

## Foreword

Riu, riu, chiu is an anonymous Renaissance villancico. It first appeared in a compilation of Villancicos de diversos autores, published by the press of Hieronymus Scotus in Venice, 1556; the volume is commonly called Cancionero de Uppsala, since the only known copy belongs to that Swedish Library.

Though this villancico has certain folkish elements, the Spanish rhyme scheme is very sophisticated; the English text provided here pursues a simpler rhyme scheme. In the enigmatic Refrain, the nightingale (personified by its call -- "Riu, riu, chiu,") is protected by the riverbank just as God protects the Virgin (cordera) from Satan (e'l lobo).

Performance Notes. The piece should be sung fairly fast, rhythmically (two beats to a measure), and with a Spanish flair. The composer provided seven stanzas, developing various elements of the Christmas story. This edition employs only four verses, each alternating with the refrain sung by a four-part chorus (SATB).

Music of this kind was certainly performed with instruments, but the sources contain no special notation for them. The present edition provides parts for guitar and tambourine; harpsichord (or piano) may substitute for the guitar. The music has been transposed up a major second.

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# Ríu, Ríu, Chíu

For Four-Part Chorus of Mixed Voices  
with Baritone Solo  
and Guitar and Tambourine Accompaniment

(Duration c. 4 min.)  
English text by F.J.G., S.J.

Anonymous Spanish (1556)  
Arranged by Francis J. Guentner, S.J.

Allegro Solo

"Rí - u, rí - u, chí - u" la -  
"Rí - u, rí - u, chí - u" riv

7

— guar - da ri - be - ra: Dios guar dó el lo - bo de nues -  
- er bank pro - tect thee: So God kept the wild wolf from our

12

tra cor - de ra: Dios guar - dó el lo - bo de — nues - tra cor - de - ra.  
gen - tle La - dy: So God kept the wild wolf from — our gen - tle La - dy.

REFRAIN

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Soprano

"Rí - u, rí - u, chí - u," la - guar - da ri - be - ra:  
"Rí - u, rí - u, chí - u," riv - er bank pro - tect thee:

Alto

"Rí - u, rí - u, chí - u," la - guar - da ri - be - ra:  
"Rí - u, rí - u, chí - u," riv - er bank pro - tect thee:

Tenor

"Rí - u, rí - u, chí - u," la - guar - da ri - be - ra:  
"Rí - u, rí - u, chí - u," riv - er bank pro - tect thee:

Dios guar -  
So God

Bass

"Rí - u, rí - u, chí - u," la - guar - da ri - be - ra:  
"Rí - u, rí - u, chí - u," riv - er bank pro - tect thee:

Dios guar -  
So God

Piano accompaniment for the first system, including treble and bass clefs with chords and a bass line.

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Dios guar - dó el lo - bo de nues - tra cor - de - ra.  
So God kept the wild wolf from our gen - tle La - dy.

Dios guar - dó el lo - bo lo - bo de nues - tra cor - de - ra.  
So God kept the wild the wild wolf from our gen - tle La - dy.

dó el lo bo, el lo - bo de nues - tra cor - de - ra.  
kept the wild wolf, the wild wolf from our gen - tle La - dy.

dó el lo - bo, el lo - bo de nues - tra cor - de - ra.  
kept the wild wolf, the wild wolf from our gen - tle La - dy.

Piano accompaniment for the second system, including treble and bass clefs with chords and a bass line.

*Fine*  
(after Verse 4)

Dios guar - dó el lo - bo de nues - tra cor - de - ra.  
So God kept the wild wolf from our gen - tle La - dy.

Dios guar - dó el lo - bo, lo - bo de nues - tra cor - de - ra.  
So God kept the wild wolf, wild wolf from our gen - tle La - dy.

Dios guar - dó el lo - bo, el lo - bo de nues - tra cor - de - ra.  
So God kept the wild wolf, the wild wolf from our gen - tle La - dy.

Dios guar - dó el lo - bo, el lo - bo de nues - tra cor - de - ra.  
So God kept the wild wolf, the wild wolf from our gen - tle La - dy.

*Fine*  
(after Verse 4)

## Baritone Solo

33

1. El lo - bo ra - bio so la qui - so mor - der,  
Fu - rious - ly the wild wolf strove to cause her woe,
2. Es - te ques nas - ci - do es el gran mo - nar - ca,  
This new - born a - mong us is the sov' - reign Lord,
3. Es - te vie - ne a dar a los mu - er - tos vi - da,  
Life He comes to give to those from us de - part - ed,
4. Yo vi mil gar - ço - nes que and a - van can - tan - do,  
Glo - rious hosts of an gels fly a - bove me sing - ing,

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mas Dios po - de - ro - so la su - po - de - fen - der;  
 but our God, the might - y to her de - fense did go;  
 Chris - to pa - tri - ar - ca — de car - ne ves - ti - do;  
 Christ ere time be - got - ten has now in flesh ap - peared;  
 y vie - ne re - pa - rar de to - dos la ca - i - da;  
 and He comes to res - cue all by the fall cor - rupt - ed;  
 por a - quí bo - lan - do, ha - zien - do mil so - nes;  
 num - ber - ing a thou - sand har - mo - nious voic - es ring - ing,



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quí - so - la ha - zer que no pu - dies - se pe - car,  
 'twas his wish to make her a maid who would not sin,  
 ha - nos re - di - mi - do con se ha - zer chi - qui - to,  
 He has brought sal - va - tion, though ten - der babe was he,  
 es la luz del di - a a ques - te mu - cu - e - lo,  
 this is that young child who of day light is the to - ken,  
 di - zien - do a gas - co - nes, "Glo - ria se a en el cie - lo;  
 say - ing to the shep - herds, "All glo - ry in the high - est,



45



ní aun o - ni - gi - nal es - ta Vir - gen no tu vie - ra.  
 foil - ing A - dam's mis - deed from taint - ing this pure Vir - gin.  
 aun - quera in - fi - ni - to, fi - ni - to se hi - zie - ra.  
 for the Lord im - mor - tal em - braced mor - tal - i - ty.  
 es - te es el cor - de - ro que San Ju - an di - xe - ra.  
 lit - tle Lamb is he, for thus ho - ly John has spo - ken.  
 y paz en el sue - lo ques Je - sús nas - ci - e - ra!"  
 and on earth be peace, born is Je - sus the Mes - si - ah!"



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