Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called “macaronic,” the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.
It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world:
Be - neath the heavy cry - ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
When with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-great - ous King;”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on ho - er - ing wing,
And we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;
Look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
When peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling.
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
and ever o'er its Babylon sounds the blessed angels sing.
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Still, Still, Still

1 Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill! The virgin's
2 Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep while angel

ten der arms en fold ing, warm and safe the child are holding.
hosts from heaven come wing ing, sweetest songs of joy are singing.

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep.

The great virtue of this Austrian carol is its sheer simplicity, which is reinforced by the re-use of the first two lines as the last two. This narrow scope makes the text into the verbal equivalent of a close-up photograph or painting, so that the sleeping child seems very near.
O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
3. How silently, how silently, the world's great gift is given!
4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wonder and love.
So God imparts to man hearts the blessings of his heaven,
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868
MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868
ST. LOUIS
8.6.8.7.6.6.8.6 (alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)
Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this jubilee? Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?
3. Come to Beth-le-hem and see him whose birth the an-gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re-ply ech-o-ing their joy-ous strains. What the glad-some ti-dings be which in-spire your heav-en-ly song?
come, a-dore on bend-ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.

Refrain

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

MUSIC: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937
(adm. Fleming H. Revell Company, a div. of Baker Publishing Group)
Away in a Manger

Capo 5: (C) (Am) (C) (Dm)

F Dm F Gm

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cattle are lowing; the poor babe wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay

(F) (G) (C) (Dm) (F) (G)

Bb C F Gm Bb C

the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
the little Lord Jesus, forever and love me, I pray.

(C) (Dm)

F Gm

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky he care,
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,

(G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)

C F Gm C F

the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

This anonymous carol probably originated among Pennsylvania Lutherans in the late 19th century, giving rise to a mistaken assertion that it had been written by Martin Luther. This tune is also by an American but has become the one usually used in Canada and Great Britain.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–2, Little Children's Book for Schools and Families, c. 1885; stanza 3, Gabriel's Vineyard Songs, 1892
MUSIC: William James Kirkpatrick, 1895

CRADLE SONG

113-angels 114-away.mus, Page 2
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.

Swift are wing-ing an - gels sing-ing, no - els ring-ing, ti - dings bring-ing:
Thus re - joic-ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor - row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

The English text of this 13th- or 14th-century Polish carol does not try to tell a story but to offer verbal snapshots of the well-known Nativity narrative of Luke 2:6–20. The tune name quotes the opening of the Polish text and means “He lies in a cradle” or “In manger lying.”
Love Has Come

1  Love has come: a light in the darkness!
2  Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
3  Love has come and never will leave us!

Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all
Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the
Love is life everlasting and free. Love is

heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of
glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her Jesus with
and among us. Love is the peace our

joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a
heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she
hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel. el.
Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being “Love.” The senses “seen and heard” (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: “Love is the gift of Christmas.”
Silent Night, Holy Night!

1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
2 Silent night, holy night! Shep-hers quake at the sight;
3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light;
4 Silent night, holy night! Won-drous star, lend thy light;

‘round yon vir-gin moth-er and child! Ho-ly In-fant, so ten-der and
glo-ries stream from heav-en a-far, heaven-ly hosts sing “Al-le- lu-
diant beams from thy ho-ly face, with the dawn of re-deem-ing
with the an-gels let us sing Al-le-lu-ia to our

ia: Christ the Sav-ior is born; Christ the Sav-ior is born!”
King: Christ the Sav-ior is born; Christ the Sav-ior is born.

GERMAN
1 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das trau-te, hochheilige Paar,
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

KOREAN
1 고요한 밤, 푸른 밤
여울에 묵한 밤
주의무로 잊어버리시다
함께가도 드릴래야
아기살도 잔다
아기살도 잔다

SPANISH
1 ¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!
Todo duerme en derredor,
entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella, anunciando al niñito Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz.

The tradition that this carol’s tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818
Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea
134  Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs em-ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest and repeat the sounding joy, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and repeat the sounding joy, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4–9 in Christian terms, titling it “The Messiah’s coming and kingdom.” So “the Lord” here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. George-Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836
ANTIOCH
CM-8th repeat
(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)