

An Archive of the musical compositions by Herb Bielawa

Composition: **Coventry Carol** – SATB choir, organ, and violin obbligato

Date: 1960

Duration: 4:00

Recording: Chancel Choir of Lutheran Church of Redeemer, Los Angeles. Sandra Soderlund, organ Joyce Osborn, violin

Program Note:

This piece was written for the church where I conducted the Chancel Choir. It was the very first of my music to be published (by Augsburg Publishing House). The *Coventry Carol* is an ancient English song depicting the slaughter of the Holy Innocents by Herod in his zeal to eliminate Jesus, the King of the Jews. It was certainly used as part of the mystery plays—dramatic presentations of Biblical stories in the Middle Ages.

Text:

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,	His men of might,
By by, lully lullay.	In his own sight,
O sister too,	All young children to slay.
How may we do	That woe is me
For to preserve this day	Poor child for thee!
This poor youngling,	And ever morn and day,
For whom we do sing,	For thy parting
By by lully lullay?	Neither say nor sing
Herod, the king,	By by, lully lullay.
In his raging,	-Robert Croo
Charged he hath this day	