Musical Musings of Christmastime – 2026

George Jarden

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December 13th, 19th, 20th, 22nd

HEY, LISTENER
Hum it – or ***sing*** it with me! Don't be shy!
Your neighbor won't mind! - even if you mangle the words!
– it's the *spirit and joy of the season* that counts! –
-- YOU ARE A SOLOIST UNTO YOURSELF --

[everything in this show is AI-*able,* Google-*able,* YouTube-*able* & Wikipedia-*able*]

"O Tannenbaum" (O Fir Tree/Christmas Tree) German, 16th Century
WE ALL SING (*lyrics on the* ***SCREEN***).

"Christmas Is Coming, The Geese Are Getting Fat!" 19th C. Shropshire, Anglo-Welsh area
WE ALL SING – it's a ROUND! THREE GROUPS! (*lyrics on the* ***SCREEN*****)**

"The Christmas Song" ("Christmas Don't Be Late") ***the chipmunks*** 1958 Ross Bagdasarian
WE ALL SING! (*lyrics on the* ***SCREEN*****)**

"Cherubim Song" 1600s Ukraine music by Dmytro Bortniansky *Hark! What mean those holy voices...*

A GROUPING– a grouping George put together in 1982 for
Voz Vaqueros, *The Singing Men of Las Cruces*
12th Annual Christmas Concert Series, St. Paul's United Methodist Church
George founded Voz Vaqueros in 1971 and conducted them for 20 years
70-men Las Cruces chorus **Voz** = "voice" **Vaqueros** = "**buckaroos**" – *cowboys*!
This grouping was recorded vinyl 33 1/3 *album* VV109 1982

- "Good Christian Men, Rejoice / God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" English 1600s
  based on Luke 2
- "Go Tell It On the Mountain" e*nslaved African-American spiritual from before* 1865
  compiled 1907 John Work
- "I Wonder As I Wander" *traditional* **Appalachian** *collected by* John Jacob Niles
  One time- George 10 y/o or so, about 1946 - in the kitchen - his Mother inhaled (gasped): ***"Oh!... John Jacob Niles!!"*** *(* ***this song*** *had come on the radio!.)*
  Thus began the life-longfascination, love, special regard - for the profound power and sensibility of this man's works.
  ...and, THIS one…
- "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head" 1933 John Jacob Niles, in **Appalachian *folk tradition***
- "Lullaby" ("Rocking") **George's *mother sang to*** *him – often!* – *traditional* Czech Carol

...we will rock you, rock you, rock you

- "Here We Come A-Wassailing" – 12th C. Danes in England – *from earlier* Norse
  HA! the noun becomes ***gerundized*** **! a sort-of-a-good-will "beg" song! - give us drink!**

"Deck The Halls" 16th C. Welsh CAROL – for us all to SING (*lyrics on the **SCREEN***)

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

from
"The Nutcracker Suite" 1892 Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
WE WILL ALL "Humm, Dumm, Dumm" **THE TUNES!** (*music on* **SCREEN**)
1 "*March*" 2 "*Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy*" 3 "*Waltz of the Flowers*"
4 "*Russian Dance*" 5 "*Arabian Dance*" 6 "Dance of the Reed Flutes"

"Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella" French Provence 17th Century
A "Come-to-the-manger song." **George, aged 6, 1942,** fell in love with "Jeanette Isabella," caroling in Rose Valley, on Price's Lane, outside the home where he was born! With "Billy" Price, son of RV's founder, with his long pole, candle lantern, to light our caroling travels!
Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella! ...to the cradle run!...Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Mother; Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Son!

Another come-to-manger song!
"Ihr Kinderlein Kommet" "O Dear Little Children" *poem* 1798 German; *music* 1794
("thrice holy*" is a concept from early apostolic times* Greek Trisagion = "holy 3 different ways")

AND YET ANOTHER "coming to the manger" song:

from
"The Animals' Christmas" by Jimmy Webb
"Words From An Old Spanish Carol" *music*: Jimmy Webb *arranged*: George
In 2004, George mounted the first & only world-wide theatrically-staged show of Webb's monumental cantata creation, "The Animals' Christmas" which Webb had recorded with assistance from Art Garfunkel. 300 Las Crucens participated; 50 children performed along with a cast of 7 adults; 100 persons creating costumes, scenery, committees, etc. George's non-profit, 4/Arts Productions, Inc., donated the proceeds to The Arts in Las Cruces Public Schools. Details on the Screen, and Georgejardenshows.com

"Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer" 1949 Johnny Marks
Arranged 1972 by George for **Voz Vaqueros**
Sing-Along *with* **Voz Vaqueros, "*The Singing Men of Las Cruces*"**
Recorded 1972 VINYL 33 1/3 RECORD **VV 100** *and performed for 20 years*
Annual Christmas Concert Series St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer, had a very shiny nose
And if you ever saw it, you would even say it glowed!
All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names,
They never let poor Rudolph play in any reindeer games!
Then one foggy Christmas Eve Santa came to say:
"Rudolph with your nose so bright, won't you guide my slay tonight?"

Then how the reindeer loved him! *And they shouted out with glee,*
"Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer, you'll go down in history!

"I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day " *poem,* 1863 **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**
We sing tune I, 1872 by John Baptiste Calkin. *There's a tune* II 1956 *by* Johnny Marks

"Away In A Manger" *the poem is* American 1882 (*not* German, by Martin Luther, as is often stated)
There are <u>three</u> different tunes: *we'll sing tune* I, 1887
tune II, 1895; *tune* III, 1837, "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton"
"Muat Be Santa" 1960 Hal Moore & Bill Fredericks
recorded hits: 1960 Mitch Miller 2009 Bob Dylan
WE ALL SING! (*lyrics on the **SCREEN***) *Who's got a beard that's long and white?…*

------ INTERMISSION – TIME TO "WASSAIL" A LITTLE WITH FRIENDS -----

"O Sanctissima" (*also called* "Sicilian Mariners' Hymn") (*in* Latin) 1700s
tune origin is uncertain; tune is also used for English Hymn "O, How Joyfully"
and *for* "We Shall Overcome
O sanctissima, o piissima, dulcis Virgo Maria O most holy, o most loving, sweet Virgin Mary

"Mary's Little Boy-Chile" 1949 Jester Hairston
we'll do a calypso version arrangement by Leonard De Pa*ur and hi*s De Paur Men's Chorus

Folk Songs from other countries

"I Saw Three Ships" 17th Century Derbyshire **WE ALL SING!** (*lyrics on the **SCREEN***)
I saw three ships come sailing in, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day…
"Fum Fum Fum" 16th Century Catalan Carol, *from* Catalonia, Spain
***Onomatapoeia*!** **FUM =** STRUM or DRUM-beat !
"Patapan " dated from 1720 Burgundian French Carol.
This was George's **1st** *Christmas song with a chorus. Fond Memories*! *The Senior Chorus, 1953, Nether Providence H.S., Wallingford, PA, Director Miss Marjorie Volk*

"Feliz Navidad" 1970 Jose Feliciano
Arranged by George 1972 for **Voz Vaqueros, "The Singing Men of Las Cruces"**
1st recorded, on vinyl record **VV 101 1972**, *solo by Ray Regan, & annually by him for 15 years!*
(*In* 1977 *George was taken back-stage to meet performer **Jose Feliciano** by Barbara "Mother" Hubbard, Pan Am Center events organizer. She presented Feliciano with the* VV *recording Which - Feliciano being un-sighted – he, legally, couldn't sign, but he genially shook hands with a hearty, "Hey, I'll have to come jam with you guys - Voz Vaqueros - some time*!")
WE ALL SING! TO THE VOZ VAQUEROS 1972 RECORDING
Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, prospero ano y Felicidad!
I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas – (3 times)…from the bottom of my heart!

from
"LOS PASTORES del Valle de Mesilla" ("*The Shepherds of the Valley of Mesilla*")
Old (1600s) Spanish mystery/morality pageant; brought to Las Cruces, The Holy Cross Retreat, mid-1900s, by a Fr. de Silva, visiting from a California Mission.
arranged by George for Voz Vaqueros, *The Singing Men of Las Cruces* 1973, 1975

here, excerpts taken from it are: "Las Posadas" "En Belen" "Toquen las Ponderetas" "Viva, Viva, Jesus Mi Amor" "Duerme Tranquilo" "O Precioso Nino

"'Twas The Night Before Christmas" *poem* 1823 Clement Clarke Moore
music 1942 Ken Darby arr. Harry Simeone
1942 *recorded by* Fred Waring & His Pennsylvanians. **An American Classic !!**
See poem on the screen

"The First Noel" CAROL FOR US ALL TO SING (*lyrics on the* ***SCREEN***)
[a noel is **"news; a song"**] origin *before the* 1800s, *from* Cornwall England
The first noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep!
Noel, Noel, Noel, No l! *Born is the King of Israel* !

"Ven a Mi Casa Esta Navidad" ("Come To My House This Christmas")
Song about - and to Cuban Refugees, 1960, *by* Luis Aguile, Argentine singer, songwriter and actor. George arranged this for **Voz Vaqueros, "*The Singing Men of Las Cruces*"** in 1972 for their first vinyl recording, VV 100, solo sung by David Telles; later, in VV annual Christmas Concert series, 1972-2001, it was sung often by Tony Gomez, Ed Fernandez, Gerry Schurtz, and Kevin Chapman.

- - - - - - - - American Christmastime - - - - - - - -

The genesis of that peculiarly American phenomenon, the transformation of "Christmas" from an early, pre-1800s, stern, largely ignored concept/happening, into the "ChristmasTIME" of jolly good will, "Merry Christmas," bright lights, decorations, and commercialism, gift-giving…

began…

with **1823**'s " 'Twas The Night Before Christmas" – Clement Moore's poem, which re-invented "Santa" from a stern old crotchety European bishop, into a secular, jolly, pipe-smoking **elf**, coming down the chimney, filling stockings, saying "Ho, Ho, Ho," and being kind, and gift-giving to children!

Shortly after, America then became further charged with Christmas Joy *via…*

"Jingle Bells" **1857** James Lord Pierpont
WE ALL SING! (*lyrics on screen*)
…and, **1864** *the Industrial Revolution &* ***more presents****, and…*

"Up On The Housetop!" **1864** Benjamin Hanby *(prominent American Abolitionist*!)
WE ALL SING! (*lyrics on screen*).
…and, in **1870** *Christmas became a* ***national holiday in the U.S.A.!!***

300 years ago:
"This Little Babe" *music* Benjamin Britton 1942 *from* "A Ceremony of Carols"
text Robert Southwell 1590 *poem* "New Heaven, New War"
***written while fleeing capture and torture in London, as* a fugitive Catholic Priest**
"*This little babe, so few days old, is come to* ***rifle Satan's fold…***

from
"Hansel and Gretel" 1893 *opera,* Engelbert Humperdinck
In 1940, *they gave George,* 4 y/o, *the cherished* 4-disc 10-inch 78-RPM album! Countless *playings one-disc-at-a-time-and-turn-it-over*!, *on the family big-cabinet record player.*
He was crushed, betrayed, inconsolable when at his Philadelphia Academy of Music first seeing of the opera, to see his idol and beloved Hansel *played by a* GIRL! *How was he to know*? *- it was written by Humperdinck, as was common in that time, as a a* breeches *role – for* contralto!

- "Susie, Little Susie, Pray What Is The News?"
  The geese are going barefoot because they've no shoes;
  The cobbler has leather and plenty to spare
  Why___can't he make the poor goose a new pair?

- "Brother, Come and Dance With Me" *both my hands I offer thee...*

- "Prayer" *When at night I go to sleep, fourteen angels watch do keep..*

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"O Little Town of Bethlehem" CAROL for us all to sing (*lyrics on the **SCREEN***)

1868, Philadelphia, PA; *text* Phillip Brooks; *tune* Lewis Redner

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless streets 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!

"His Borning Day" ("Weigh, Hey!") *old traditional* New England Sea Chantey
"Heidschi Bumbeidschi Bum Bum" *origins* 1700s Bohemian (Austrian)
a wiegenlied (cradle song/lullaby) – *modern German version by* Heintje, 1968
a nonsense baby-talk lullaby: *Aber heidschi bumbeidschi im Himmel (Heaven)*

"Silent Night" 1818, *music* Franz Gruber Austria *text* Joseph Mohr
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

- **German:**
  "Stille Nacht" Heilige Nacht! Alles schläft; einsam wacht;
  Still night, holy night The most holy couple, alone,
  Nur das traute hochheilege Paar, holder Knabe im lockigen Haar;
  watch the blessed boy with the curly hair.
  Schlaf im himmlischcr Rue, Schlaf im himmlischer Rue
  Sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

- **Spanish**
  Noche de Paz, noche de amor, todo duerme alrededor;
  Night of peace, night of love, all around are asleep
  Solo velan mirando la faz, de su Nino en angelica paz;
  It is – who watch the Boy of angelic peace – only
  Jose y Maria en Belen; Jose y Maria in Belen.
  Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem; Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!" CAROL for us all to sing (*lyrics on the **SCREEN***)

1739 English *from* Luke 2:14
"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!"

"The Christmas Waltz " 1954, Sammy Cahn & Jule Styne (*for* Frank Sinatra)

...ev'ry song you hear seems to say, "Merry Christmas"...

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You & 7-Fold Amen" – 1900 P.C. Lutkin;

text Numbers 6:24-26

--- "Merry Christmas to all, and to all, A good night!" ---

--- See You Next Year ---

More music you can AI, Google, You-Tube.

This list, along with the music in the current show, would be included to this *survey of our received canon – our American musical/cultural Heritage of CHRISTMASTIME*!

- - they are references for your "*I've-heard-about-it*" list! - - *and to further explore*! - - *AI/Google/You-Tube, or Wikipedia them*!

The Alfred Burt Carols – written for family & friends – mid-20th C.

music, Alfred Burt; *lyrics,* Wihla Hutson

"Some Children See Him" Some children see him lily white – the baby Jesus born this night...

...some children see him bronzed and brown...

"Caroling, Caroling" caroling, caroling now we go, Christmas bells are ringing

"Carol of the Bressan Waits" (Breschia, Italy, "waits" were paid street singers 6th – 19th Centuries)
"Carol of the Friendly Beasts" – 12th C. France
"Domine Fili Unigenite" ("Lord Son, only begotten") – 1715 – Antonio Vivaldi, mass "Gloria"
"For Unto Us A Child Is Born" – 1741 *music G.*F. Handel – *from* oratorio "Messiah"

libretto Charles Jennens, Isaiah 9:5

"Hallelujah" – 1802 – Beethoven *from* oratorio "Mount of Olives"
"Hallelujah" – 1741 – *music* Handel – *from* oratorio "Messiah"

libretto Charles Jennens, *from* Revelation 19:6

"Jesu Bambino" ("When Blossoms Flowered 'mid the Snow") Pietro Yon

Italian, 1917 *Audience: "O Come let us adore Him"* – and, "*Ah*___"

"Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring" – *text old* German; *music* J.S. Bach, 1723, *from* Cantata 147
"Joseph, Dear One, Joseph, Mine" – *various old* German *origins*
"Little Drummer Boy, The" (Carol Of The Drum) – 1941, written by Katherine K.Davis

1957, arr. Jack Halloran; 1958, arr. Harry Simeone, Henry Onorati

"Lo, How A Rose E're Blooming" – *text* 1599 German; English1894, *by* Theodore Baker

from Isaiah 11:1; *tune* German, Michael Praetorius, 1609

"Now Let Ev'ry Tongue Adore Thee" – 1731 *music* J.S. Bach, *from* Cantata 140

"Sleepers, Awake" - *text* 1599, Philip Nicolai, Mathew 25:1-13, *parable of the ten virgins*

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" – 8th Century; Mathew 1:23; *tune, anonymous* 15th C.
"Over The River And Through The Woods" – *poem* 1844, Olivia Maria Child*; tune origin unknown*
"Prepare Thyself, Zion" – 1734, J.S.Bach, *from* "Christmas Oratorio"

"See that Babe In The Lowly Manger" – trad. African-American - arr. 1946, Noah F. Ryder
"Sweet Little Jesus Boy" trad. African-American - arr. 1934, Robert MacGimsey
"Twelve Days of Christmas, The" – *old* 1600s English *song*; 1909*, arranged,* Frederic Austin
"Virgin's Slumber Song, The" (Maria wiegenlied) – old German song

English *text* 1912, Edward Teschemacher; *music,* Max Reger

"What Child Is This?" ("Greensleeves") – *text,* 1865, William Chatterton Dix; Isaiah 9:6-7

tune, "Greensleeves," *old traditional* English *folk song*

"While By My Sheep" – 17th C. English carol
"White Christmas" 1942 Irving Berlin