

Programme Notes: A La Ruru Niño:

A La Ruru Niño is a traditional Christmas Carol Lullaby from Spain/Mexico.

Variations of the tune and words have been sung through generations; as a simple lullaby for babies at sleep time.

The Christmas version is about little Jesus, who is sleeping in a manger, while animals and birds guard him tenderly.

As a Nativity Carol it is considered to be the lullaby sung by the Virgin Mary to baby Jesus.

The phrase 'a la ruru' is a familiar expression to lull children to sleep.

In Spanish 'arrullar' means to 'lull to sleep'.

The repetition of rururu emulates the word arrullar.

Lyrics in Spanish

1. A la ru ru ru niño chiquito,
Duérmase ya mi Jesusito.
Cada animal y pájaro
Tiernamente guarda el bebé querido.
2. A la ru ru ru niño chiquito,
Duérmase ya mi Jesusito.
Del elefante hasta el mosquito,
Guarden silencio, no le hagan ruido.
3. A la ru ru ru niño chiquito,
Duérmase ya mi Jesusito.
Noche venturosa, noche de alegría.
Bendita la dulce, divina Maris.
4. A la ru ru ru niño chiquito,
Duérmase ya mi Jesusito.
Coros celestiales, con su dulce accento,
Canten la ventura este nacimiento.

Literal Translation to English

1. A la rururu, My lovely Jesus,
In sweetest slumber now rest, my dearest.
Sleep my little Jesus, every animal and bird
Tenderly guard the loved baby.
2. A la rururu, My lovely Jesus,
In sweetest slumber now rest, my dearest.
You elephant so huge, you small mosquito,
Be very still, you must not wake the Nino.
3. A la rururu, My lovely Jesus,
In sweetest slumber now rest, my dearest.
O night of glory, night of jubilation,
So richly blest by Mary, Queen of Heaven.
4. A la rururu, My lovely Jesus,
In sweetest slumber now rest, my dearest.
Such heav'nly voices in sweet accents
singing,
The glorious tidings of His birth are bringing!