

Coventry Carol (The Innocents)

from the CD - *Carol: A Christmas Journey* by Zola Van

Mystery plays, performed in the streets on stages upon carts were popular in the 1300's and enjoyed by Margaret, Queen of Henry VI in 1456, by Richard III in 1484 and by Henry VII in 1492. The Coventry Carol (c. 1554 is from the mystery play, the *Pageant of the Shearman and Tailors*, and is taken from a scene in which Herod's soldiers have entered to slay the innocent children. The Jewish mothers are forced one by one to give up their sons. The grief-stricken mothers hold their sons closely and sing this lullaby as a final act of love and comfort as the boys are put to death and delivered into the arms of God.

English Carol c 1591/
Arranged by Zola Van

Piano

Largo

Introduction *mf* rubato

a tempo

f *mf* rall.

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