

Both the melody and text of this lovely German carol date from the late 15th or early 16th century, appearing in print in many versions, of which the best known is the simple harmonization by Michael Praetorius published in 1609. The idea for my arrangement came from the King's Singers in 2013, to form part of a Christmas album they were making jointly with the renowned German oboist Albrecht Mayer. With only minimal adaptation for the mixed-voice choral forces of the Cambridge Singers, I have been delighted to record my arrangement – inspired by Bach's extended chorale treatments – with the equally peerless Royal Philharmonic Orchestra oboist John Roberts.

Download or stream here: <https://smarturl.it/EsIstEinRos>

Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen
Aus einer Wurzel zart,
Als uns die Alten sungen,
Aus Jesse kam die Art
Und hat ein Blümlein bracht
Mitten im kalten Winter,
Wohl zu der halben Nacht.
(German traditional)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.