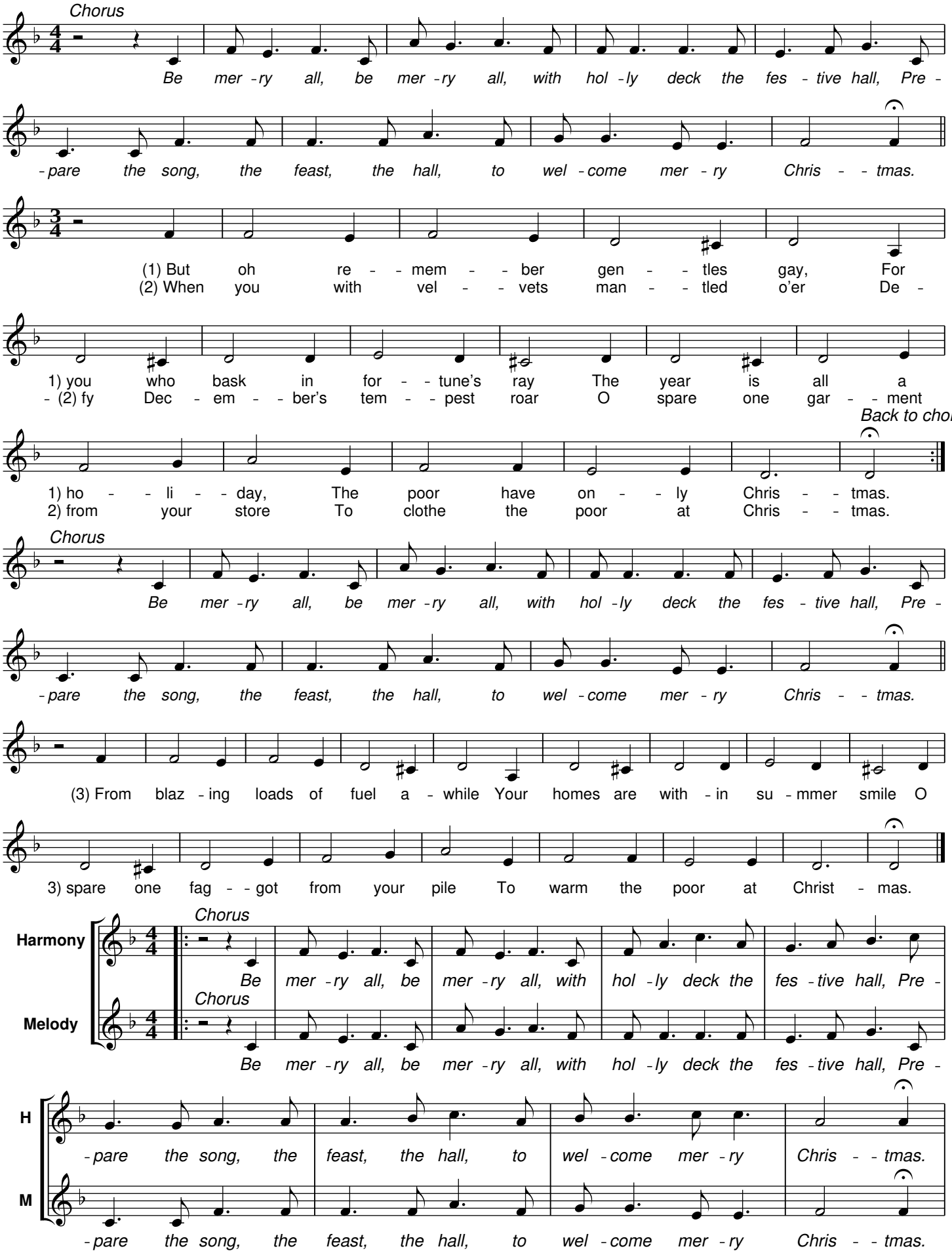
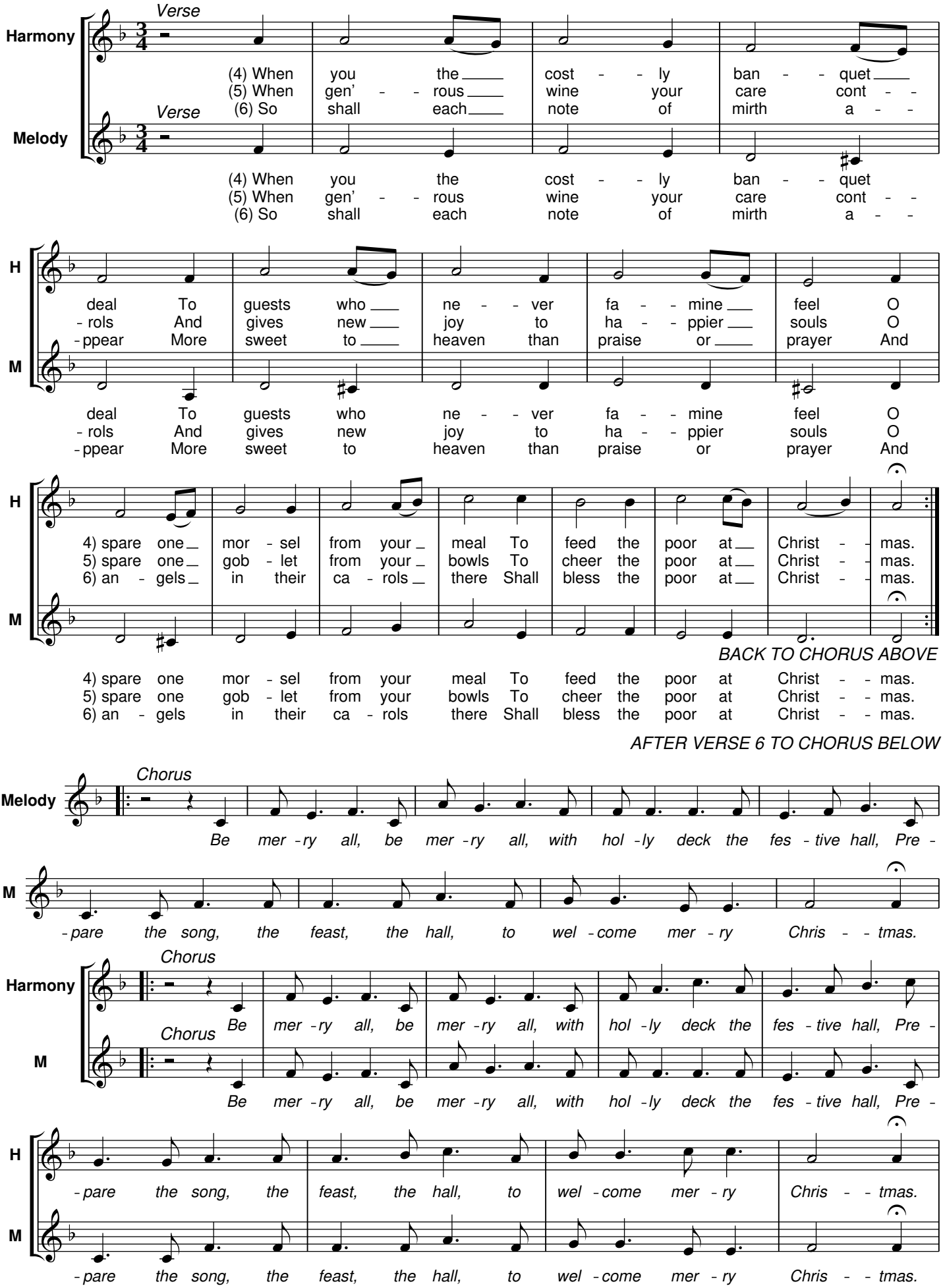
The Ditchling Carol

Lyrics 1811 William Robert Spencer (1769-1834), Music Peter Parsons (1825-1901)





Noted poet and wit William Robert Spencer was born in Kensington Palace in 1769, the younger son of of Lord Charles Spencer and grandson of Charles Spencer, 3rd Duke of Marlborough. Peter Parsons is said to have been a cordwainer (shoemaker) and church musician; his pitch-pipe is hung in St Margaret's Church at Ditchling. Vic Gammon collated our version from a variety of texts, including broadsides.