

1998

Godric's Songs

Peter M. Lefferts

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, plefferts1@unl.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/musicfacpub>



Part of the [Music Commons](#)

Lefferts, Peter M., "Godric's Songs" (1998). *Faculty Publications: School of Music*. 39.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/musicfacpub/39>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Music, School of at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications: School of Music by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Godric's Songs

Three monophonic religious songs of the mid-12th century ("Sainte marie viergene," "Kirieleison: Crist and sainte marie," and "Sainte Nicholas Godes druth") that are the earliest English-language lyrics to survive with their melodies; found in a number of manuscript sources, including three with music, they are also known as Godric's Hymns. Their composer, St. Godric (ca. 1070/80–1170), wrote them some time after he retired to a hermitage at Finchale, north of Durham, following a career as a merchant trader and ship's captain. Godric's life as a hermit was one of ascetic hardship, punctuated by visions in which the songs were taught to him; he later sang them to his future biographers. In respect to style the settings are reflective of certain contemporaneous Latin hymns in rhyme, meter, and melody.

Peter M. Lefferts

Bibliography

- Dobson, Eric J., and Frank Ll. Harrison, eds. and trans. *Medieval English Songs*. London: Faber & Faber, 1979
- Trowell, Brian. "Godric." *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* 7:486-87
- Zupitza, Julius. "Cantus beati Godrici." *Englische Studien* 11 (1887): 401-32

o o o o o

Published in *Medieval England: An Encyclopedia*, ed. Paul Szarmach, M. Teresa Tavormina, Joel T. Rosenthal, Catherine E. Karkov, Peter M. Lefferts, & Elizabeth Parker McLachlan (New York: Garland Publishing, 1998), p. 320. Copyright © 1998 Paul Szarmach, M. Teresa Tavormina, & Joel T. Rosenthal.