

It's Always Been my belief that some of the best offerings in life come from one choosing to go down the 'less traveled path'--so wonderfully conjured in Robert Frost's beautiful poem, 'The Road Not Taken' which begins 'Two Roads Diverged in a Yellow Wood' and ends with the following: 'I shall be telling this with a sigh, Somewhere ages and ages hence, Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.' Please enjoy this stroll through some of Christmas-time's less traveled songs from familiar and well-hidden composers, and a Haiku description of each:

1) *Rustic Serenade to the Virgin Mary--Hector Berlioz--*

Shepherd Bagpipers, Perform in streets for Christmas, From Naples and Rome

2) *Now Tell Us Gentle Mary/Christmas Carol from Anjou-Cesar Franck-*

Sixteenth Century, Northwest France one organist's, ode to young Mary

3) *Christmas Chimes/The Christmas Tree-Niels Gade--*

Straw and Hay Pillow, Hallelujah sky so clear, Children's feet marching

4) *Knecht Ruprecht-Robert Schumann--*

Legendary Man, Sent to Punish Bad Children, An Evil Santa

5) *Happiness at Christmas--Felix Mendelssohn-*

A Christmas Present, For Friends of the Piano, Accordion Chimes

6) *The Sussex Mummers' Christmas Carol--Percy Grainger--*

Masked Costumed Actors, Perform in Streets of England, For Christmas Pennies

7) *Noel/Swiss Noel--Louise-Claude Daquin--*

Shepherds Hillside Pipes, Herald Excitement and Love, Ring in the New Year

8) *The Shepherds at the Manger:In dulci jubilo--Franz Liszt--*

Medieval Hymn Song, Now "Good Christian Men Rejoice", composed "In Sweet Joy"

9) *A Christmas Gift--John Knowles Paine--Harvard's First Teacher, And Musical Pioneer,
Composed for Sister*

10) *A Rose Is Gently Blooming--Johannes Brahms--Based on Melody, With text of Rose in Winter,
Of Praetorius*

11) *Children Playing Around the Christmas Tree/A Music Box Gift--Vladimir Rebikov--*

Stage-shy composer, So that others could not see, Played behind curtain

12) *Old Christmas Carol/Whence Comes this Rush of Wings--Cesar Franck--*

In Aquitaine France, A Sound from Centuries Past, The Rush from Angels

All the best for your Holidays and Beyond,

Matty Metcalfe