

# **Christmas Songs & the Stories Behind Them** presented by Lloyd H. Miller

## **Table of Contents**

Silent Night - **2**

Jingle Bells - **3**

Good King Wenceslas - **4**

Wassail! Wassail! - **6**

In the Bleak Mid-winter - **8**

We Wish You a Merry Christmas - **10**

The Twelve Days of Christmas - **11**

Deck the Halls - **14**

O Little Town of Bethlehem - **15**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing! - **17**

Feliz Navidad - **18**

Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer - **19**

All I Want for Christmas is You - **20**

Last Christmas - **23**

Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)

# Silent Night

*traditional*

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  
Al-le-lu-ia!

Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, oh, 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

2

# **Jingle Bells**

*traditional*

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

Dashing through the snow  
In a one-horse open sleigh  
Over the fields we go  
Laughing all the way  
Bells on bob-tail ring  
Making spirits bright

What fun it is to ride and sing a sleighing song

tonight <sup>3</sup>

# **Good King Wenceslas** *traditional*

Good King Wenceslas looked

out On the feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round  
about Deep and crisp and  
even

Brightly shone the moon that  
night Though the frost was  
cruel

When a poor man came in  
sight Gath'ring winter fuel

"Hither, page, and stand by  
me If thou know'st it, telling  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?"

"Sire, he lives a good league  
hence Underneath the  
mountain  
Right against the forest  
fence By Saint Agnes'  
fountain."

"Bring me flesh and bring me  
wine Bring me pine logs hither  
Thou and I will see him  
dine When we bear him  
thither."

Page and monarch forth they  
went Forth they went together  
Through the rude wind's wild  
lament And the bitter weather

"Sire, the night is darker  
now And the wind blows  
stronger Fails my heart, I  
know not how, I can go no  
longer."

"Mark my footsteps, my good  
page Tread thou in them boldly  
Thou shalt find the winter's

rage Freeze thy blood less  
coldly."

In his master's steps he trod  
Where the snow lay dinted  
Heat was in the very sod  
Which the Saint had printed  
Therefore, Christian men, be  
sure Wealth or rank  
possessing  
Ye who now will bless the  
poor Shall yourselves find  
blessing

5

## **Wassail! Wassail!**

*traditional*

1. Wassail! wassail! all over the town,  
Our toast it is white and our ale it is  
brown; Our bowl it is made of the white  
maple tree; With the wassailing bowl<sup>1</sup>,  
we'll drink to thee.

2. Here's to our horse, and to his right  
ear, God send our master a happy

new year: A happy new year as e'er  
he did see,  
With my wassailing bowl I drink to thee.

3. So here is to Cherry and to his right  
cheek Pray God send our master a good  
piece of beef And a good piece of beef  
that may we all see With the wassailing  
bowl, we'll drink to thee.

4. Here's to our mare, and to her right  
eye, God send our mistress a good  
Christmas pie; A good Christmas pie as  
e'er I did see, With my wassailing bowl I  
drink to thee.

5. So here is to Broad Mary and to her broad  
horn May God send our master a good crop  
of corn And a good crop of corn that may we  
all see With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to  
thee.

6

6. And here is to Fillpail and to her left  
ear Pray God send our master a happy  
New Year And a happy New Year as  
e'er he did see  
With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee.



7. Here's to our cow<sup>4</sup>, and to her long tail,  
God send our master us never may fail  
Of a cup of good beer<sup>5</sup>: I pray you draw  
near, And our jolly wassail it's then you  
shall hear.

8. Come butler, come fill us a bowl of the  
best Then we hope that your soul in  
heaven may rest But if you do draw us a  
bowl of the small  
Then down shall go butler, bowl and all.

9. Be here any maids? I suppose here be some;  
Sure they will not let young men stand on the cold  
stone! Sing hey O, maids! come trole back the pin,  
And the fairest maid in the house let us all in.

10. Then here's to the maid in the lily white  
smock Who tripped to the door and slipped  
back the lock Who tripped to the door and  
pulled back the pin For to let these jolly  
wassailers in.

# In the Bleak Mid-winter

*words by Christina Rossetti*

*original setting by Gustav Holst*

In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan;  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on  
snow, Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold  
Him Nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee  
away When He comes to  
reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty —  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom  
Cherubim Worship night and  
day,  
A breastful of milk  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom  
Angels Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

Angels and Archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air;  
But only His Mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,

Poor as I am? —  
If I were a Shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part, —  
Yet what I can I give Him,  
— Give my heart.

9

## **We Wish you a Merry Christmas** *traditional*

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

10

## **The Twelve Days of Christmas**

*traditional*

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave  
to me A partridge in a pear tree

On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave  
to me Two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear  
tree

On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave  
to me three French hens  
Two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree

On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love gave

to me Four calling birds, three French hens, two  
turtle doves And a partridge in a pear tree

On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love gave  
to me Five golden rings, four calling birds, three  
French hens Two turtle doves and a partridge in  
a pear tree

On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to  
me Six geese a-layin', five golden rings, four  
calling birds Three French hens, two turtle doves  
and a partridge in a pear tree

11

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave  
to me Seven swans a-swimmin', six geese a-layin',  
five golden rings  
Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle  
doves And a partridge in a pear tree

On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave  
to me Eight maids a-milkin', seven swans  
a-swimmin' Six geese a-layin', five golden rings,  
four calling birds, three French hens  
Two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree

On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to  
me Nine lords a-leapin', eight maids a-milkin',  
seven swans a swimmin'  
Six geese a-layin', five golden rings, four calling  
birds, three French hens  
Two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree

On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love gave  
to me Ten ladies dancin', nine lords a-leapin',  
eight maids a milkin'  
Seven swans a-swimmin', six geese a-layin', five  
golden rings  
Four calling birds, three French hens  
Two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear

tree 12

On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love gave  
to me  
Eleven pipers pipin', ten ladies dancin', nine lords a  
leapin'  
Eight maids a-milkin', seven swans a-swimmin' Six  
geese a-layin', five golden rings, four calling birds,  
three French hens  
Two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave  
to me Twelve drummers drummin', eleven pipers  
pipin', ten ladies dancin'  
Nine lords a-leapin', eight maids milkin', seven  
swans a swimmin'  
Six geese a-layin' five golden rings, four calling  
birds, three French hens  
Two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree 13

## Deck the Halls

*traditional*

Deck the hall 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! Fill  
the meadcup, drain the barrel,



Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la!  
Troul the ancient Christmas  
carol, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la!

See the flowing bowl before us,  
Fa, 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!

While I sing of beauty's  
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! Laughing,  
quaffing all together, Fa, la,  
la, la, la, la, la, la!  
Heedless of the wind and  
weather, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la,  
la, la!

## **O Little Town of Bethlehem** *words by Phillips Brooks,*

*music by Lewis Redner*

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless  
sleep The silent stars go by

Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the  
years Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels  
keep Their watch of wondering  
love

O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently

The wondrous gift is given  
So God imparts to human  
hearts The blessings of His  
heaven

No ear may hear His  
coming But in this world  
of sin  
Where meek souls will receive him  
still The dear Christ enters in

O holy Child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
Be born to us today

We hear the Christmas  
angels The great glad  
tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel

# **Hark! the Herald Angels Sing!**

*words by Charles Wesley, adapted by George  
Whitefield and others melody by Felix  
Mendelssohn, adapted by William H. Cummings*

Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled

Joyful, all ye nations, rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With th' angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem

Hark, the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of peace

Hail! the Son of Righteousness  
Light and life to all he brings  
Risen with healing in his wings

Mild he lays his glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the some of earth  
Born to give them second birth

17

## **Feliz Navidad**

*words and music by José Feliciano*

Feliz navidad  
Feliz navidad  
Feliz navidad  
Prospero año y felicidad

I wanna wish you a merry  
Christmas I wanna wish you a  
merry Christmas I wanna wish  
you a merry Christmas From the  
bottom of my heart

We wanna wish you a merry  
Christmas We wanna wish you a  
merry Christmas We wanna wish

you a merry Christmas From the  
bottom of our heart

18

**Rudolph,  
the Red-nosed  
Reindeer** *words by Robert May,  
music by Johnny Marks*

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!

19

## **All I Want for Christmas is**

**You** *words and music by Mariah Carey and  
Walter Afanasieff*

I don't want a lot for Christmas  
There is just one thing I need  
And I don't care about the presents  
Underneath the Christmas tree

I don't need to hang my stocking  
There upon the fireplace

Santa Claus won't make me happy  
With a toy on Christmas Day

I just want you for my own  
More than you could ever know  
Make my wish come true  
All I want for Christmas  
Is you  
You, baby

Oh, I won't ask for much this Christmas  
I won't even wish for snow  
And I'm just gonna keep on waiting  
Underneath the mistletoe

20

I won't make a list and send it  
To the North Pole for Saint Nick  
I won't even stay awake to  
Hear those magic reindeer click

'Cause I just want you here tonight  
Holding on to me so tight  
What more can I do?  
Cause baby all I want for Christmas is



you You

Oh-ho, all the lights are shining  
So brightly everywhere  
And the sound of children  
Laughter fills the air

And everyone is singing  
I hear those sleigh bells ringing  
Santa won't you bring me the one I really  
need? Won't you please bring my baby to  
me? Yeah

21

Oh, I don't want a lot for  
Christmas This is all I'm asking  
for  
I just wanna see my baby  
(Yeahhh) Standing right  
outside my door

Oh I just want you for my

own For my own  
Baby  
More than you could ever  
know Make my wish come  
true  
Baby all I want for Christmas  
is You baby

All I want for Christmas is you  
baby All I want for Christmas is  
you baby All I want for  
Christmas is you baby

## **Last Christmas**

*words and music by George Michael*

*chorus*

Last Christmas, I gave you my  
heart But the very next day you  
gave it away This year, to save  
me from tears  
I'll give it to someone special

Last Christmas, I gave you my  
heart But the very next day you  
gave it away This year, to save  
me from tears  
I'll give it to someone special

Once bitten and twice shy  
I keep my distance  
But you still catch my eye  
Tell me, baby  
Do you recognize me?  
Well, it's been a year  
It doesn't surprise me

(Merry Christmas!) I wrapped it up and  
sent it With a note saying, "I love you, " I  
meant it Now, I know what a fool I've  
been  
But if you kissed me now  
I know you'd fool me again

*chorus*

A crowded room, friends with tired eyes  
I'm hiding from you, and your soul of ice  
My god, I thought you were someone to  
rely on Me? I guess I was a shoulder to  
cry on

A face on a lover with a fire in his heart A man  
under cover but you tore me apart Now, I've  
found a real love you'll never fool me again

*chorus*

A face on a lover with a fire in his heart  
A man under cover but you tore him  
apart Maybe next year I'll give it to  
someone  
I'll give it to someone special

# **Christmas**

## **(Baby Please Come Home)**

*words and music by Ellie Greenwich, Jeff Barry,  
and Phil Spector*

The snow's coming down  
I'm watching it fall  
Lots of people around  
Baby please come home

The church bells in town  
All singing in song  
Full of happy sounds  
Baby please come home

They're singing "Deck The Halls"

But it's not like Christmas at all  
'Cause I remember when you were here  
And all the fun we had last year

Pretty lights on the tree  
I'm watching them shine  
You should be here with me  
Baby please come home

25

They're singing "Deck The Halls"  
But it's not like Christmas at all  
'Cause I remember when you were  
here And all the fun we had last  
year

If there was a way  
I'd hold back this tear  
But it's Christmas day  
Please  
Please  
Please  
Please  
Baby please come home

26  
27