and Life unto us all!

Long live tiny wee Olinda,
All dressed up in lawn so white.
When she looks out of her window,
The whole shore is with her bright.

Long live our little chap Otilio,
With socks and garters always showing.
With his eyes forever winking -
Friend of all the buxom maidens.

Who could say what lies there hidden
In the leaf of coriander?
Hail to all ye gentle people,
The names of whom I don't remember.

JOSEPH WAS ROCKING THE BABY

Joseph rocked the little Baby.
Soon our Lady will be back.
She has gone to wash the diapers
In the brooks of Bethlehem.

Notes:
Portuguese Christmas
known "Advento Fidele" accompanied in some
the recorder type and
is a group of words
meaning of the word "Advento"
son of the Virgin Mary
who is so dear to our heart.
Of all the songs sung
the "Advento Fidele"
CHORUS:
O Menino chora, chora,
Chora com muita razao;
Fizeram-Lhe a cama curta
Chega com os pesinhos ao chão.

SIDE II, BAND 6

PINHEIROS DO NATAL
(Tomar)

(Song repeated three times)

Pinheiros do Natal
Luz de candura
Sao os dons presentes,
Recordam os ausentes,
Num hino d'amor e de ventura.

And the Baby cries and cries;
Cries indeed for a very good reason.
They have made his crib too short.
His little feet bend to the ground.

CHRISTMAS PINE TREES

Yuletide's green pine,
Light of ray so pure,
Bless the Host here present,
And think of those here absent
With love and kind wishes.