

## *Carols for Choirs*

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Choral directors are familiar with the five-volume carol anthology series *Carols for Choirs* published by Oxford University Press. Hundreds of carols and Christmas hymns, many with orchestral accompaniments, are contained in these volumes. The compositions are appropriate for Advent and Christmas worship services, especially the Lessons and Carols Service originated at King's College, Cambridge. The majority of compositions are easy to moderate in level of difficulty. The first volume originated in 1961 and *Carols for Choirs 5* appeared in 2011. In 1987, OUP published *100 Carols for Choirs* that contained compositions from the first three books plus twenty-six new arrangements.

The CMI Choral Library contains every composition from these volumes, and each is entered into the database, searchable by all criteria, and contains a PDF attachment. Here are ways to search for these anthems:

- **Title:** For example, *Adam Lay ybounden*; *Cherry Tree Carol*; *Gabriel's Message*
- **Composer:** For example, Willcocks, David; Rutter, John; Chilcott, Bob; Ledger, Philip; Bullard, Alan
- ***Carols for Choirs* as title search:** will produce a random selection of entries from all volumes

Some titles are entered without *Carols for Choirs* identification because they were received initially as separate octavos. Other anthems published in *Carols for Choirs* have that designation in the title.

Search anthems by individual title of composition or name of composer represented in the volumes. There are many prolific composers: David Willcocks, John Rutter, Bob Chilcott, Philip Ledger, Malcolm Archer, Alan Bullard, Paul Liddington Wright, Ralph Vaughan Williams, William Mathias, among many others. Another search method would be to enter as title *Carols for Choirs*. This will give you a random list of titles from various volumes of the series entered into the system.

These volumes are a treasure trove of musical gems that have enhanced singing in worship for sixty years. Choral conductors have an opportunity to select music for worship from these anthologies by browsing the PDF's in the CMI Library database. These collections of carols offer accessibility and beauty for every choir and congregation during the Advent and Christmas seasons.