



# Christmas Songs



**A Santa-Free Songbook**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE	SONG TITLE
3	Angels we have heard on high
4	O come, all ye faithful
5	Jingle Bells Jingle Bells Rock
6	Silent Night
7	The Friendly Beasts
8	Away in a Manger
9	It came upon a midnight clear
10	The First Noel
11	We Three Kings
12	Good King Wenceslas
13	God rest you merry gentlemen
14	<i>Entre le boeuf et l'âne gris</i> <i>Mon beau sapin</i>
15	You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch
16	Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
17	In the Bleak Midwinter
18	What child is this? / <i>Quel est l'enfant?</i>
19	Silver Bells Greensleeves
20	O come, Emmanuel / <i>O viens bientôt, Emmanuel</i>
21	O Holy Night
22	I heard the bells on Christmas day
23	Blue Christmas
24	O Little Town of Bethlehem
25	Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
26	Gower Wassail
27	Once In Royal David's City
28	<b>Chord System Explainer</b>



## Angels we have heard on high



**Refrain:** C Am Dm G<sub>7</sub> C F G<sub>7</sub> – / CG<sub>7</sub> CF C G<sub>7</sub> (C)

**Gloria**

**In excelsis deo!**

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

Les anges dans nos campagnes  
Ont entonné l'hymne des cieux  
Et l'écho de nos montagnes  
Redit ce chant mélodieux

**Verses:** C – F C / C Em G<sub>7</sub> C

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

Bergers, pour qui cette fête ?  
Quel est l'objet de tous ces chants?  
Quel vainqueur? quelle conquête  
Mérite ces cris triomphants?

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the lord, the newborn king

Ils annoncent la naissance  
Du Libérateur d'Israël  
Et pleins de reconnaissance  
Chantent, en ce jour solennel

See him in a manger laid  
Jesus, lord of heaven and earth  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid  
With us sing our savior's birth

Cherchons tous l'heureux village  
Qui l'a vu naître sous ses toits  
Offrons-lui le tendre hommage  
Et de nos cœurs et de nos voix

[A loose 1862 translation of traditional  
french carol "Les Anges dans nos campagnes"  
by James Chadwick.]

[Chanson traditionnelle français remontant au  
18e siècle.]



# ❄️ O come, all ye faithful ❄️



Capo 2  
**C CG C -** O come let us adore him  
**C CF C G<sub>7</sub>** O come let us adore him  
**F D<sub>7</sub> G CDm(hold)** O come let us adore him  
**C G<sub>7</sub> C -** Christ the lord

## Chorus

**C - Dm G** O come all ye faithful  
**C CF C G** Joyful and triumphant  
**Am - D -** O come ye, o come ye to  
**G D<sub>7</sub> G G<sub>7</sub>** Bethlehem  
**C - F C** Come and behold him  
**G Am G -** Born the king of angels

**C - Dm G** Sing, choirs of angels  
**C CF C G** Sing in exultation  
**Am - D -** Sing, all ye citizens of  
**G D<sub>7</sub> G G<sub>7</sub>** Heaven above  
**C - F C** Glory to god  
**G Am G -** Glory in the highest

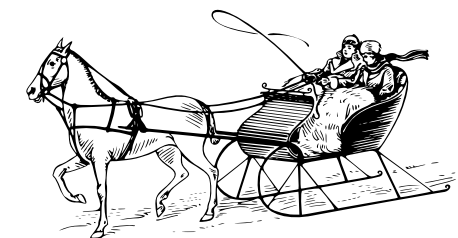
**C - Dm G** Yea, lord, we greet thee  
**C CF C G** Born this happy morning  
**Am - D -** Jesus, to thee be all  
**G D<sub>7</sub> G G<sub>7</sub>** Glory given!  
**C - F C** Word of the Father  
**G Am G -** Now in flesh appearing

## Verses



# 🔔 Jingle Bells 🔔

**C C<sub>7</sub> E<sub>7</sub> A<sub>7</sub> / F C D<sub>7</sub> G<sub>7</sub> / 1st / F C CG<sub>7</sub> C**  
 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



[Written by James Lord Pierpont (c. 1850). Added jazzy chords by Chrissy Steinbock.]

# Jingle Bell Rock

**C<sub>maj7</sub>** = add B note to C chord  
 e.g. guitarists, take 1<sup>st</sup> finger off C chord  
 (so now C note on B string is just a B)

**G<sub>sus4</sub>** = add C note to G chord  
 e.g. guitarists, play 330033 (bass to treble)  
 (so now B note on A string is a C)

1. Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock  
 Jingle bells swing and jingle bells ring  
 Snowing and blowing up bushels of fun  
 Now the jingle hop has begun

**C C<sub>maj7</sub> Am C / Am C Dm G<sub>7</sub> / Dm G<sub>7</sub> x2 / D<sub>7</sub> - G<sub>sus4</sub> G } 1st verse**  
**/ D<sub>7</sub> G<sub>7</sub> C C<sub>7</sub> } 2nd verse**

2. Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock  
 Jingle bells chime in jingle bell time  
 Dancing and prancing in Jingle Bell Square  
 In the frosty air

**F - Fm - / C - C<sub>7</sub> - / D - D<sub>7</sub> - / G - G<sub>sus4</sub> G**  
 What a bright time, it's the right time  
 To rock the night away  
 Jingle bell time is a swell time  
 To go gliding in a one-horse sleigh

**C C<sub>maj7</sub> Am C / Am C A<sub>7</sub> - / F - Fm - / D<sub>7</sub> G<sub>7</sub> x2 /**

3. Giddy-up jingle horse, pick up your feet  
 Jingle around the clock  
 Mix and a-mingle in the jingling feet  
 That's the jingle bell (x2)

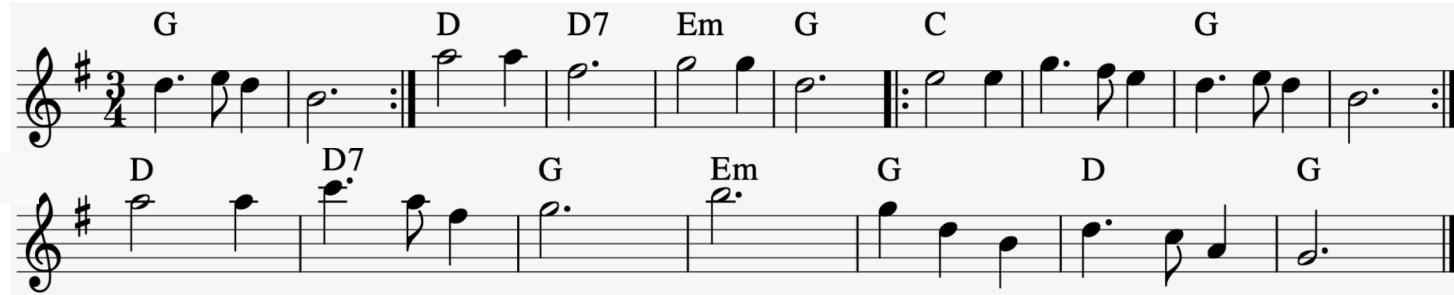
**D<sub>7</sub> G<sub>7</sub> C -**  
 That's the jingle bell rock



[Written by Jason Carleton Beal and James Ross Booth, and recorded in 1957 by Bobby Helms.]



# Silent Night



G - Silent night, holy night  
DD<sub>7</sub> (Em)G All is calm, all is bright  
C G Round yon virgin, mother and child  
C G Holy infant so tender and mild  
DD<sub>7</sub> GEm Sleep in heavenly peace  
GD<sub>(7)</sub> G Sleep in heavenly peace

G - Silent night, holy night  
DD<sub>7</sub> (Em)G Shepherds quake at the sight  
C G Glories stream from heaven afar  
C G Heavenly hosts sing alleluia  
DD<sub>7</sub> GEm Christ the saviour is born  
GD<sub>(7)</sub> G Christ the saviour is born

G - Silent night holy night  
DD<sub>7</sub> (Em)G Son of god, love's pure light  
C G Radiant beams from thy holy face  
C G With the dawn of redeeming grace  
DD<sub>7</sub> GEm Jesus, lord at thy birth  
GD<sub>(7)</sub> G Jesus, lord at thy birth

[ G - ... If goodwill to men, and peace on the  
DD<sub>7</sub> (Em)G earth, are how angels announced our saviour's  
C G birth, then isn't it strange how many that  
C G we have killed and maimed and how many  
DD<sub>7</sub> GEm more we have browbeat, converted and  
GD<sub>(7)</sub> G shamed in this baby's name?

[Composed in 1818 by Franz Xaver Gruber to lyrics by Joseph Mohr,  
English translation by John Freeman Young, extra verse by David Bazan  
and touched up by Tim.]



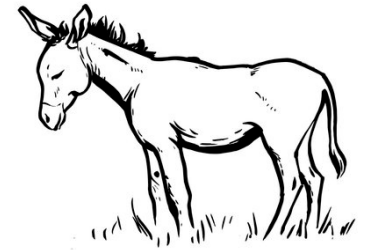
# The Friendly Beasts



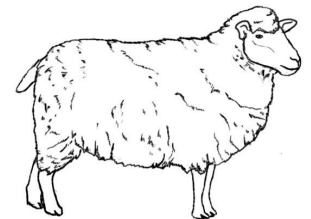
Jesus our brother, strong and good  
Was humbly born in a stable rude  
And the friendly beasts around him stood  
Jesus our brother, strong and good

C Am F C / - F G C / Am Dm G C / C Am G C

I, said the donkey, shaggy and brown  
I carried his mother up hill and down  
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town  
I, said the donkey shaggy and brown



I, said the cow all white and red  
I gave him my manger for his bed  
I gave him my hay to pillow his head  
I, said the cow all white and red.



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

I, said the dove, from the rafters high  
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



So every beast, by some good spell  
In the stable dark was glad to tell  
Of the gift they gave to Immanuel  
The gift they gave to Immanuel

[This song originated in 12<sup>th</sup> century France as "Orientis Partibus," a Latin hymn in praise of the donkey who bore pregnant Mary to Bethlehem. (It was sung during the medieval Feast of the Ass, which was part of a week-long Feast of Fools that the Catholic Church later banned for its dissolute and power-reversing customs. Some think April Fools Day comes from people refusing or forgetting to change from the Gregorian to Julian calendar – such "April Fools" would celebrate the Feast of Fools in April instead of March.) The words were attributed Robert Davis in a 1920 publication; some think Davis was transcribing and arranging an English folk-evolution of the French song, others assume he translated a French text no one else seems to have found; others think he simply wrote the words to the tune of the old French song.)



## Away in a Manger



Away in a manger, no crib for a bed  
 The little lord Jesus lay down his sweet head  
 The stars in the bright sky look down where he lay  
 The little lord Jesus asleep on the hay

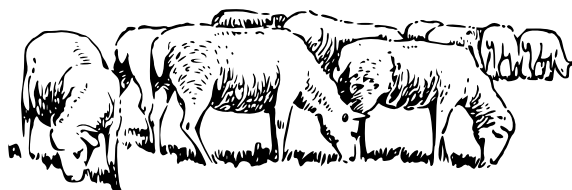
*C Am A<sub>7</sub> Dm / G<sub>7</sub> C D<sub>7</sub> G / 1st / G<sub>7</sub> C F G<sub>7</sub> C*

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

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 your tender care  
 And fit us for heaven, to live with you there



[Words unknown, but 1st published in 1885. Music by William J. Kirpatrick (1895).  
 Another common, and earlier (1887) setting is by James R. Murray.]



## It came upon a midnight clear



*open: D G D G E<sub>7</sub> A<sub>7</sub> - / D G D - G A<sub>7</sub> D - /  
 F# - Bm - A<sub>7</sub> E<sub>7</sub> A - / 2nd*

It came upon a 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

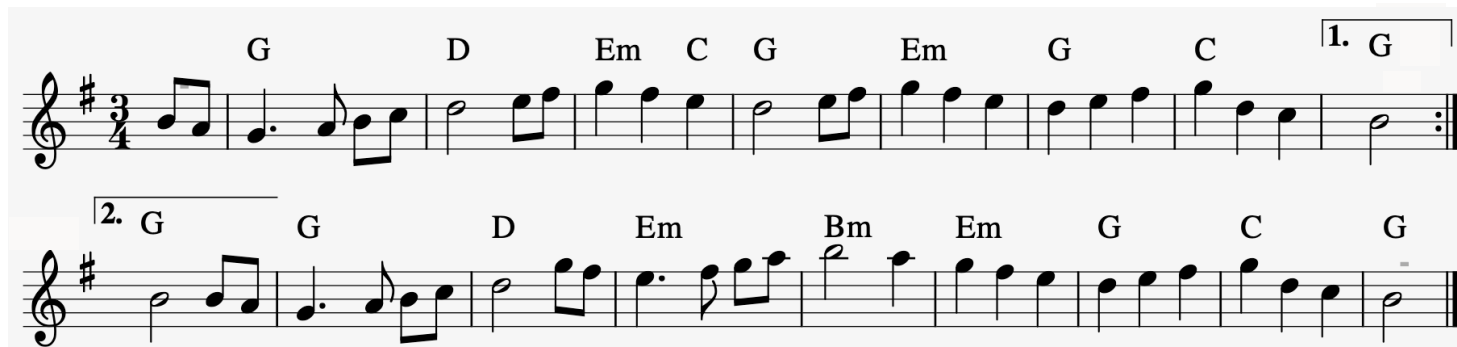
*capo 2: C F C - F D<sub>7</sub> G<sub>7</sub> - / C F C - F G<sub>7</sub> C - /  
 E - Am - G<sub>7</sub> D<sub>7</sub> G - / 2nd*

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled  
 And still their heavenly music floats over all the weary world  
 Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing  
 And ever over its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing

For lo the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold  
 When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold  
 When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendor fling  
 And the whole world bring back the song which now the angels sing

[1850, words by Edmund Sears, music by Richard Storrs Willis.]

# The First Noel



**G D Em Bm / Em G C G**  
**Chorus: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel**  
**Born is the king of Israel**

**1. The first Noel the angel 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**

**G D EmC G / Em G C G / 1st / Em D C G**

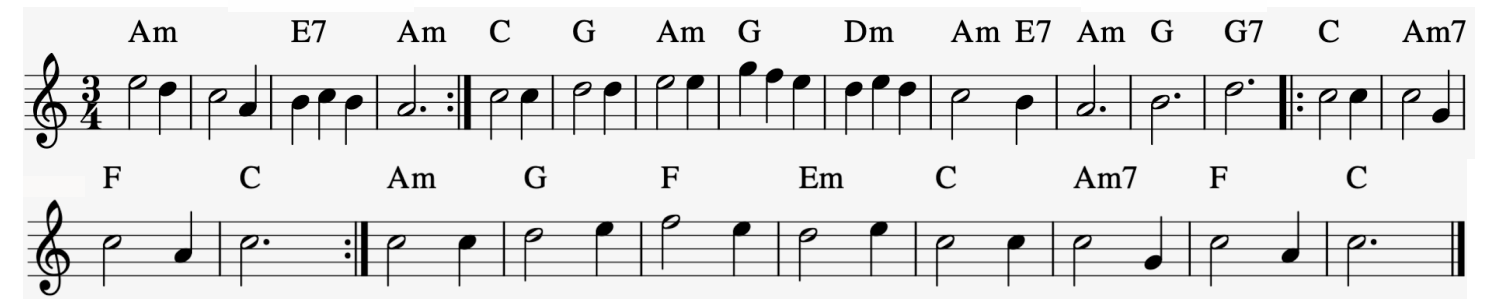
**2. They looked up and saw a star**  
**Shining in the east, beyond them far**  
**And to the earth it gave great light**  
**And so it continued both day and night**

**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 wheresoever it went**

**4. This star drew nigh to the northwest**  
**Over Bethlehem it took its rest**  
**And there it did both stop and stay**  
**Right over the place where Jesus lay**

[A traditional English (Cornish) carol.]

# We Three Kings



**open: C Am<sub>7</sub> F C / " / Am G F Em / 1st**

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

**5th fret: G Em C G / " / Em D C Am / 1st**

**1**  
**We three kings of Orient are**  
**Bearing gifts we traverse afar**  
**Field and fountain, moor & mountain**  
**Following yonder star/O – oh**

**3**  
**Frankincense to offer have I**  
**Incense owns a deity nigh**  
**Prayer & praising, all men raising**  
**Worship him, god on high/O – oh**

**open: Am – E<sub>7</sub> Am / " / C G Am G / Dm AmE<sub>7</sub> Am / G G<sub>7</sub>**

**2**  
**Born a king on Bethlehem's plain**  
**Gold I bring to crown him again**  
**King forever, ceasing never**  
**Over us all to reign/O – oh**

**4**  
**Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume**  
**Breaths a life of gathering gloom**  
**Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying**  
**Sealed in the stone-cold tomb/O – oh**

**capo 5: Em – B<sub>7</sub> Em / " / G D Em D / Am EmB<sub>7</sub> Em / D D<sub>7</sub>**

**5**  
**Glorious now behold him arise**  
**King and god and sacrifice**  
**Alleluia, Alleluia**  
**Sounds through the earth and skies/O – oh**

[Written by John Henry Hopkins Jr, a Pennsylvania rector, in 1857.]

# ❄️ Good King Wenceslas ❄️



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, tho' the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel

*Open: C Am F C / " / " / C Am G F C*

"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"

*Capo 5: G Em C G / " / " / G Em D C G*

Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither  
Thou and I shall see him dine, when we bear them 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, good my 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

[Lyrics by English hymnwriter John Mason Neale in collaboration with his music editor Thomas Helmore. Melody from 13th-century spring carol "Tempus adest florum" ("The time is near for flowering").]

# ★ God rest you merry gentlemen ★



*C G Am G / C G Am E<sub>7</sub>*

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

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay  
For Jesus Christ our saviour was born upon this day  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray

*Verses: Am – F E / " / F C Am G*

2. 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
3. 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
4. But when to Bethlehem they came whereat this infant lay  
They found him in a manger where oxen feed on hay  
His mother Mary kneeling unto the Lord did pray
5. Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place  
Like true and loving brethren each other now embrace  
This holy tide of Christmas is coming on apace

[An English traditional Christmas carol.]





## Entre le boeuf et l'âne gris



**Refrain:** Am Dm<sub>7</sub> Am B<sub>7</sub> / Am Dm<sub>7</sub> E<sub>7</sub> Am

Mille anges divins, mille séraphins  
Volent à l'entour de ce Dieu d'amour

**1**  
Entre le boeuf et l'âne gris  
Dort, dort, dort le petit fils

**2**  
Entre les deux bras de Marie  
Dort, dort le fruit de le vie

**Strophes:** Am Dm<sub>7</sub> Am E<sub>7</sub> / Am F E<sub>7</sub> Am

**3**  
Entre les roses et les lys  
Dort, dort, dort le petit fils

**4**  
En ce beau jour solennel  
Dort, dort, dort l'Emmanuel

[Chant de Noël traditionnel, qui date du début du 16e siècle.]



## Mon beau sapin



**C** **G<sub>7</sub>** **C** **Dm** **G<sub>7</sub>** **C**  
Mon beau sapin, roi des forêts, que j'aime ta parure! (x2)

**A<sub>7</sub>** **Dm** **G<sub>7</sub>** **C**  
Quand par l'hiver, bois et guérêts, sont dépouillés de leurs attraits

**C** **G<sub>7</sub>** **C** **Dm** **G<sub>7</sub>** **C**  
Mon beau sapin, roi des forêts, que j'aime ta parure!

**C** **G<sub>7</sub>** **C** **Dm** **G<sub>7</sub>** **C**  
Mon beau sapin, tes verts sommets, et leur fidèle ombrage (x2)

**A<sub>7</sub>** **Dm** **G<sub>7</sub>** **C**  
De la foi qui ne ment jamais, de la constance et de la paix

**C** **G<sub>7</sub>** **C** **Dm** **G<sub>7</sub>** **C**  
Mon beau sapin, tes verts sommets, et leur fidèle ombrage

[Traduction de 'O Tannenbaum,' crée en 1824 par Ernst Anschütz, en ajoutant au premier verset d'une chanson folklorique "Ach Tannenbaum," composé par Melchior Franck au 16e siècle.]



## You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch



Gm Gm<sub>6</sub> Cm<sub>6</sub> D<sub>7</sub> / Gm A<sub>7</sub> D<sub>7</sub>Cm<sub>6</sub> D<sub>7</sub> / Gm D<sub>7</sub> F<sub>7</sub> Gm

You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch

You really are a heel

You're as cuddly as a cactus, you're as charming as an eel

A<sub>7</sub> Gm<sub>7b5</sub> DCm<sub>6</sub> D(hold) | – D<sub>7</sub>(hold) – DD<sub>7</sub> | { Gm Gm<sub>7b5</sub> } x2  
Mr. Grinch...

You're a bad banana.... with a greasy  
black peel!

Gm Gm<sub>6</sub> Cm<sub>6</sub> D<sub>7</sub> / Gm A<sub>7</sub> D<sub>7</sub>Cm<sub>6</sub> D<sub>7</sub> / Gm D<sub>7</sub> F<sub>7</sub> Gm

You're a vile one, Mr. Grinch

You have termites in your smile

You have all the tender sweetness of a sea-sick crocodile

A<sub>7</sub> Gm<sub>7b5</sub> DCm<sub>6</sub> D(hold) | – D<sub>7</sub>(hold) – DD<sub>7</sub> | { Gm Gm<sub>7b5</sub> } x2  
Mr. Grinch...

Given a choice between the two of you... I'd take the  
seasick crocodile!

Gm Gm<sub>6</sub> Cm<sub>6</sub> D<sub>7</sub> / Gm A<sub>7</sub> D<sub>7</sub>Cm<sub>6</sub> D<sub>7</sub> / Gm D<sub>7</sub> F<sub>7</sub> Gm

You're a foul one, Mr. Grinch

You're a nasty, wasty skunk

Your heart is full of unwashed socks, your soul is full of gunk

A<sub>7</sub> Gm<sub>7b5</sub> DCm<sub>6</sub> D(hold) | – D<sub>7</sub>(hold) – – | D<sub>7</sub>(hold)

Mr. Grinch...

The 3 words that best describe you... are as follows

— & I quote

Cm<sub>6</sub>(hold) D<sub>7</sub>(hold) Gm Gm<sub>7b5</sub> Gm Gm<sub>7b5</sub>

Stink! Stank! Stunk!

[Words by Theodor Geisl (Dr. Seus), music by Albert Hague. Originally recorded by Thurl Ravenscroft for the 1966 cartoon special *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*]



# ❄️ Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas ❄️

*G Em Am D<sub>7</sub> | " | G Em C D<sub>7</sub> B<sub>7</sub> E<sub>7</sub> Am D<sub>7</sub>*  
 Have yourself a merry little Christmas  
 Let your heart be light  
 From now on our troubles will be out of sight

*G Em Am D<sub>7</sub> | " | G Em Am B<sub>7</sub> Em – G<sub>7</sub> –*  
 Have yourself a merry little Christmas  
 Make the yuletide gay  
 Next year all our troubles will be miles away

*C<sub>maj7</sub> – Bm A | Am D G<sub>maj7</sub> – | Em F<sub>#7</sub> Bm – | D<sub>7</sub> A D D<sub>7</sub>*  
 Here we are as in olden days  
 Happy golden days of yore  
 Faithful friends who are dear to us  
 Gather near to us once more

*G Em Am D<sub>7</sub> | " | G Em Am B<sub>7</sub> Em – G<sub>7</sub> – | C – Am D<sub>7</sub>D (G)*  
 Someday soon we all will be together  
 If the fates allow  
 Until then we'll have to muddle through somehow  
 And have ourselves a merry little Christmas now!

**Outro:** *G Em Am D<sub>7</sub> G*

[Written by Hugh Martin in 1943, and revised several times.]

## Weird Chord Cheat-Sheet

*C<sub>maj7</sub>* = add B note to C chord  
 e.g. guitarists, take 1<sup>st</sup> finger off of C chord  
 (so now C note on B string is just a B)

*G<sub>maj7</sub>* = play G7 chord with 7<sup>th</sup> a fret/semitone higher  
 e.g. guitarists, play 320002 (bass strings to treble)  
 (so now playing F<sub>#</sub> on high E string instead of F)

*F<sub>#7</sub>* = try a barre chord based on the E7 or F7 chord shape



# ❄️ In the Bleak Midwinter ❄️

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan  
 Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone  
 Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow on snow  
 In the bleak midwinter, long ago

*C Am F G | C Am FG C | Dm Am CF G | 2nd*

Heaven cannot hold God, they say, nor the earth sustain  
 Heaven and earth shall flee away, when he comes again  
 Yet in the bleak midwinter, a stable-place sufficed  
 The Lord God almighty, the long-expected Christ

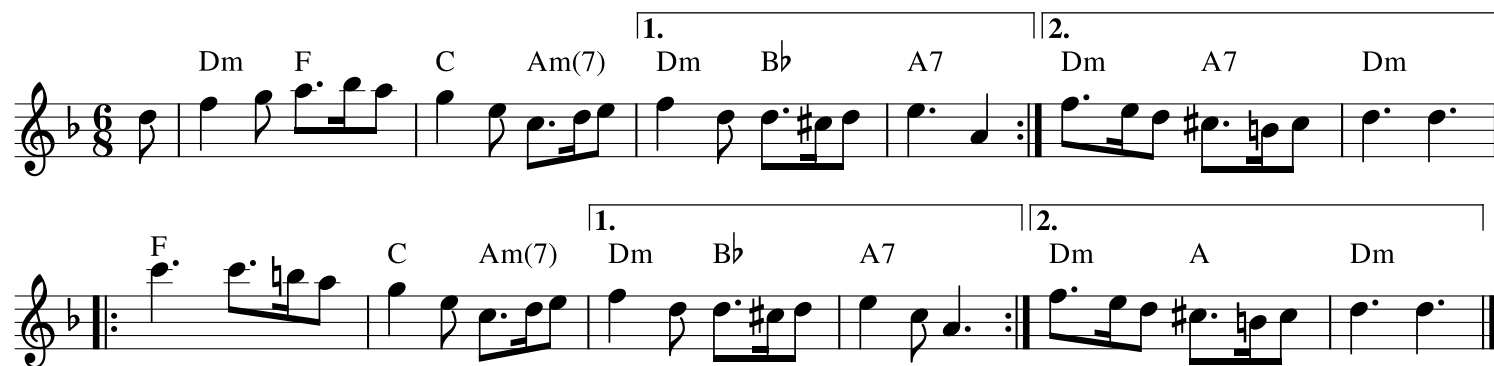
Enough for him who cherubim worship night and day  
 A breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay  
 Enough for him whom angels fall down before  
 The ox and ass and camel, the humble and ignored

What can I bring him poor as I am?  
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb  
 If I were a wiseman, I would do my part  
 What can I give him, give him my heart

[Words written as a poem by Christina Rossetti (1872) and set to music by Gustav Holst (1906).  
 We've adjusted the second and third verse a bit.]



# What Child is This?



**Refrain:** *F – C Am<sub>(7)</sub> / Dm Bb A A<sub>7</sub> / 1st / Dm A Dm –*

This, this is Christ the king  
Whom shepherds guard & angels sing  
Haste, haste, to bring him laud  
The babe, the son of Mary

Il suffit d'un enfant ce soir  
Pour unir le ciel et la terre  
Il suffit d'un enfant ce soir  
Pour changer notre vie en espoir

1  
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?

1  
Quel est l'enfant qui est né ce soir?  
Inconnu des grands de la terre  
Quel est...  
Que les pauvres ont voulu recevoir?

*v: Dm F C Am<sub>(7)</sub> / Dm Bb A A<sub>7</sub> / 1st / Dm A<sub>(7)</sub> Dm –*

2  
Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading

2  
Quel est l'enfant qui est né ce soir?  
Pour changer la nuit en lumière  
Quel est...  
Tout joyeux comme un feu dans le noir

3  
Nails and spear shall pierce him thru  
The cross be borne for me, for you  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh  
The babe, the son of Mary

3  
Quel est l'enfant qui est né ce soir  
Pour changer la nuit en lumière?  
Voici l'enfant qui est né ce soir  
Pour unir tous les gens de la terre.

[Text by William Chatterton Dix, 1865, melody from the traditional ballad Greensleeves]

# Silver Bells

**Chorus:** Silver bells, silver bells  
It's Christmas time in the city  
Ring-a-ling, hear them ring  
Soon it will be Christmas Day

*{ G C / DD<sub>7</sub> G(D) } x2*

1  
City sidewalks, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style  
In the air there's a feeling of Christmas  
Children laughing, people passing, meeting smile after smile  
And on every street corner you hear

2  
String of street lights, even stop lights, blink a bright red & green  
As the shoppers run home with their treasures  
Hear the snow crunch, see the kids bunch, this is Santa's big scene  
And above all the bustle you hear

[Composed by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans for the film The Lemon Drop Kid (1951), where it was sung by Bob Hope and Marilyn Maxwell. First recorded and released by by Bing Crosby and Carol Richards with John Scott Trotter & His Orchestra and the Lee Gordeon Singers (1950).]

# Greensleeves

**Refrain:** *F – C Am<sub>(7)</sub> / Dm Bb A A<sub>7</sub> / 1st / Dm A Dm –*  
Greensleeves was all my joy  
Greensleeves was my delight  
Greensleeves was my heart of gold  
And who but my lady Greensleeves

2  
Your vows you've broken, like my heart  
Oh, why did you so enrapture me?  
Now I remain in a world apart  
But my heart remains in captivity

*v: Dm F C Am<sub>(7)</sub> / Dm Bb A A<sub>7</sub> / 1st / Dm A<sub>(7)</sub> Dm –*

1  
Alas my love you do me wrong  
To cast me off discourteously  
For I have loved you well and long  
Delighting in your company

3  
Ah Greensleeves, now farewell adieu  
To God I pray to prosper thee  
For I am still thy lover true  
Come once again and love me





## O come Emmanuel



key = Cm



capo 3, refrain: G Em DmG Am / C DmG Am

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

Joyeux, joyeux, Emmanuel  
Viendrai vers toi, o Israël

O come, o come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the son of god appears

O viens bientôt, Emmanuel  
Viens délivrer ton Israël  
Dans notre angoisse et notre effroi  
Nous soupirons après de toi

capo 3

verse: Am DmG Am / C DmG Am / Dm C G / Am DmG C

O come thou dayspring, come & cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here  
& drive away the shades of night  
& pierce the clouds & bring us light

O viens bientôt, que ta clarté  
Dissipe nos obscurités  
Errants et tristes dans la nuit  
Nous appelons le jour qui luit

O come, desire of nations, bind  
All people in one heart and mind  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease  
Fill all the world with heaven's peace

O viens berger que Dieu nous a promis  
Entends au loin ton peuple qui gémit  
Dans la violence il vit son exil  
De ses souffrances, quand renaîtra-t-il

[Early 20th century translation by Henry Sloane Coffin & John Mason Neale  
of the 8th-12th century Latin hymn "Veni, veni, Emmanuel."]

## ❄️ O Holy Night ❄️

Chorus: Em – Bm – Am – Em – / G D G C G D G – /  
D – G C G D G –

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

G – C G / G D G – / 1<sup>st</sup> / Bm F# Bm –

1. O holy night, the stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear savior's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Til he appeared and the soul felt its worth

D – G – / "

A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

G – C G / G D G – / 1<sup>st</sup> / Bm F# Bm –

2. 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

D – G – / "

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus rise we  
Let all within us praise his holy name

[Translation by John Sullivan Dwight of "Minuit, chrétiens," words by Placide Cappeau and music  
by Adolphe Adam in 1847.]

# I heard the bells on Christmas day

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

Verses: C – Dm G<sub>7</sub> / C C<sub>maj7</sub> Dm G<sub>7</sub> / G C Em FG<sub>(7)</sub> / CDm Em G<sub>7</sub> C

2. I thought how, as the day had come  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along the unbroken song/Of peace on earth...

Bridge: Dm G<sub>7</sub> F C / " / Em – Am CG<sub>(7)</sub> / CDm Em G<sub>7</sub> F C Dm C  
But 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...

[original v.3] C – Dm G / C C<sub>maj7</sub> Dm G<sub>7</sub> / G C Em FG<sub>7</sub> / CDm Em G<sub>7</sub> C  
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor does he sleep  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail  
With peace on earth, goodwill to man"

[alterna v. 3] C – Dm G<sub>7</sub> / C C<sub>maj7</sub> Dm G<sub>7</sub> / G C Em F / Em – Am C  
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep  
We're only what sow and reap  
If we are ever to get along  
Then we ourselves must right the wrong  
Dm – G<sub>7</sub> – / F C Dm G<sub>7</sub> C  
For peace on earth goodwill..  
To all

- [acapella, or just first verse chords]
4. Till ringing, singing on its way –  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to all

[The words are part of a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, written during the American Civil War and set to music 1872 by John Baptiste Calkin. Arrangement & alternate verse by David Bazan.]

# Blue Christmas



Verse 1: D A<sub>7</sub> / – D / DD<sub>7</sub> G / E<sub>7</sub> A<sub>7</sub>  
I'll have a blue Christmas without you  
I'll be so blue, thinking about you  
Decorations of red on a green Christmas tree  
Won't mean a thing dear, if you're not here with me

Chorus 1: D A<sub>7</sub> / – D / DD<sub>7</sub> GEm / A<sub>7</sub> D  
I'll have a blue Christmas, that's certain  
When all those blue memories start hurting  
You'll be doing alright, with your Christmas so white  
But I'll have a blue, blue, blue, blue Christmas



Verse 2: D A<sub>7</sub> / – D / DD<sub>7</sub> G / E<sub>7</sub> A<sub>7</sub>  
I'll have a blue Christmas, I know dear  
I hope your white Christmas brings you cheer  
And when those cold snowflakes begin to drift down  
That's when those old memories begin to get me down

Chorus 2: D A<sub>7</sub> / – D / DD<sub>7</sub> GEm / A<sub>7</sub> D  
And when that blue heartache start hurting  
I'll have a blue Christmas, that's certain  
You'll be doing alright, with your Christmas of white  
But I'll have a blue, blue, blue, blue Christmas


Chords in C: C G<sub>7</sub> / – C / CC<sub>7</sub> F / D<sub>7</sub> G<sub>7</sub>  
FDm / G<sub>7</sub> C

[Written by Billy Hayes and Jay W. Johnson and first recorded in 1948 by Doye O'Dell, with significant versions by Ernest Tubb (1949), Billy Eckstine (1950), and Elvis (1957). Some lyric touchups here by Tim Kitz]



 **O Little Town of Bethlehem** 

C   Am   Dm   F   C   G7   C   A7   Dm   F   C   G   C



C   G   Am   E7   Am (Em)   Dm   E7   C   Am   Dm   F   C   G   C

*C Am Dm F / C G7 C - / - A7 Dm F / C G C -*

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

*C GAm E - / Am(Em) Dm E7 - / C Am Dm F / C G C -*

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

*C Am Dm F / C G7 C - / - A7 Dm F / C G C -*

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven

*C GAm E - / Am(Em) Dm E7 - / C Am Dm F / C G C -*

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

*C Am Dm F / C G7 C - / - A7 Dm F / C G C -*

No ear may hear his coming  
But in this world of sin  
Where misery cries out to him  
The dear Christ enters in

*C GAm E - / Am(Em) Dm E7 - / C Am Dm F / C G C -*

Where charity stands watching  
And faith holds wide the door  
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks  
And Christmas comes once more

[Words by Phillip Brooks, music by Lewis Redner in 1865.]

## Lo, How a Rose Blooming

*C CFC G Am  
F CDm Am GC  
C CFC G Am  
F CDm Am GC  
CDm CEm DG  
C CFC G Am  
Dm CDm C GC*

Lo, how a rose blooming  
From tender stem has sprung  
As ancient seers have sung  
Of Jesse's line has come  
It came, a flower bright  
Amid the cold winter  
And in the dark midnight

*C CFC G Am  
F CDm Am GC  
C CFC G Am  
F CDm Am GC  
CDm CEm DG  
C CFC G Am  
Dm CDm C GC*

The rose I am singing  
That Isaiah did foretell  
Is from its root springing  
In Mary, the sweetest maid  
To show God's love a-right  
This child was given  
In a cold winter's night

*C CFC G Am  
F CDm Am GC  
C CFC G Am  
F CDm Am GC  
CDm CEm DG  
C CFC G Am  
Dm CDm C GC*

O flower, whose fragrance  
With sweetness fills the air  
Dispel with splendor  
The darkness everywhere  
True man, yet very God  
From sin and death save us  
And share our every load

[Traditional German carol ("Es ist ein Ros entsprungen"), first found in manuscript form in the 1400s. This version draws on the English translations by Theodore Baker, Catherine Winkworth, Harriet Spaeth, with some folkie simplification]

# ❧ Gower Wassail ❧

**Refrain:** *Em D Am B<sub>(7)</sub> / Em D B<sub>(7)</sub> Em*

Fol-dee dol, fol-dee day, fol-dee doo rah dee day  
Fol-dee doo rah, fol-dee doo dah, sing too-rah lee oh

1. A-wassail, a-wassail throughout all the town  
Our cup it is white and our ale it is brown  
Our wassail is made of the good ale and true  
Some nutmeg and ginger, the best we could brew



**Verses:** *Em D Am B<sub>(7)</sub> / Em G B<sub>(7)</sub> - / Em D G B<sub>(7)</sub> / Em D B<sub>(7)</sub> -*

2. We know by the moon that we are not too soon  
And we know by the sky that we are not too high  
And we know by the stars that we are not too far  
And we know by the ground that we are within sound
3. There's a master and mistress sitting down by the fire  
While we merry wassaillers stand out in the mire  
Besides all on earth, you have apples in store  
Pray let us come in, for it's cold by the door
4. Now master and mistress let your company forbear  
To fill up our wassail with your cider and beer  
We want none of your pale beer, nor none of your small  
But a drop from your best cask, that's next to the wall
5. It's we poor wassaillers so weary and cold  
Please drop some small silver into our bowl  
And if we survive for another new year  
Perhaps we may call and see who does live here
6. We hope that your apple trees prosper and bear  
That we may have cider when we call next year  
And where there's one barrel we hope you'll have ten  
That we may have cider when we call again



[Traditional Welsh wassail song from the Gower Peninsula in Wales, UK. The original lyric is "a drop from that kilderkin," a kilderkin being a small barrel or cask.]

# ✧ Once In Royal David's City ✧

*CG<sub>(7)</sub> C Am C / C Em F C / 1st / Am Em G C*

Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed  
There a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed

*{ F C G C }x2*

Mary was that mother mild  
Jesus Christ her little child

*CG<sub>(7)</sub> C Am C / C Em F C / 1st / Am Em G C*

He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is god and lord of all  
And his shelter was a stable  
And his cradle was a stall

*{ F C G C }x2*

With the poor, oppressed, and lowly  
Lived on earth, our savior holy



*CG<sub>(7)</sub> C Am C / C Em F C / 1st / Am Em G C*

Now he is our childhood's pattern  
Day by day like us he grew  
He was little, weak, and helpless  
Tears and smiles like us he knew

*{ F C G C }x2*

And he feels for our sadness  
And he shares in our gladness

*CG<sub>(7)</sub> C Am C / C Em F C / 1st / Am Em G C*

And our eyes at last shall see him  
Through his own redeeming love  
For that child, so dear and gentle  
Is our lord in heaven above

*{ F C G C }x2*

And he leads his children along  
To the place that he is gone



Words by poet and Sunday School teacher Cecil Frances Alexander in 1848, music by organist Henry John Gauntlett.)



## Chord Symbols

This songbook uses the chord system devised by Peter Blood for the *Rise Up Singing* songbook, which is a little like the notation systems jazz players and country musicians often use. It's a direct way of notating a song's chord progression, with a few extra symbols on top of your usual major, minor, and seventh chord symbols.

Symbol	Meaning
/	A slash divides the chords for one line of lyrics from the next.
–	A dash means repeat the previous chord.
C FG	For an example of a 'squeeze chord' like this, you would play the F & G chords in the same amount of time you would play the C. This is a proportional way of indicating the rhythm of chord changes.
"	A quotation mark means repeat the chords from the previous line
1st, 2nd, etc.	Play the chords from the 1st, 2nd, etc., line

So for example, this...

A – / EA / DA / " / 2nd / AE A  
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

... conveys the same basic information as this:

A  
Silent night, holy night  
E                      A  
All is calm, all is bright  
D                      A  
Round yon virgin, mother and child  
D                      A  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
E                      A  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
A              E              A  
Sleep in heavenly peace

As you can see from these two examples, this system allows you to fit lyrics over the chords (rather than the opposite, as in average chord sheet). This makes for simpler chord sheets and brings you much closer to memorizing a song's chord progression.

There are a few more chord symbols that this songbook uses much less frequently.

C/B	This means play a C chord with a B as the bass note.
C↓ G on	This indicates a bass walkdown from C to G – in this case, hitting B and A your way down to the G chord.
()	Brackets indicate chords (or 7ths, etc.) that are optional.
(in D)	This would indicate that the key of a song is D, even if the first chord isn't.
D(hold)	This would mean strum the D chord once and hold it until you strum the next chord.