



## THE BOAR'S HEAD CAROL

This carol has been sung at Queen's College, Oxford, since the seventeenth century, as the celebrated dish is borne into the dining hall. An early version of a boar's head carol was first printed in 1521 by Wynkyn de Worde.



stately, in strict tempo ♩ = 100

anon. English  
arr. Elizabeth Posten

INSTRUMENTAL  
DESCANT

The boar's head in hand bear I, Be -  
decked with bays and rose - ma - ry; And I pray you, my mas - ters,  
be mer - ry, *Quot es - tis in con - vi - vi - o:*

CHORUS

(Inst.)

Ca - put a - pri de - fe - ro, Red - dens lau - des Do - mi - no.

ALTERNATIVE CHORUS FOR LAST VERSE

Ca - put a - pri — de - fe - ro, Red - dens lau - des Do - mi - no.

MELODY

2. The boar's head, as I understand,  
Is the rarest dish in all the land;  
When thus bedecked with a gay garland,  
Let us *servire cantico*:

*Caput apri defero,  
Reddens laudes Domino.*

3. Our steward hath provided this  
In honour of the King of bliss,  
Which on this day to be served is,  
*In Reginensi atrio*:

*Caput apri defero . . . &c.*

*Quot* . . . "so many as are in the feast"  
*Caput* . . . "The boar's head I bring, giving praises to God"  
*Servire* . . . "Let us serve with a song"  
*In Reginensi* . . . "In the Queen's Hall"

