

46. GLOUCESTERSHIRE WASSAIL

English traditional carol
arranged by R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

In quick time

SOPRANO
ALTO

1. Was - sail, — was - sail, — all o - ver the town! — Our
2. So here is to Cher - ry and to his right cheek, — Pray

TENOR
BASS

toast it is white, and our ale it — is brown, Our —
God send our mas - ter a good piece — of beef, And a

bowl it — is — made of the white ma - ple tree; With the
good piece of — beef that — may we all see; With the

was - sail - ing bowl we'll drink — to thee.
was - sail - ing bowl we'll drink — to thee.

3. And here is to Dobbin and to his right eye,
Pray God send our master a good Christmas pie,
And a good Christmas pie that may we all see;
With our wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

4. So here is to Broad May and to her broad horn,
May God send our master a good crop of corn,
And a good crop of corn that may we all see;
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

5. And here is to Fillpail and to her left ear,
Pray God send our master a happy New Year,
And a happy New Year as e'er he did see;
With our wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

6. And here is to Colly and to her long tail,
Pray God send our master he never may fail
A bowl of strong beer; I pray you draw near,
And our jolly wassail it's then you shall hear.

7. Come, butler, come fill us a bowl of the best,
Then we|hope that your|soul in|heaven may|rest;
But|if you do draw us a bowl of the small,
Then down shall go butler, bowl and all.

8. Then here's to the maid in the lily white smock,
Who tripped to the door and slipped back the lock!
Who tripped to the door and pulled back the pin,
For to let these jolly wassailers in.

Wassail, Wes hal, Old English, 'Be thou whole' (hale); a form of salutation, and hence a festive occasion. Cf. 'wassail bowl', cup, or horn.

Cherry and Dobbin are horses. Broad May, Fillpail, and Colly are cows.