

# Christmas Music



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## Christmas Carol Collection - 2015

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O Holy Night

*John Sullivan Dwight's version*

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,*

*It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.*

*Long lay the world in sin and error pining,*

*'Til He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.*

*A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,*

*For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.*

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!*

*O night divine, O night when Christ was born;*

*O night divine, O night, O night Divine.*

*Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,*

*With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.*

*So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,*

*Here come the wise men from the Orient land.*

*The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;*

*In all our trials born to be our friend.*

*He knows our need, to our weaknesses no stranger,*

*Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!*

*Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;*

*His law is love and His gospel is peace.*

*Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;*

*And in His name all oppression shall cease.*

*Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,*

*Let all within us praise His holy name.*

*Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,*

*His power and glory evermore proclaim.*

*His power and glory evermore proclaim.*

The Boar's Head Carol

anonymous, 1521

The boar's head in hand bear I

Bedecked with bays and rosemary

I pray you, my masters, be merry

Quot estis in convivio. *[howsoever many are at the feast]*

Caput apri defero, *[I bring the boar's head]*

Reddens laudes Domino *[rendering praises to the Lord]*

The boar's head, as I understand,  
Is the rarest dish in all the land,  
Which thus bedecked with a gay garland  
Servitur cum sinapio.     *[it is served with mustard]*  
Caput apri defero,  
Reddens laudes Domino

Our steward hath provided this  
In honour of the King of bliss  
Which on this day to be served is  
In Reginensi Atrio:     *[in the Queen's hall]*  
Caput apri defero,  
Reddens laudes Domino

The boar's head, I dare well say,  
Anon after the eleventh day,  
He takes his leave and goes away,  
Exivit tum de patria.     *[he has then left the fatherland]*  
Caput apri defero,  
Reddens laudes Domino

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

traditional English

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day;  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

*Refrain:*

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

In Bethlehem, in Israel, this blessèd Babe was born,  
And laid within a manger upon this blessèd morn;  
The which His mother Mary did nothing take in scorn.



From God our heavenly Father a blessèd angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you afright  
This day is born a Savior of a pure Virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's power and might."

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethl'em straightaway this blessèd Babe to find.

But when to Bethlehem they came where our dear Savior lay,  
They found Him in a manger where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling unto the Lord did pray.

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.

God bless the ruler of this house, and send him long to reign,  
And many a merry Christmas may live to see again;  
Among your friends and kindred that live both far and near –

*Refrain:*

That God send you a happy new year, happy new year,  
And God send you a happy new year.

Good King Wenceslas

words by John M. Neale (1818-1866)

tune: *Tempus Adest Floridum*

1. 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, gathering winter fuel.
2. "Hither, page, and stand by me, if you know 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."
3. "Bring me food and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,  
You and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither."

Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,  
Through the cold wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.

4. "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 now in them boldly,  
You shall find the winter's rage freeze your blood less coldly."
  
5. 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,  
You who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.

## Here We Come A-Wassailing

1. Here we come a-wassailing  
Among the leaves so green,  
Here we come a-wand'ring  
So fair to be seen.  
Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail, too,  
And God bless you, and send you  
A Happy New Year,  
And God send you a Happy New Year.
2. We are not daily beggers  
That beg from door to door,  
But we are neighbors' children  
Whom you have seen before  
Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail, too,  
And God bless you, and send you

A Happy New Year,  
And God send you a Happy New Year.

3. Good master and good mistress,  
As you sit beside the fire,  
Pray think of us poor children  
Who wander in the mire.  
Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail, too,  
And God bless you, and send you  
A Happy New Year,  
And God send you a Happy New Year.

4. We have a little purse  
Made of ratching leather skin;  
We want some of your small change  
To line it well within.  
Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail, too,  
And God bless you, and send you

A Happy New Year,  
And God send you a Happy New Year.

5. Bring us out a table  
And spread it with a cloth;  
Bring us out a cheese,  
And of your Christmas loaf.  
Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail, too,  
And God bless you, and send you  
A Happy New Year,  
And God send you a Happy New Year.
  
6. God bless the master of this house,  
Likewise the mistress too;  
And all the little children  
That round the table go.  
Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail, too,

And God bless you, and send you  
A Happy New Year,  
And God send you a Happy New Year.

Joy to the World

words by Isaac Watts, 1719

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.
  
4. 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.



I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day  
Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1864;  
Original title from the poem "Christmas Bells"

1. I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.
2. I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along the unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.
3. And in despair I bowed my head  
'There is no peace on earth,' I said,  
'For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'
4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail  
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

5. Till ringing, singing on its way  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Dona Nobis Pacem

a. Dona nobis pacem, pacem.

Dona nobis pacem.

b. Dona nobis pacem.

Dona nobis pacem.

c. Dona nobis pacem.

Dona nobis pacem.

Translated, "Give us peace," this  
traditional Latin hymn may be sung  
as a canon. A new voice starts  
when the preceding voice reaches  
the next section.

The First Noel  
New English Hymnal

1. The first Nowell the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,

On a cold winter's night that was so deep:

Refrain

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,

Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star,

Shining in the east, beyond them far:

And to the earth it gave great light,

And so it continued both day and night:

3. And by the light of that same star,

Three Wise Men came from country far;

To seek for a King was their intent,  
And to follow the star whersoever it went:

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west;  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay:

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence,  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

6. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
And with his blood mankind hath bought:

The Coventry Carol

anonymous Renaissance carol

Lully, lullay, Thou little tiny Child,  
By, by, lully, lullay.  
O sisters too, how may we do,  
For to preserve this day

This poor Youngling for Whom we sing

By, by, lully, lullay?

Herod the king, in his raging,

Charged he hath this day

His men of might, in his own sight,

All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor Child for Thee!

And ever morn and day

For Thy parting neither say nor sing,

By, by, lully, lullay.

Lully, lullay, Thou little tiny Child,

By, by, lully, lullay.

## It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come



with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

3.     And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,

look now! for glad and golden hours

come swiftly on the wing.

O rest beside the weary road,

and hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,

by prophet seen of old,

when with the ever-circling years

shall come the time foretold

when peace shall over all the earth

its ancient splendors fling,

and the whole world send back the song

which now the angels sing.

### Away in a Manger

1.     Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
  
2.     The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky

and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.