

Translation

There are differing interpretations of the meaning of the phrase “Riu, riu, chiu.”

Some have interpreted it as the bird call of a nightingale or kingfisher.

Alternatively, “riu” is the word for “river” in Catalan.

One possible translation is:

Riu, riu, chiu,
the guard by the river.
God has protected
our lamb from the wolf.

Pronunciation Guide

Ri-u, ri-u, chi-u,
REE-oo, REE-oo, CHEE-oo,
 [ri-u, ri-u, tʃi-u.]

la guar-da ri-be-ra.
lah GWAHR-dah ree-BEH-rah
 [la gwar-da ri-be-ra.]

Dios guar-do el lo-bo
dyahs GWAHR-doh ehl LOH-boh
 [djos gwar-do εl lo-bo]

de nues-tra cor-de-ra.
deh NWEH strah lohr-DEH-rah.
 [de nves-tsa kɔr-de-ra.]

* Note that [t] is trilled, while [ɾ] is flipped.

Please see *Alfred's IPA Made Easy* (42789)
 for further explanation of the International Phonetic Alphabet.

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RIU, RIU, CHIU

for S.S.A.B. voices, a cappella
with tambourine and hand drum*

Spanish Villancico
Arranged by **MARK BURROWS**

With rhythmic vitality (♩ = ca. 112)

TAMBOURINE HAND DRUM

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* Also available for S.A.T.B. (48396).
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9

mf

Ri - u, ri - u, *decresc.*

mf

Ri - u, ri - u, *decresc.*

mf

Ri - u, ri - u, *decresc.*

mf

Ri - u, ri - u, ri - u, ri - u, chi - u. *decresc.*

mf

Ri - u, ri - u, ri - u, ri - u, chi - u.

mf

Ri - u, ri - u, *decresc.*

mf

Ri - u, ri - u, ri - u, ri - u, chi - u.

mf

Ri - u, *decresc.*

mf

Ri - u, *decresc.*

13

Solo (or small group)

17

Dios guar - do el lo - bo de nues - tra cor - de - ra.
noo
noo
noo
noo

21

cresc.

(rejoin section)

Dios guar - do el lo - bo de nues - tra cor - de - ra.
cresc.
noo
cresc.
noo
cresc.
noo
cresc.
noo
cresc.
noo.
noo.
noo.
cresc.
cresc.

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25

mf

Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la ____ guar - da ri - be - ra.

mf

Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la ____ guar - da ri - be - ra.

mf

Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la ____ guar - da ri - be - ra.

mf

Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la ____ guar - da ri - be - ra.

29

Dios guar - do el lo - bo de ____ nues - tra cor -

Dios guar - do el lo - bo, lo - bo de ____ nues - tra cor -

Dios guar - do el lo - bo, el lo - bo de ____ nues - tra cor -

Dios guar - do el lo - bo, el lo - bo de ____ nues - tra cor -

33

34

de - ra.
Dios guar - do el lo - bo de -
de - ra.
Dios guar - do el lo - bo, lo - bo de -
de - ra.
Dios guar - do el lo - bo, el lo - bo de -
de - ra.
Dios guar - do el lo - bo, el lo - bo de -

37

39 *mf*

nues - tra cor - de - ra.
Shep - herds in the fields were watch - *mp*
nues - tra cor - de - ra.
Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, _____
mp
nues - tra cor - de - ra.
Ri - - u, _____ ri -
mp
nues - tra cor - de - ra.
Ri - - u, _____ ri -

41



43

- ing flocks by night, when an an - gel cho - rus brought
ri - u, ri - u, chi - u,
- u, ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, _____
- u, ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, _____

45



47

news of love and light. Glo - ry in the high - est. What
ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, _____
- u, ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, _____
- u, ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, _____

49

won-drous words they bring.

51 *cresc.*

Let us lift our voic - es and
cresc.

ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, ri - u, _____
cresc.

- u, ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, _____
cresc.

- u, ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, _____
cresc.

53

with the an - gels sing.

55 *f*

Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la -
f

- u, chi - u. Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la -
f

chi - u. Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la -
f

- u, chi - u. Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la -
f

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57

— guar - da ri - be - ra.
Dios guar - do el
— guar - da ri - be - ra.
Dios guar - do el lo - bo,
— guar - da ri - be - ra.
Dios guar - do el lo - bo, el
— guar - da ri - be - ra.
Dios guar - do el lo - bo, el

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59

61

lo - bo de nues-trá cor - de - ra.
Dios guar -
lo - bo de nues-trá cor - de - ra.
Dios guar - do el
lo - bo de nues-trá cor - de - ra.
Dios guar - do el
lo - bo de nues-trá cor - de - ra.
Dios guar - do el

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64

65

Dios guar-do el lo - bo de nues-tra cor - de - ra.
do el lo - bo, lo - bo de nues-tra cor - de - ra.
lo - bo, el lo - bo de nues-tra cor - de - ra.

69

mp

Ri - u, ri - u,
Ri - u, chi - u,
Ri - u, ri - u,

mf

See the shep-herds go to gath - er near the man - ger,

mp

73

ri - u, _____ ri - u, chi - u.
ri - u, _____ ri - u, ri - u, chi - u.
ri - u, _____ ri - u, ri - u, chi - u.

watch-ing o'er the child and pro - tect-ing him from dan - ger.

77

Ri - u, _____ ri - u, _____
Ri - u, _____ ri - u, ri - u, chi - u,
Ri - u, _____ ri - u, _____

Let us join the shep - herds to guard this lit - tle one.

81

ri - u, ————— ri - u, chi - u.
ri - u, ————— ri - u, chi - u.
ri - u, ————— ri - u, chi - u.

Now the night is o - ver, a new day has be - gun.

The vocal line consists of three staves. The top two staves are in common time (indicated by a 'C') and the bottom staff is in 2/4 time (indicated by a '2'). The vocal part includes several grace notes and sustained notes. The piano accompaniment is mostly in 2/4 time, providing harmonic support with eighth-note chords.

85

p
Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la ____ guar - da ri - be - ra.
p
Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la ____ guar - da ri - be - ra.
p
Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la ____ guar - da ri - be - ra.
p
Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la ____ guar - da ri - be - ra.

The vocal line continues with the same melodic pattern as the previous measure, with sustained notes and grace notes. The piano accompaniment maintains the harmonic progression with eighth-note chords. Measure 85 starts with a dynamic 'p' (piano).

89

Musical score for voices and piano. The vocal parts are in 2/4 time, and the piano accompaniment is in 3/4 time. The vocal parts sing "Dios guar - do el lo - bo de nues - tra cor -". The piano part has eighth-note chords.

93

94

Musical score for voices and piano. The vocal parts are in 3/4 time, and the piano accompaniment is in 2/4 time. The vocal parts sing "de - ra. Dios guar - do el" and "de - ra. Dios guar - do el lo - bo, el". The piano part has eighth-note chords.

96

99

lo - bo de nues-trá cor - de - ra.
Ri - u,

lo - bo de nues-trá cor - de - ra.
Ri - u,

lo - bo de nues-trá cor - de - ra.
Ri - u,

100 SOLO (or small group)
mp

Ri - u, chi - u, la guar - da ri - be - ra.
, *cresc.*

chi - u
Ri - u, ri - u, ,
cresc.

ri - u, ri - u, chi - u. _____ Ri - u,
, *cresc.*

ri - u, ri - u, chi - u. Ri - u,
, *cresc.*

ri - u, - u, chi - u. Ri - u,
cresc.

— ri - u, chi - u. Ri - u,
cresc.

104

cresc.

Musical score for voice and piano. The vocal line consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "Ri - u chi - u, la guar - da ri -, chi - u, ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, ri - u, chi - u." The piano accompaniment is present in the lower staves. Measure 104 starts with a piano dynamic. Measures 105 and 106 continue the vocal line with piano accompaniment.

107

*mp cresc.**mf cresc.**mp cresc.**mp cresc.**mp cresc.**mp cresc.*

Musical score for voice and piano, continuing from measure 106. The vocal line consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "be - ra Dios guar - do el lo - bo, Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u." The piano accompaniment is present in the lower staves. Measure 107 starts with a piano dynamic. Measures 108 and 109 continue the vocal line with piano accompaniment.

111 (rejoin section)

de nues - tra cor - de - ra.

Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, _____ chi - u.

Ri - u, _____ ri - u, chi - u.

Ri - u, _____ ri - u, chi - u.

115

f

Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la _____ guar - da ri - be - ra.

f

Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la _____ guar - da ri - be - ra.

f

Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la _____ guar - da ri - be - ra.

f

Ri - u, ri - u, chi - u, la _____ guar - da ri - be - ra.

119

Dios guar - do el lo - bo de
Dios guar - do el lo - bo, lo - bo de
Dios guar - do el lo - bo, el lo - bo de
Dios guar - do el lo - bo, el lo - bo de

122

124

— nues - tra cor - de - ra.
— nues - tra cor - de - ra.
— nues - tra cor - de - ra.
Dios guar - do el
Dios guar - do el
Dios guar - do el

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

125 *cresc.*

Dios guar - do el lo - bo de _____ nues - tra cor -
do el lo - bo, lo - bo de _____ nues - tra cor -
lo - bo, el lo - bo de _____ nues - tra cor -
lo - bo, el lo - bo de _____ nues - tra cor -
de - ra. _____
de - ra. _____
de - ra. _____
de - ra. _____

A musical score for voices and piano. The vocal parts are in soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. The piano part is in the bass clef. The key signature is three sharps. The tempo is indicated as 'cresc.'. The lyrics are in Spanish, repeated several times. The piano part has sustained notes and some rhythmic patterns at the end of the system.

128 *ff*

de - ra. _____
ff
ff

A musical score for voices and piano. The vocal parts are in soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. The piano part is in the bass clef. The key signature is three sharps. The dynamics are marked as 'ff'. The lyrics continue from the previous system, ending with 'de - ra. _____'.