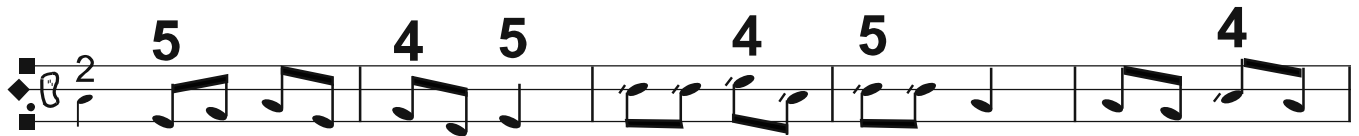


Orientis Partibus

Anonymous mediæval carol. After folkinfo.org 292
Verse 4 and "Yay..." refrain adapted, and chording added, by David Zethmayr

5 E ~ 4 D 2 B^{min}



Orientis partibus adventavit asinus, pulcher et for-



tissimus, Sarcimis ap-tissimus. Yay for Donkey, yay!

1. From the East the donkey came.
Stout and strong as twenty men;
Ears like wings and eyes like flame,
Striding into Bethlehem.
Yay for Donkey, yay!

2. Faster than the deer he leapt,
With his burden on his back;
Though all other creatures slept,
Still the ass kept on his track.
Yay for Donkey, yay!

3. Still he draws his heavy load,
Fed on barley and rough hay;
Pulling on along the road
Donkey, pull our sins away!
Yay for Donkey, yay!

4. Wrap him now in cloth of gold;
And to cheer him on his way,
Mirth inhabit young and old
On this Advent Donkey Day.
Yay for Donkey, yay!

Macaronic (mixed language) songs were common in Europe for centuries, down to Mozart's time. Typically the mix was Latin and a younger language.

Here in *Orientis Partibus*., Verse 1 freely translates and expands on the Latin of the verse in score.

The tune is in mountain mode (mixolydian). This means that the note just below the tonic (square rail) is a wholetone down rather than the familiar semitone of major (ionian) mode.

Slantnote on rails notation is fully explained, with many examples, at <http://earfirst.com>

—DZ