

# AWAY IN THE MANGER - MUELLER

Lyrics, v.1, v.2, Anonymous, v.3, John T. McFarland, Early 1900's  
Tune: MUELLER, James Ramsey Murray, 1887

"*Away in a Manger*" is a 19<sup>th</sup> c. North American Christmas carol. No Christmas song is more loved than this tender children's carol. With its



simply worded expression of love for the Lord Jesus and trust in His faithful care, the hymn appeals to young and old alike. It is usually one of the first Christmas songs learned in early childhood; yet its pleasing melody and gentle message preserve it in our affections all through life.

The first two stanzas are reportedly anonymous. This carol was first published as an untitled poem. The song was later published in 1885 with the two verses in an Evangelical Lutheran Sunday School collection, "*Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*", where it simply bore the title "*Away in a Manger*" and was set to a tune called ST. KILDA, credited to J.E. Clark. In the early 1900's, the third stanza, "*Be near me, Lord Jesus*" was written by Methodist minister, John T. McFarland (1851-1913). In 1887, James Ramsey Murray paired these three stanzas to his tune: MUELLER.

This beloved children's Christmas carol is generally sung to one of two melodies. In the U.S. the tune: MUELLER the one discussed here is the most popular, while the United Kingdom prefers the melody: CRADLE SONG.

~Tull