

Coventry Carol

Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors. (15th Century)
The words are by Robert Croo, and
printed by E. Rhys in "Everyman and other Plays".

Original Version 15th Century found by Thomas Sharp
and published in "Dissertations: in 1825.

Lul - ly, lul - la, thou lit - tle ti - ny child, By by, lul - ly lul -

lay, thou lit - tle ti - ny child, By by, lul - ly lul - lay. *Fine.*

O sis - ters too, How may we do For to pre - serve this day This
He - rod the king, in his ra - ging, Charg-ed he hath this day His
That woe is me, Poor child for thee! And ey - er morn and day, For

*=**Tenor**

poor young - ling, For whom we do sing, By by, lul - ly lul - lay?
*For whom we do sing
men of might, In his own sight, All young child - ren to slay.
*In his own sight
thy part - ing Nei - ther say nor sing By by, lul - ly lul - lay!
*Nei - there say nor sing

* The original score shows F Natural here,

This is one of the earliest polyphonic carols it describes in old English what Mary sang to her child. "Lully lullay" are now not common English words but in the 1400's and 1500's, they were common slang words meaning "I saw, I saw!"