

The New Coventry Carol

Tablatured by Burt I. Kahn

Gm D Gm D Gm

1

D	3	2	3	3	4	4	5	3	0	0
A	3	5	3	3	3	5.	3	3	0	0
C	4	4	4	6	5	4	4	5	5	6

Cm Gm Cm Am

6

D	6	7	3.	8	9	6	10	4	
A	6	5	3.	3.	6	6	0	4	
C	7	5	4.	4	8	7	6	5	6

Gm Cm Dm

11

D	4	12	13	3	3	14	6	15	0.
A	0	5.	3	3	5	3	6	3.	3.
C	5	4	4	4	4	7	5	5.	5.

Cm Bb

16

D	0.	17	6	18	6.	19	0	20	0.	
A	3.	6	6	6.	6.	3	3	3.	3.	
C	5.	7	8	7	6	7.	6	6	5	6.

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system covers measures 21 to 25, and the second system covers measures 26 to 30. Each system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a guitar tablature staff below. The tablature staff shows fret numbers for the D, A, and C strings. Chord diagrams are provided above the tablature for Gm, D, and Cm. Measure numbers 21 through 30 are indicated above the tablature staff.

The "Coventry Carol" is a Christmas carol dating from the 16th century. The carol was performed in Coventry in England as part of a mystery play called The Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors. The play depicts the Christmas story from chapter two in the Gospel of Matthew. The carol refers to the Massacre of the Innocents, in which Herod ordered all male infants under the age of two in Bethlehem to be killed. The lyrics of this haunting carol represent a mother's lament for her doomed child. It is the only carol that has survived from this play.