# We wish you a Merry Christmas

## The History of Christmas Carols

Nowadays in the globalized world apparently Christmas traditions and songs have been lost. Fortunately this isn’t true all over the world. Indeed in the Anglo-Saxon countries they seem to feel the magic of Christmas more than ever. For example in the USA the radios and the shops start playing Christmas carols from the morning of thanksgiving day throughout the month of December. The History of Christmas carols began in Europe thousands of years ago, but they were not properly Christmas carols, they were pagan songs, sung for the Winter Solstice. Starting with the Romans and on to the Middle Ages people lost interested in the tradition. Only in 1410 the first real Christmas carol was written and it told about Mary and Jesus. It wasn't a religious song, but a sort of entertaining, sung at home rather than in churches. Once again in 1647 with Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans the celebration of Christmas was stopped and so were its songs. During the Victorian times the Christmas tradition was reestablished and new songs were written. At present more than one hundred songs are known in the English speaking countries and they are performed in churches or by travelling choirs to cheer people up during Christmas time. Children at school taught Christmas carols, but such habit is also common in the other European countries (including Italy) and in any part of the world. Probably English Christmas carols are funnier and easier to learn for children and that is the reason why they have become so successful.

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