

WHICH ON THIS DAY TO BE SERVED IS...

I think this is our first time to have an *a capella* song in this space. No chords. This great tune has always been one of my favorite holiday carols. The tradition of the boar's head feast goes back to Anglo-Saxon times. Like many songs from that period, where a large number of literate people read Latin, the song is *macaronic*, meaning in multiple languages. Translation of the Latin lines are given in the footnotes. It is an easy tune to learn. You can hear the song here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8-b6NrfZ8E>, or on the HFMS Audio Archive page at http://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/HFS_Audio_Archive.html

The boar's head in hand bear I,
Bedeck'd with bay and rosemary.
And I pray you, my masters, be merry
*Quot estis in convivio*¹

CHORUS

*Caput apri defero*²
*Reddens laudes Domino*³

The boar's head, as I understand,
Is the rarest dish in all this land,
Which thus bedeck'd with a gay garland
Let us *servire cantico*⁴.

CHORUS

Our steward hath provided this
In honour of the King of Bliss;
Which on this day to be servèd is
*In Regimensi atrio*⁵.

¹ As many as are at the feast

² The boar's head I bear

³ Rendering praises to the Lord

⁴ Let us serve with a song

⁵ In the Queen's hall