

Christmas Carol Collection

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Deck the Halls

This Welsh carol was first found in a musical manuscript by Welsh harpist John Parry Dall. It dates back to the sixteenth century. The poet John Ceiriog Hughes wrote the first published lyrics for the carol in Welsh, titled *Nos Galan* (*New Year's Eve*). In the eighteenth century the tune spread widely, with Mozart using it in a piano and violin concerto. J.P.McCaskey is credited with the first English version of the carol in 1881.

Deck the halls with boughs of holly,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

'Tis the season to be jolly,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Don we now our gay apparel,

Fa la la, la la la, la la la.

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

See the blazing Yule before us,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Strike the harp and join the chorus.

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Follow me in merry measure,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

While I tell of Yuletide treasure,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Fast away the old year passes,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Sing we joyous, all together,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Heedless of the wind and weather,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Noel Regney, a Frenchman trained as a classical composer, and his wife, Gloria Shayne, wrote this Christmas carol in 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis. While this song is often considered a Christmas carol, for Regney and Shayne it is a hymn to peace. It was originally recorded by the Harry Simeone Chorale in 1962, but became a hit when Bing Crosby recorded it in 1963.

**Said the night wind to the little lamb,
"Do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
Do you see what I see?
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite,
With a tail as big as a kite."**

**Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
"Do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
Do you hear what I hear?
A song, a song high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea,
With a voice as big as the sea."**

**Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
"Do you know what I know?
In your palace warm, mighty king,
Do you know what I know?
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold~
Let us bring him silver and gold,
Let us bring him silver and gold."**

**Said the king to the people everywhere,
"Listen to what I say!
Pray for peace, people, everywhere,
Listen to what I say!
The Child, the Child sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light,
He will bring us goodness and light."**

Holly Jolly Christmas

Have a Holly Jolly Christmas was written by American songwriter Johnny Marks in 1962. Marks is remembered for other Christmas songs including *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, and *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*. It was first recorded by the Quinto Sisters, then Burl Ives.

**Have a holly, jolly Christmas;
It's the best time of the year.
I don't know if there'll be snow,
But have a cup of cheer.**

**Have a holly, jolly Christmas,
And when you walk down the street,
Say hello to friends you know
And everyone you meet.**

**Oh, ho, the mistletoe,
Hung where you can see.
Somebody waits for you;
Kiss her once for me.**

**Have a holly, jolly Christmas,
And in case you didn't hear,
Oh by golly, have a holly,
Jolly Christmas this year!**

Frosty the Snowman

Frosty the Snowman gained enormous popularity when it was released as a sequel to the song *Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. It is considered a Christmas song, even though it doesn't mention Christmas at all. Jack Rollins and Steve Nelson wrote the Christmas song sequel in 1949, after taking almost half a year to decide on a snowman as the central character. It was first recorded in 1950 by Gene Autry and the Cass County Boys.

**Frosty the Snowman
Was a jolly, happy soul,
With a corn cob pipe and a button nose
And two eyes made out of coal.**

**Frosty the Snowman
Is a fairy tale they say.
He was made of snow, but the children know
How he came to life one day.**

**There must have been some magic
In that old silk hat they found,
For when they placed it on his head,
He began to dance around!**

**O, Frosty the Snowman
Was alive as he could be,
And the children say he could laugh and play
Just the same as you and me.**

**Thumpety thump thump
Thumpety thump thump
Look at Frosty go
Thumpety thump thump
Thumpety thump thump
Over the hills of snow.**

Frosty the Snowman

Frosty the Snowman
Knew the sun was hot that day,
So he said, "Let's run and we'll have some fun now
Before I melt away."

Down to the village
With a broomstick in his hand,
Running here and there all around the square,
Saying, "Catch me if you can!"

He led them down the streets of town
Right to the traffic cop,
And he only paused a moment when
He heard him holler, "Stop!"

For Frosty the Snowman
Had to hurry on his way,
But he waved goodbye saying, "Don't you cry,
I'll be back again some day."

Thumpety thump thump
Thumpety thump thump
Look at Frosty go
Thumpety thump thump
Thumpety thump thump
Over the hills of snow.

Here Comes Santa Claus

Gene Autry, singing cowboy of the 1930s, 40s, and 50s, co-wrote this popular Christmas song with Oakley Haldeman in 1947.

**Here comes Santa Claus!
Here comes Santa Claus!
Right down Santa Claus Lane!
Vixen and Blitzen and all his reindeer
Are pulling on the reins.
Bells are ringing, children singing;
All is merry and bright.
Hang your stockings and say your prayers,
'Cause Santa Claus comes tonight.**

**Here comes Santa Claus!
Here comes Santa Claus!
Right down Santa Claus Lane!
He's got a bag that is filled with toys
For the boys and girls again.
Hear those sleigh bells jingle jangle,
What a beautiful sight.
Jump in bed, cover up your head,
'Cause Santa Claus comes tonight.**

Jingle Bells

Jingle Bells is one of the best known Christmas songs in the world. It was written by James Lord Pierpont and was copyrighted under the title *One Horse Open Sleigh* in 1857. It is said that Pierpont wrote the song to be sung at a Thanksgiving program at his church in Savannah or Boston.

**Dashing through the snow
In a one horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bob tails ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to laugh and sing
A sleighing song tonight**

**Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh**

**A day or two ago
I thought I'd take a ride
And soon Miss Fanny Bright
Was seated by my side
The horse was lean and lank
Misfortune seemed his lot
We got into a drifted bank
And then we got upsot**

❖ Back to Refrain ❖

Joy to the World

Here's a Christmas Carol that sends a message of joy and love. The lyrics for *Joy to the World* were written by Isaac Watts in 1719. Music for the carol was arranged by Lowell Mason, based on an older melody believed to have been composed by George Frederick Handel. One of the first well-known recordings was an instrumental version by conductor Percy Faith, recorded in 1954.

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.**

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

The famous Christmas song *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* was originally a poem written for the Montgomery Ward Department Stores by Robert May, an American advertising executive. He created the poem in 1939 as a giveaway from each store's Santa Claus to children at Christmastime. Singer Gene Autry recorded the musical version, which was composed by Johnny Marks in 1949.

**Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer
had a very shiny nose.
And if you ever saw him,
you would even say it glows.**

**All of the other reindeer
used to laugh and call him names.
They never let poor Rudolph
join in any reindeer games.**

**Then one foggy Christmas Eve,
Santa came to say:
"Rudolph with your nose so bright,
won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"**

**Then all the reindeer loved him
as they shouted out with glee,
Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,
you'll go down in history!**

Silent Night

Silent Night was originally a poem written in 1816 by Joseph Mohr, an Austrian priest at St. Nicholas Church in the small alpine village of Oberndorf. The melody was composed by Franz Xavier Gruber in 1818. It happened that the organ was broken at St. Nicholas, so Mohr gave the words to Gruber, who finished the song just in time for Midnight Mass.

**Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace**

**Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ, the Savior is born
Christ, the Savior is born**

**Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth**

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

The author and composer of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* cannot be traced; however, we know that it dates back to sixteenth-century England. This carol is one of the few traditional holiday songs that mention the New Year's celebration. The carol reflects the tradition of carolers being given Christmas treats for singing to wealthy members of the community.

**We wish you a Merry Christmas;
We wish you a Merry Christmas;
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;
Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

**Oh, bring us a figgy pudding;
Oh, bring us a figgy pudding;
Oh, bring us a figgy pudding and a cup of good cheer.
We won't go until we get some;
We won't go until we get some;
We won't go until we get some, so bring some out here.**

**We wish you a Merry Christmas;
We wish you a Merry Christmas;
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Winter Wonderland

Winter Wonderland was published in 1934. This famous carol was written by Richard B. Smith (lyricist) and Felix Bernard (composer). Smith, a native of Honesdale, Pennsylvania, was reportedly inspired to write the song after seeing Honesdale's Central Park covered in snow.

**Sleigh bells ring, are you listening?
In the lane, snow is glistening.
A beautiful sight,
We're happy tonight,
Walking in a winter wonderland.**

**Gone away is the bluebird;
Here to stay is a new bird.
He sings a love song,
As we go along,
Walking in a winter wonderland.**

**In the meadow we can build a snowman,
Then pretend that he is Parson Brown.
He'll say: Are you married?
We'll say: No, man,
But you can do the job
When you're in town.**

**Later on, we'll conspire,
As we dream by the fire.
To face unafraid,
The plans that we've made,
Walking in a winter wonderland.**

**In the meadow we can build a snowman,
And pretend that he's a circus clown.
We'll have lots of fun with mister snowman,
Until the other kids knock him down.**

**When it snows, ain't it thrilling?
Though your nose gets a chilling.
We'll frolic and play, the Eskimo way,
Walking in a winter wonderland.**