## Songs from Many Cultures for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany

The following was first published in *Gathering* Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2010–2011 and was compiled by *Gathering’*s music editor of that time, Lloyd MacLean, with help from David-Roger Gagnon. When reproducing this list, please give credit to Lloyd MacLean, David-Roger Gagnon, and *Gathering.*

We are fortunate that *Voices United* and *More Voices* both contain many songs from other cultures, often including the native language and an English translation, and even some pronunciation guides. Take a little time to explore and learn about these pieces. Sharing some contextual information about the origins of these pieces and the cultures from which they come will both help the choir learn and remind the rest of us that we are all part of a very large Christian family. Adding this type of material to the choir’s repertoire enables the whole congregation to share in worship music outside of their own context and experience, and in no time, the congregation will be singing in many languages and styles.

Here are some seasonal suggestions and their places of origin, with thanks to David-Roger Gagnon for the suggestions from *Nos Voix unies*.

(VU = *Voices United,* NVU = *Nos Voix unies,* MV = *More Voices*)

VU 23 “Joy shall come” Israel

VU 34 “O-so-so” Korea (“Come now, O God of peace”)

VU 47 “Still, still, still” Austria

VU 50 “Il est né” France (“He is born”)

VU 52 “Hitsuji wa nemure ri” Japan (“Sheep fast asleep”)

VU 73 “The virgin Mary had a baby boy” West Indies

VU 85 “Ming xing can lan ge” China (“Midnight stars make bright the sky”)

VU 89 “From a distant home” Puerto Rico

VU 239 “O Great Spirit” Nuxalk Nation

NVU 1–7 are all familiar seasonal tunes with either French translations, or new French lyrics.

NVU 167 « Aube nouvelle dans notre nuit » France

NVU 168 « Oh ! Viens divin Messie » Quebec

NVU 170 « Peuples qui marchez » France

NVU 172 « Ô mon peuple, prends courage » France

NVU 173 « En oubliant l’Enfant » Quebec

NVU 210 « Laisserons-nous à notre table » France

MV 16 “Confitemini Domino” Taizé, France (“Come and fill our hearts”)

MV 33 “Jesus came bringing us hope” Cameroon

MV 36 “Gloria a Dios” Peru (“Glory to God”)

MV 45 “Hamba nathi” South Africa (“You are holy”)

MV 71 “When the wind of winter blows” U.S.A.

MV 97 “Listen, God is calling” Tanzania

MV 103 “Kamana’o ‘I ‘O” Hawaii (“Faithful is our God”)

MV 110 “First-born of Mary” Iona, Scotland

MV 124 “Glory to God in the highest” Trinidad

MV 210 “Yeshu supriya” India (“Jesus, loving Lord”)

MV 212 “Enviado soy de Dios” Cuba (“Sent out in Jesus’ name”)

The following suggestions are generally interfaith rather than seasonal:

MV 141 “We are all one people” the Cree Nation

MV 148 “Hope of Abraham and Sarah” unity for the Abrahamic traditions

MV 159 “In star and crescent” celebrates the gifts of many faith traditions

MV 173 “Put peace into each other’s hands” peace, healing