

MEL BAY PRESENTS

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Christmas Favorites for Solo Guitar



Best-Loved Traditional Songs for Bluegrass Guitar
by Dix Bruce

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Lyrics Booklet

Christmas Favorites for Solo Guitar

30 Best Loved Traditional Songs for Bluegrass Guitar

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by Dix Bruce

From the Mel Bay publication “Christmas Favorites for Solo Guitar: 30 Best Loved Traditional Songs for Bluegrass Guitar” (20973BCD), available from www.musixnow.com.



Photo by Theresa Hioki

Dix Bruce

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Forward

As I mentioned in my book **Christmas Favorites for Solo Guitar: 30 Best Loved Traditional Songs for Bluegrass Guitar**, (available from www.musixnow.com), I love Christmas music. I love to play it, I love to sing it, and I love the season that gave birth to it all. That love of the music has been my motivation for writing out performance arrangements of Christmas songs of every style. I collected some of these arrangements in the **Christmas Favorites** book/CD set. I have several more book/CD sets in the works from the simplest song/chord books for guitar and mandolin to more elaborate solos using advanced techniques.

In compiling the **Christmas Favorites for Solo Guitar** project, I realized how important the lyrics are to each of the songs. Even though it's a book of instrumental guitar solos, I'd wanted to include complete lyrics, verses and choruses for each of the songs. Unfortunately, we only had enough space for one verse and chorus of each song. So, I decided to put together this downloadable booklet with complete lyrics. I hope you'll use it in conjunction with the **Christmas Favorites for Solo Guitar** book and get people to sing along with you whether you're at home around the tree, caroling in the wind and snow, or performing from the stage.

Toward that end I have included information on backing up singers with different vocal ranges. In the upper left corner of each set of lyrics in this booklet you'll find suggested male and female keys along with capo information. For example, on the song "Silent Night" you'll see the following:

***M:** G, **F:** C or D, capo 5 or 7, CD Tracks 2 & 3*

"**M:**" (in **bold** type) stands for "male voice," which will sing the song in the key of "G," "**F:**" (in **bold** type) stands for "female voice," which will sing the song in the key of "C" or "D," when the chords shown in the **Christmas Favorites for Solo Guitar** music are capoed on guitar and played as suggested at fret 5 or 7. Obviously, you can locate the capo just about anywhere on the fingerboard and individual vocal ranges may require a capo adjustment one way or the other. As long as you have a capo, you can accommodate just about any voice. I used my voice, a fairly typical mid-ranged male voice as a starting point. It has been my experience that if I sing a song in the key of C, a typical female voice, not too low or too high, will sing the song in the key of F or G, an interval of a fourth or fifth above my key of C. To transpose keys with a capo, I'll use it on fret five or seven and play the same chords I use to accompany my singing. If you'd like to practice changing keys without using a capo, I included complete transposition information in my **Parking Lot Picker's Songbook** series (available from www.musixnow.com). You can also download my "Musix Transposer Wheel" from <http://www.musixnow.com/Transposer-wheel.pdf>. It shows you how to change any set of chord changes from any key to any other key.

OK, it's time to start playing and singing these great Christmas songs!

*Dix Bruce
Fall 2009*

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Silent Night

M: G, F: C or D, capo 5 or 7

Grüber, Möhr, 1818

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.

2. 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!

3. 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.



Away in a Manger

M: G, F: C or D, capo 5 or 7

Mueller, 19th century

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.

The cattle are lowing, the poor 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 'til morning is nigh.

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 take us to Heaven to live with Thee there.



Joy to the World

M: C, F: F or G, capo 5 or 7

Handel, Watts, 18th Century

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 earth, 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.



Jingle Bells

M: G, capo 7, F: C or D, capo 0 or 2

Pierpont, 1857

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

Chorus: 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.

2. 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.



Angels We Have Heard on High

M: C, F: F or G, capo 5 or 7

Traditional

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Chorus: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be?
Which inspire your heavenly song?

3. Come to Bethlehem and see,
Christ Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

4. See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.



Go Tell It on the Mountain

M: G, capo 7, F: C or D, capo 0 or 2

Work, 19th century

When I was a seeker,
I sought both night and day.
I asked the Lord to help me,
And he showed me the way.

Chorus: Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

He made me a watchman,
Upon the city wall.
And if I am a Christian,
I am the least of all.



Jolly Old St. Nicholas

M: G, capo 7, F: C or D, capo 0 or 2

Traditional

Jolly old Saint Nicholas,
Lean your ear this way!
Don't you tell a single soul,
What I'm going to say;
Christmas Eve is coming soon;
Now, you dear old man,
Whisper what you'll bring to me;
Tell me if you can.

2. When the clock is striking twelve,
When I'm fast asleep.
Down the chimney broad and black,
With your pack you'll creep;
All the stockings you will find,
Hanging in a row;
Mine will be the shortest one,
You'll be sure to know.

3. Johnny wants a pair of skates;
Susy wants a dolly;
Nellie wants a story book;
She thinks dolls are folly;
As for me, my little brain,
Isn't very bright;
Choose for me, old Santa Claus,
What you think is right.



The First Noël

M: C, F: F or G, capo 5 or 7

English carol, 18th century

The First Noël, 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.

Chorus: Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël,
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 wherever it went.

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest.
And there it did both pause and stay,
Right o'er 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.



Children Go Where I Send Thee

M: D, capo 2, F: G, capo 7

African American

Children go where I send thee,
How shall I send thee?
I'm a gonna send thee one by one,
One for the little bitty baby,
Was born, born, born in Bethlehem.

2. Children go where I send thee,
How shall I send thee?
I'm a gonna send thee two by two,
Two for Joseph and Mary,
One for the little bitty baby,
Was born, born, born in Bethlehem.

3. Children go where I send thee,
How shall I send thee?
I'm a gonna send thee three by three,
Three for the three old wise men,
Two for Joseph and Mary,
One for the little bitty baby,
Was born, born, born in Bethlehem.



Repeat: Children go where I send thee,
How shall I send thee?
I'm a gonna send thee (number) by (number),
Then repeat numbers in descending order as above.

4. Four for the four who stood at the door,
5. Five for the Hebrew children,
6. Six for the six who didn't get fixed,
7. Seven for the seven who couldn't get to heaven,
8. Eight for the eight who didn't get straight,
9. Nine was the nine who stood in the line,
10. Ten for the ten commandments.

Deck the Hall

M: D, capo 7, F: A or B, capo 2 or 4

Welsh 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.
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.

2. 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.


3. 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.



⊕ Come, ⊕ Come Emmanuel

M: Am, F: Dm or Gm, capo 5 or 7

Gregorian chant, 8th Century

 come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Chorus: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel.
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free,
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave.

4. O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer,
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

5. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

6. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height;
In ancient times once gave the law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.



Here We Come A' Caroling

M: C, F: F or G, capo 5 or 7

Traditional English

Here we come a' caroling
Among the leaves so green,
Here we come a wand'ring,
So fair to be seen.

Chorus: Love and joy come to you,
And to 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 beggars
Who beg from door to door,
But we are neighbors' children,
Whom you have seen before.

3. God bless the Master of this house,
Likewise the Mistress too,
And all the little children,
That round the table go.

4. And all your kin and kinfolk
That dwell both far and near,
We wish a Merry Christmas,
And Happy New Year.



O Come all Ye Faithful

M: G, capo 7, F: C or D, capo 0 or 2

Wade, 18th Century



come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Chorus: O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

3. Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus to Thee be glory given,
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing,

Latin:

*4. Adeste fideles, Laeti triumphantes:
Venite, venite in Bethlehem;
Natum videte, Tegem angelorum;*

*Venite adoramus,
Venite adoramus, Venite adoramus,
Dominum.*



Hey Ho, Nobody Home

M: Dm, F: Gm or Am, capo 5 or 7

Traditional English

Sung as a round:*

Hey, ho, nobody home,
Meat, nor drink, nor money have I none,
Yet will I be merry,
Hey, ho, nobody home.

** First voices sing first line and continue. Second voices begin when first voices reach line two or three. Third voices begin when second voice reaches line two or three and so on.*



Good King Wenceslas

M: G, capo 7, F: C or D, capo 0 or 2

Traditional, 18th century

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.



Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

M: F, capo 5, F: C or D

French, 17th Century

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella,
Bring a torch, come swiftly and run.
Christ is born, tell the folk of the village,
Jesus is sleeping in His cradle,
Ah, ah, beautiful is the mother,
Ah, ah, beautiful is her Son.

2. Hasten now, good folk of the village,
Hasten now, the Christ Child to see.
You will find Him asleep in a manger,
Quietly come and whisper softly,
Hush, hush, peacefully now He slumbers,
Hush, hush, peacefully now He sleeps.



Ding Dong Merrily on High

M: G, F: C or D, capo 5 or 7

Traditional, 16th century

Ding dong! Merrily on high,
In Heav'n the bells are ringing,
Ding dong! Verily the sky,
Is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

2. E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io,
By priest and people sungen.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

3. Pray ye dutifully, prime,
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May ye beautifully rime,
Your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!



Rise Up, Shepherds, and Follow

M: C, F: F or G, capo 5 or 7

African American

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn,
Rise up, shepherds, and follow,
It will lead to the place where the Savior's born,
Rise up, shepherds, and follow.

Chorus: Follow, follow, rise up, shepherds, and follow.
Follow the Star of Bethlehem,
Rise up, shepherds, and follow.

2. If you take good heed to the angel's words,
Rise up, shepherds, and follow,
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds,
Rise up, shepherds, and follow.



♫ Christmas Tree

M: D, F: G or A, capo 5 or 7

Traditional German, 19th century

English lyrics:



Christmas Tree, O, Christmas Tree,
You stand in verdant beauty.
O, Christmas Tree, O, Christmas Tree,
You stand in verdant beauty.
Not only in the summertime,
But also winter is thy prime.
O, Christmas Tree, O, Christmas Tree,
You stand in verdant beauty.

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are thy branches!
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are thy branches!
In beauty green will always grow
Through summer sun and winter snow.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are thy branches!

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
Thy beauty green will teach me.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
Thy beauty green will teach me.
That hope and love will ever be,
The way to joy and peace for me.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
Thy beauty green will teach me.

German lyrics:



Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
Wie treu sind deine Blätter!
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
Wie treu sind deine Blätter!
Du grünst nicht nur zur Sommerzeit,
Nein auch im Winter, wenn es schneit.
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
Wie treu sind deine Blätter!

O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum!
Du kannst mir sehr gefallen!
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum!
Du kannst mir sehr gefallen!
Wie oft hat nicht zur Weihnachtszeit
Ein Baum von dir mich hoch erfreut!
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum!
Du kannst mir sehr gefallen!

O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum!
Dein Kleid will mich was lehren.
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum!
Dein Kleid will mich was lehren.
Die Hoffnung und Beständigkeit
Gibt Trost und Kraft zu jeder Zeit.
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum!
Dein Kleid will mich was lehren.



I Saw Three Ships

M: C, F: F or G, capo 5 or 7

Traditional English, 17th century

I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day.
I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas day, on Christmas day.
And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas day in the morning.

Our Savior, Christ, and His Lady,
(Repeat lines as above)

Pray, whither sailed those ships, all three?

They sailed into Bethlehem.

And all the bells on earth shall ring.

And all the angels in heaven shall sing.

And all the souls on earth shall sing.

Then let us all rejoice amain!



Toyland

M: F, capo 5, F: C or D

Herbert and MacDonough, 1903

Toyland, Toyland,
Little girl and boy land.
While you dwell within it,
You are ever happy there.
Childhood's joy land,
Mystic, merry toy land.
Once you pass its borders,
You can never return again.



God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

M: Em, F: Am or Bm, capo 5 or 7

Traditional English Carol, 19th century

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.

Chorus: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

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

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

4. The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a'feeding in tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway this blessed Babe to find.

** Several historical sources list this lyric though it doesn't make a lot of sense in the 21st century. "To which" might work instead of "The which."*



The Friendly Beasts

M: F, F: Bb or C, capo 5 or 7

Traditional

Jesus, our Brother, strong* and good,
Was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around Him stood,
Jesus, our Brother, strong and good.

2. "I," said the donkey,** shaggy and brown,
"I carried His mother uphill and down,
I carried His mother to Bethlehem town;
I," said the donkey,*** shaggy and brown.

3. "I," said the cow, all white and red,
"I gave Him my manger for His bed,
I gave Him hay to pillow His head;
I," said the cow, all white and red.

4. "I," said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm,
He wore my coat on Christmas morn;
I," said the sheep with curly horn.

5. "I," said the dove, from the rafters high,
"I cooed Him to sleep that He should not cry,
We cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I;
I," said the dove, from the rafters high.

6. Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
In the stable dark were glad to tell
Of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
The gifts they gave Emmanuel.

* Alternate "kind."

** Alternate "Said the donkey."

*** Alternate "Thus said the donkey."



What Child is This?

M: Dm, capo 5, F: Am or Bm, capo 0 or 2

English Air, W.C. Dix, 1865

What child is this, Who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing,
Haste, haste to bring him laud the Babe, the Son of Mary.

2. Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here,
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

3. So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.



Up on the Housetop

M: C, capo 5, F: G or A, capo 0 or 2

B.R. Hanby, 1864

Up on the housetop reindeer pause,
Out jumps good old Santa Claus.
Down to the chimney with lots of toys,
All for the little ones, Christmas joy.

Chorus: Ho, ho, ho, who wouldn't go?
Ho, ho, ho, who wouldn't go?
Up on the housetop click, click, click,
Down thru the chimney with good Saint Nick.

2. First comes the stocking for little Nell,
Dear old Santa fill it well.
Give her a dolly that laughs and cries,
One that will open and shut her eyes.


3. Next comes the stocking of little Will,
Oh, just see that glorious fill!
Here is a hammer and lots of tacks,
Also a ball and a whip that cracks.



O Holy Night

M: G, capo 7, F: C or D, capo 0 or 2

Adam, 1847

 holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul 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, O holy 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 came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend!
He knows our need, our weakness is 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 pow'r and glory ever more proclaim!
His pow'r and glory ever more proclaim!



We Three Kings of Orient Are

M: Dm, capo 5, F: Am or Bm, capo 0 or 2

Hopkins, 1857

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

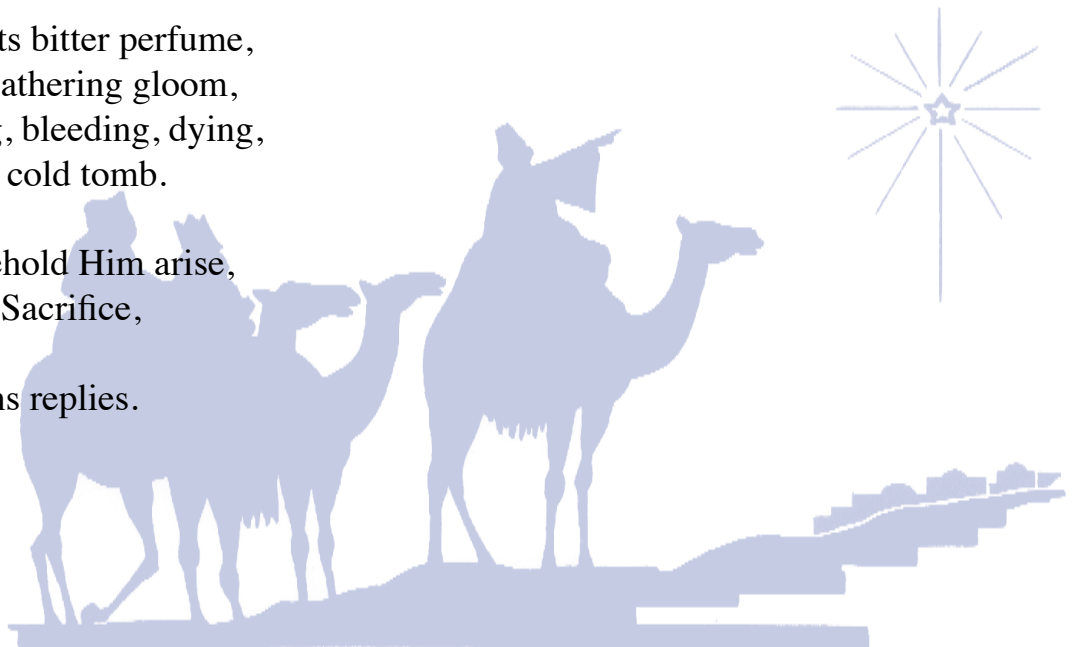
Chorus: O, star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

3. Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh,
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worship him, God most high.

4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume,
Breathes a life of gathering gloom,
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

5. Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Earth to the heavens replies.



It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

M: G, capo 7, F: C or D, capo 0 or 2

Sears, Willis, 19th century

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, goodwill 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. O 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;
Oh rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the evercircling years,
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heaven and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace, their King,
And the whole world send back the song,
Which now the angels sing.



The Coventry Carol

M: Gm, capo 3, F: Cm capo 9

English, 16th century

Lullay, Thou little tiny Child,
By, by, lully, lullay.
Lullay, Thou little tiny Child,
By, by, lully, lullay.

2. O sisters too, how may we do,
For to preserve this day,
This poor Youngling for Whom we sing
By, by, lully, lullay?

3. Herod the king, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day,
His men of might, in his own sight,
All young children to slay.

4. That woe is me, poor Child for Thee!
And ever morn and day,
For Thy parting nor say nor sing,
By, by, lully, lullay.



Auld Lang Syne

M: D, F: G or A, capo 5 or 7

R. Burns, Scottish, 1788

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And days of auld lang syne!

Chorus: For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

And surely you'll buy your pint cup!
And surely I'll buy mine!
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

We two have run about the slopes,
And picked the daisies fine;
But we've wandered many a weary foot,
Since auld lang syne.

We two have paddled in the stream,
From morning sun 'til dine;
But seas between us broad have roared,
Since auld lang syne.

And there's a hand my trusty friend!
And give us a hand o' thine!
And we'll take a right good-will draught,
For auld lang syne.



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Merry Christmas



Happy New Year!