1. Sweet was the song

16th-century English lullaby
edited by JOHN RUTTER

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang
When she to

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang
When she to Bethlehem, to

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang
When she to

Bethlehem came And was delivered of a Son,

Bethlehem came And was delivered of a Son,

Bethlehem came And was delivered of a Son, That

Bethlehem came And was delivered of a Son,
2. Coventry carol

from the Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors (1591)

In the Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, one of the cycle of medieval mystery plays performed in Coventry, this carol is sung by the women of Bethlehem to quieten their babies so that Herod’s soldiers will not hear and find them. It survives only in a facsimile published in 1825 by Thomas Sharp (for a fuller account, see The New Oxford Book of Carols). Although inaccurate and perhaps not altogether reliable, this facsimile is certainly closer to the original than Martin Shaw’s SATB choral arrangement which is the form in which the carol has become generally known. Note values have been halved in this edition; pitch is unaltered.