

"Sleigh Ride" Tops List of Popular Holiday Classics for Fourth Consecutive Year

New York, NY, December 12, 2012: It's that time of year again when holiday music takes over the airwaves and fills our homes, shops and cars with that extra bit of cheer, raising peoples' spirits and inspiring shoppers' zeal for finding that perfect gift. This year, as with many years in the past, the top ten most-played holiday songs were all written or co-written by members of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). And for the fourth year in a row, "Sleigh Ride," written by Leroy Anderson and Mitchell Parish, and recently covered by ASCAP Grammy-nominated indie rock trio fun., tops this list of popular holiday classics. Like "Sleigh Ride," many of these perennial favorites continue to be re-recorded by contemporary artists year after year, proving their timelessness and boosting already impressive airplay.

"Music is one of the most important and defining aspects of the holiday season. Favorites like 'Sleigh Ride' and 'Winter Wonderland' help to set the mood and brighten spirits each and every year," commented ASCAP President and Chairman Paul Williams. "It's no surprise that these beloved tunes have all been written by ASCAP members, America's greatest songwriters and composers. These works serve as a cornerstone of the ASCAP repertory."

Since October 1, 2012, "Sleigh Ride" has aired more times than any other holiday song this season. Though the lyrical version we know today depicts a wondrous winter scene, "Sleigh Ride" was originally composed by Leroy Anderson as an instrumental piece on a hot summer day in 1946. Mitchell Parish added lyrics to the song in 1949, and since then, it has been recorded by countless performers - perhaps a more diverse group of musical artists than any other piece in the history of western music. To this day, Leroy Anderson's recording remains the most popular instrumental version, while Johnny Mathis' recording has become the most popular vocal version. As is the case with many holiday standards, "Sleigh Ride" continues to be covered by current acts, and was just released by ASCAP members and recent Grammy nominee fun. for the compilation album *Holidays Rule*. ASCAP's Zooey Deschanel-fronted indie duo She & Him also recorded the carol for their 2011 holiday album *A Very She & Him Christmas*.

For the first time since 2008, "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" finds its way onto the top ten list. Both this holiday classic and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," #5 and #4 on the list, respectively, have noticeably different rankings this season. Performances of each were bolstered by recordings recently re-released by famed ASCAP singer-songwriter James Taylor on his 2012 Christmas album *James Taylor at Christmas*. Strengthening airplay even more, ASCAP's Justin Bieber also released a version of "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" last holiday season on his album *Under the Mistletoe*. It is ASCAP member Bruce Springsteen's version of the song, however, that receives the most airplay, having become a staple of rock radio since it was first released in 1985.

The top ten most-played holiday songs so far this holiday season are listed below, all written or co-written by ASCAP songwriters and composers. Each song includes songwriter credits, and cites the most popular artist version played on radio to date.

1. **"Sleigh Ride"**

Written by Leroy Anderson, Mitchell Parish

Most popular version performed by Leroy Anderson

2. **"Winter Wonderland"**

Written by Felix Bernard, Richard B. Smith

Most popular version performed by Eurythmics

3. **"Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!"**

Written by Sammy Cahn, Jule Styne

Most popular version performed by Harry Connick Jr.

4. **"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"**

Written by Ralph Blane, Hugh Martin

Most popular version performed by The Carpenters

5. **"Santa Claus Is Coming to Town"**

Written by Fred Coats, Haven Gillespie

Most popular version performed by Bruce Springsteen

6. **"Do You Hear What I Hear?"**

Written by Gloria Shayne Baker, Noël Regney

Most popular version performed by Whitney Houston

7. **"The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)"**

Written by Mel Tormé, Robert Wells

Most popular version performed by Nat King Cole

8. **"Jingle Bell Rock"**

Written by Joseph Carleton Beal, James Ross Boothe

Most popular version performed by Bobby Helms

9. **"Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"**

Written by Johnny Marks

Most popular version performed by Brenda Lee

10. **"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"**

Written by Meredith Willson

Most popular version performed by Bing Crosby

Article source: www.ascap.com/press/2012/1212-ascap-members-reign-over-top-ten-most-played-holiday-songs-list.aspx

Most played Christmas songs in 2011 (USA)

1. **"Sleigh Ride"** - played 154,327 times
Written by Leroy Anderson, Mitchell Parish
Most popular artist version performed by Leroy Anderson
2. **"Winter Wonderland"** - played 128,980 times
Written by Felix Bernard, Richard B. Smith
Most popular artist version performed by Eurythmics
3. **"The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)"** - played 126,032 times
Written by Mel Tormé, Robert Wells
Most popular artist version performed by Nat King Cole
4. **"Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!"** - played 115,346 times
Written by Sammy Cahn, Jule Styne
Most popular artist version performed by Dean Martin
5. **"Jingle Bell Rock"** - played 114,529 times

Written by Joseph Carleton Beal, James Ross Boothe
Most popular artist version performed by Bobby Helms
6. **"It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year"** - played 109,938 times
Written by Edward Pola, George Wyle
Most popular artist version performed by Andy Williams
7. **"Do You Hear What I Hear?"** - played 98,575 times
Written by Gloria Shayne Baker, Noël Regney
Most popular artist version performed by Whitney Houston
8. **"It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas"** - played 94,885 times
Written by Meredith Willson
Most popular artist version performed by Bing Crosby
9. **"Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer"** - played 91,451 times
Written by Johnny Marks
Most popular artist version performed by Gene Autry
10. **"Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas"** - played 90,175 times
Written by Ralph Blane, Hugh Martin
Most popular artist version performed by The Carpenters

Article Source: <http://www.alancross.ca/a-journal-of-musical-things/2011/12/21/update-on-the-most-played-christmas-songs-this-season.html>

Top 25 most played Christmas songs during the last 5 years (USA)

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) has announced the Top 25 most performed holiday songs for the past five years. A press release says the list is based on performance data tracked by radio airplay monitoring service Mediaguide. Mediaguide, co-owned by ASCAP, was launched in 2002 to monitor radio broadcast music in real-time and facilitate the accurate distribution of royalty payments to composers, lyricists and publishers. Its proprietary technology and network of over 2,500 radio stations currently tracks more stations and total airplay than any other monitoring service in the U.S.

The Top 25 most performed ASCAP holiday songs are listed below. Each song includes songwriter credits, and cites the most popular artist version played on radio.

1. **The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)**
Written by: Mel Tormé, Robert Wells
Performed by: Nat "King" Cole
2. **Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas**
Written by: Ralph Blane, Hugh Martin
Performed by: The Pretenders
3. **Winter Wonderland**
Written by: Felix Bernard, Richard B. Smith
Performed by: Eurythmics
4. **Santa Claus Is Coming To Town**
Written by: Fred Coots, Haven Gillespie
Performed by: Bruce Springsteen
5. **White Christmas**
Written by: Irving Berlin
Performed by: Bing Crosby
6. **Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!**
Written by: Sammy Cahn, Jule Styne
Performed by: Andy Williams
7. **Jingle Bell Rock**
Written by: Joseph Carleton Beal, James Ross Boothe
Performed by: Bobby Helms
8. **Little Drummer Boy**
Written by: Katherine K. Davis, Henry V. Onorati, Harry Simeone
Performed by: The Harry Simeone Chorale & Orchestra
9. **Sleigh Ride**
Written by: Leroy Anderson, Mitchell Parish
Performed by: The Ronettes

10. **Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer**
Written by: Johnny Marks
Performed by: Gene Autry
11. **It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year**
Written by: Edward Pola, George Wyle
Performed by: Andy Williams
12. **I'll Be Home For Christmas**
Written by: Walter Kent, Kim Gannon, Buck Ram
Performed by: Vanessa Williams
13. **Silver Bells**
Written by: Jay Livingston, Ray Evans
Performed by: Kenny G
14. **Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree**
Written by: Johnny Marks
Performed by: Brenda Lee
15. **Feliz Navidad**
Written by: José Feliciano
Performed by: José Feliciano
16. **Blue Christmas**
Written by: Billy Hayes, Jay W. Johnson
Performed by: Elvis Presley
17. **Frosty The Snowman**
Written by: Steve Nelson, Walter E. Rollins
Performed by: The Ronettes
18. **A Holly Jolly Christmas**
Written by: Johnny Marks
Performed by: Burl Ives
19. **It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas**
Written by: Meredith Willson
Performed by: Johnny Mathis
20. **I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus**
Written by: Tommie Connor (PRS)
Performed by: John Mellencamp
21. **Here Comes Santa Claus (Right Down Santa Claus Lane)**
Written by: Gene Autry, Oakley Haldeman
Performed by: Elvis Presley
22. **Carol Of The Bells**
Written by: Peter J. Wilhousky, Mykola Leontovich
Performed by: John Tesh and the Christmas Symphony Orchestra

23. Do They Know It's Christmas? (Feed the World)

Written by: Midge Ure (PRS), Bob Geldof (PRS)

Performed by: Band Aid

24. (There's No Place Like) Home For The Holidays

Written by: Bob Allen, Al Stillman

Performed by: The Carpenters

25. Santa Baby

Written by: Joan Ellen Javits, Philip Springer, Tony Springer

Performed by: Madonna

Some facts about the Top 25 ASCAP Holiday Songs:

Oldest songs:

"Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" and "Winter Wonderland" (both 1934)

Newest song:

"Do They Know It's Christmas? (Feed the World)" (1984)

Most recorded Holiday song:

"White Christmas" with well over 500 versions in dozens of languages.

Songs introduced in Film and Television:

"White Christmas" in *Holiday Inn* (1942)

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" in *Meet Me in St. Louis* (1944)

"Silver Bells" in *The Lemon Drop Kid* (1950)

"A Holly Jolly Christmas" in TV special *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* (1962)

Writer with most top Holiday songs:

Johnny Marks with three - "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," and "A Holly Jolly Christmas"

Article source: <http://www.radioinfo.com.au/news/4794>

Pogues' Fairytale Of New York named the most-played Christmas song of 21st Century

By [Simon Tomlinson](#)

15th December 2011

When the Pogues lost out on the 1987 Christmas Number 1 to the Pet Shop Boys, Shane MacGowan once ungraciously said they had been 'beaten by two queens and a drum machine'.

Now, however, the Celtic punk band have a reason to celebrate after their waltz Fairytale of New York was named the most-played Christmas song of this century.

It has always been regarded as the best festive song never to top the singles chart and has returned to the Christmas Top 20 on no fewer than seven occasions.



But its elevation in more modern times was confirmed by another chart compiled by the music licensing body PPL, which totals every public airing — from radio and TV plays to its use as background music in shops — since 2000.

Along the way, it has outperformed some of the goldie oldie classics such as Wham's Last Christmas, Mariah Carey's All I Want For Christmas Is You, Slade's Merry Xmas Everybody and Wizzard's I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday.

The song, performed by MacGowan and the late Kirsty MacColl as feuding lovers, was used this year in a Tesco Christmas TV campaign.

Royalties have assisted MacColl's family in their campaign to uncover the truth about her death at 41 when she was struck by a boat while swimming in Mexico in 2000.

But the song wasn't without controversy due to its use of the words 'scumbag', 'maggot' and 'faggot'.

Radio 1 bleeped out 'faggot' in 2007 to 'avoid offence' but climbed down after complaints from listeners, it was reported in The Independent.

Since MacColl's death, The Pogues have continued to perform their tale of a drunken Irish immigrant's reverie using guest singers, including Katie Melua and Imelda May.

Article Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2074402/Most-played-Christmas-song-21st-century-Pogues-Fairytale-Of-New-York.html#ixzz1jludYk00>

The top ten most played Christmas songs in the United Kingdom based on a 2010 survey conducted by [PRS for Music](#), who collect and pay royalties to its 75,000 song-writing and composing members, are as follows:

Rank	Song title	Composer(s)	Performer(s)	Year
1	" All I Want for Christmas Is You "	Mariah Carey and Walter Afanasieff	Mariah Carey	1994
2	" Last Christmas "	George Michael	Wham!	1984
3	" Fairytale of New York "	Jem Finer and Shane MacGowan	The Pogues with Kirsty MacColl	1987
4	" Do They Know It's Christmas? "	Bob Geldof and Midge Ure	Band Aid	1984
5	" Merry Xmas Everybody "	Noddy Holder and Jim Lea	Slade	1973
6	" White Christmas "	Irving Berlin	Louis Armstrong	1940
7	" Driving Home for Christmas "	Chris Rea	Chris Rea	1988
8	" Merry Christmas Everyone "	Bob Heatlie	Shakin' Stevens	1985
9	" Mistletoe and Wine "	Jeremy Paul, Leslie Stewart and Keith Strachan	Cliff Richard	1976
10	" Walking in the Air "	Howard Blake	Aled Jones	1982

Article Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_music#Most_played_songs

A LIST OF UK CHRISTMAS NUMBER ONES

In the [United Kingdom](#), **Christmas number ones** are singles that are top of the [UK Singles Chart](#) in the week in which [Christmas Day](#) falls. [Novelty songs](#), [charity songs](#) or [songs with a Christmas theme](#) have regularly been at the top of Christmas charts. Musicians and [pressure groups](#) view having a Christmas number one as being especially prestigious, more so than any other time of year. Many of the Christmas number ones were also the [best-selling song of the year](#). The official [UK Singles Chart](#) began in 1952 after appearing in the [New Musical Express](#). The positions of all songs are based on week end sale totals, from Sunday to Saturday, but prior to 1987 they were released on a Tuesday due to the need for manual calculation.

[The Beatles](#) are the only act to have four Christmas number ones, three consecutively starting from 1963. On two occasions, 1963 and 1967, they had both the Christmas number one and the number two, the only act to have achieved this. As part of two acts, [George Michael](#) repeated the feat with [Band Aid](#) and [Wham!](#) in 1984. [Paul McCartney](#) has been top seven times with various acts. [Cliff Richard](#) has spent four Christmases at number one; two as a solo act, one with [The Shadows](#) and one as part of Band Aid II. The [Spice Girls](#) later equalled the record of having three consecutive Christmas number ones, from 1996 to 1998. "[Bohemian Rhapsody](#)" by [Queen](#), which reached the number one spot at Christmas 1975 and 1991, is the only record to have reached the top twice.

"[Mary's Boy Child](#)" is the only song to be Christmas number one for two entirely unrelated artists ([Harry Belafonte](#) in 1957 and [Boney M.](#) in 1978), although "[Do They Know It's Christmas?](#)" has been Christmas number one for three generations of [Band Aid](#). The original version of "Do They Know It's Christmas?" is the second bestselling single in UK history.

Since 2002 the Christmas number one has been dominated by [reality television](#) contests, with the winners often heading straight to number one in the week before Christmas. This trend began when [Popstars: The Rivals](#) contestants released the top three singles on the Christmas chart. From 2005 to 2010, the winners of [The X Factor](#) took the number one spot on five occasions. In 2007, bookmakers started taking bets on who "Christmas Number Two" would be instead. [Rage Against the Machine](#)'s 1992 single "[Killing in the Name](#)" outsold [Joe McElderry](#) in 2009 following a successful [Facebook](#) campaign. This made them the first group to get a Christmas number one with a download-only single, and resulted in the most download sales in a single week in UK chart history. Similar campaigns in 2010 promoting acts such as [Biffy Clyro](#), [John Cage](#) and [The Trashmen](#) were unsuccessful. The following year, participants from reality television show [The Choir](#) took the accolade, outselling *X Factor* winners [Little Mix](#) and a host of social network campaigns for acts including [Lou Monte](#), [Nirvana](#), [Alex Day](#), [Stacey Solomon](#), [The Wombles](#) and the cast of [The Only Way Is Essex](#).

Year	Artist	Song	Weeks at No. 1
1952	Al Martino	"Here in My Heart"	9
1953	Frankie Laine	"Answer Me"	8
1954	Winifred Atwell	"Let's Have Another Party"	5
1955	Dickie Valentine	"Christmas Alphabet"	3
1956	Johnnie Ray	"Just Walkin' in the Rain"	7
1957	Harry Belafonte	"Mary's Boy Child"	7
1958	Conway Twitty	"It's Only Make Believe"	5
1959	Emile Ford & The Checkmates	"What Do You Want to Make Those Eyes at Me For?"	6
1960	Cliff Richard & The Shadows	"I Love You"	2
1961	Danny Williams	"Moon River"	2
1962	Elvis Presley	"Return to Sender"	3
1963	The Beatles	"I Want to Hold Your Hand"	5
1964	The Beatles	"I Feel Fine"	5
1965	The Beatles	"Day Tripper" / "We Can Work It Out"^[nb 2]	5
1966	Tom Jones	"Green, Green Grass of Home"	7
1967	The Beatles	"Hello, Goodbye"	7
1968	The Scaffold	"Lily the Pink"	3
1969	Rolf Harris	"Two Little Boys"	6
1970	Dave Edmunds	"I Hear You Knocking"	6
1971	Benny Hill	"Ernie (The Fastest Milkman in the West)"	4
1972	Jimmy Osmond	"Long Haired Lover from Liverpool"	5
1973	Slade	"Merry Xmas Everybody"	5
1974	Mud	"Lonely This Christmas"	4
1975	Queen	"Bohemian Rhapsody"	9
1976	Johnny Mathis	"When A Child Is Born (Soleado)"	3

Year	Artist	Song	Weeks at No. 1
1977 Wings		" Mull of Kintyre " / " Girls' School " ^{Inb 21}	9
1978 Boney M.		" Mary's Boy Child – Oh My Lord "	4
1979 Pink Floyd		" Another Brick in the Wall (Part 2) "	5
1980 St Winifred's School Choir		" There's No One Quite Like Grandma "	2
1981 The Human League		" Don't You Want Me "	5
1982 Renée and Renato		" Save Your Love "	4
1983 The Flying Pickets		" Only You "	5
1984 Band Aid		" Do They Know It's Christmas? "	5
1985 Shakin' Stevens		" Merry Christmas Everyone "	2
1986 Jackie Wilson		" Reet Petite "	4
1987 Pet Shop Boys		" Always on My Mind "	4
1988 Cliff Richard		" Mistletoe and Wine "	4
1989 Band Aid II		" Do They Know It's Christmas? "	3
1990 Cliff Richard		" Saviour's Day "	1
1991 Queen		" Bohemian Rhapsody " / " These Are the Days of Our Lives "	5
1992 Whitney Houston		" I Will Always Love You "	10
1993 Mr Blobby		" Mr Blobby "	2
1994 East 17		" Stay Another Day "	5
1995 Michael Jackson		" Earth Song "	6
1996 Spice Girls		" 2 Become 1 "	3
1997 Spice Girls		" Too Much "	2
1998 Spice Girls		" Goodbye "	1
1999 Westlife		" I Have a Dream " / " Seasons in the Sun "	4
2000 Bob the Builder		" Can We Fix It? "	3
2001 Robbie Williams & Nicole		" Somethin' Stupid "	3

Year	Artist	Song	Weeks at No. 1
	Kidman		
2002	Girls Aloud	" Sound of the Underground "	4
2003	Michael Andrews & Gary Jules	" Mad World "	3
2004	Band Aid 20	" Do They Know It's Christmas? "	4
2005	Shayne Ward	" That's My Goal "	4
2006	Leona Lewis	" A Moment Like This "	4
2007	Leon Jackson	" When You Believe "	3
2008	Alexandra Burke	" Hallelujah "	3
2009	Rage Against the Machine	" Killing in the Name "	1
2010	Matt Cardle	" When We Collide "	3
2011	Military Wives with Gareth Malone	" Wherever You Are "	1
2012	The Justice Collective	He ain't heavy, he's my brother	1

Article Source -

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_UK_Singles_Chart_Christmas_number_ones