Christmas Carols
Each year I gather friends and family to celebrate the season in song. Nothing gives me more pleasure than greeting my guests with songbooks containing the lyrics of my favorite Christmas carols, as well as cups of my very best eggnog. Cheers!

- Martha Stewart
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This 19th-century Austrian carol has been translated into more than 100 languages, and it rang out above German and British trenches during the Christmas Truce of World War I.

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This solemn carol may date back more than 400 years to Cornwall, England.

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Set to an old Welsh tune, this song’s lyrics are believed to be strongly influenced by Charles Dickens’s A Christmas Carol.

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These lyrics, hailed by poet Oliver Wendell Holmes as some of “the finest and most beautiful ever written,” were penned by a Massachusetts minister in 1849 and set to music a year later.

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Written in 1866 by Ohio composer Benjamin Russell Hanby, this carol strengthened the image of Saint Nick as a jolly chimney-climbing gift bearer.

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This simple folk song was a mainstay of musicians in 16th-century England and could be heard echoing through the streets during the holidays.

15 THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS
Published in England in 1780, this singsong carol extends the festivities beyond Christmas, celebrating each day leading up to the Epiphany.

17 MARTHA’S CLASSIC EGGNOG RECIPE
Spiked with rum, bourbon, and Cognac for extra cheer, this rich eggnog makes any holiday gathering merry.
SILENT NIGHT

1. Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright.
   'Round yon Virgin Mother and Child.

2. Silent night, holy night. Shepherds quake at the sight.
   Love's pure light, Glories stream from heav'n a far.

3. Silent night, holy night. Son of God, peace be born, Peace is born!
   Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Sleep in heavenly peace!

Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia!"
Sleep in heavenly peace!
JINGLE BELLS

Dash-ing thro' the snow In a one-horse o- pen sleigh, O'er the fields we go,

Laugh-ing all the way; Bells on Bob-tail ring, Mak-ing spir-its bright, What

fun it is to ride and sing A sleigh-ing song to-night.
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.
THE FIRST NOEL

1. The first Noel
   the angel did say,
  Was to certain poor shepherds,
  In fields as they lay,
  On a

2. They looked up and saw a star,
   Shining beyond them,
  In Bethlehm,
  In their rest,
  Right

3. This star drew nigh to the north-west,
   O'er Bethlehm,
  In it took its place,
  In their knee,
  Their

4. Then entered in those Wise Men three,
   Fell to the earth,
  It gave great light,
  And stay,
  Their
The First Noel

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,

Born is the King of Israel.
DECK THE HALLS

1. Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
2. See the blaz'ing Yule before us, 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.

'Tis the season to be jolly, 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.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la, la la la, la la la.
Follow me in merry measure, Fa la la, la la la, la la la.
Sing we joyous all together, Fa la la, la la la, la la la.

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
While I tell of Yuletide treasure, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Heedless of the wind and weather, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

1. 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, good will to men From heaven's all-gracious King.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled;
   Who toil along the climbing way To touch their harps of gold.
   Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing.

3. O ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,
   When with the ever circling years Shall come the time foretold.
   Look now, for glad and golden hours They bend on hovering wing.

4. For lo! the days are hastening on, By prophets seen of old,
   When with the ever circling years Shall come the time foretold.
   When the new heaven and earth shall own The Prince of Peace their King.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear • 10
1. Up on the house-top reindeer pause, Out jumps good old Santa Claus; Down through the chimney with lots of toys,
fill it well; Give her a doll that laughs and cries,
glorious fill! Here is a hammer and lots of tacks,

2. First comes the stocking of little Nell; Oh, dear Santa, All for the little ones, Christ-mas joys.
that will open and shut her eyes.

3. Next comes the stocking of little Will; Oh, just see what a so a ball and a whip that cracks.
Up on the Housetop

Refrain:

Ho, ho, ho! who wouldn't go! Ho, ho, ho!

who wouldn't go! Up on the house-top, click, click, click,

Down through the chimney with good Saint Nick.
WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

1. We wish you a merry Christmas, We wish you a merry Christmas, We wish you a merry Christmas, We wish you a merry Christmas, We
2. Please bring us some figgy pudding, Please bring us some figgy pudding, Please bring us some figgy pudding, Please bring us some figgy pudding, Please
3. We won’t go until we get some, We won’t go until we get some, We won’t go until we get some, We won’t go until we get some, We
4. We wish you a merry Christmas, We wish you a merry Christmas, We wish you a merry Christmas, We wish you a merry Christmas, We

Christ - mas And a hap - py New Year! Christ - mas And a hap - py New Year! Christ - mas And a hap - py New Year! Christ - mas And a hap - py New Year!

pud - ding, Please bring it right here! pud - ding, Please bring it right here! pud - ding, Please bring it right here! pud - ding, Please bring it right here!

get - some, Please bring it right here! get - some, Please bring it right here! get - some, Please bring it right here! get - some, Please bring it right here!

13 • We Wish You a Merry Christmas
Refrain:

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Glad tidings we bring To you and your kin;
Glad tidings for Christmas, And a happy New Year!

We Wish You a Merry Christmas
The Twelve Days of Christmas

5. On the fifth day of Christmas my true love sent to me Five golden rings,

Four calling birds, Three French hens, Two turtle doves, And a partridge in a pear tree.

6. On the sixth day of Christmas my true love sent to me Six geese a-laying,

7. On the seventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me Seven swans a-swimming,

8. On the eighth day of Christmas my true love sent to me Eight maids a-milking,

9. On the ninth day of Christmas my true love sent to me Nine ladies dancing,

10. On the tenth day of Christmas my true love sent to me Ten lords a-leaping,

11. On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me Eleven pipers piping,

12. On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me Twelve drummers drumming,

Four calling birds, Three French hens, Two turtle doves, And a partridge in a pear tree.
MARThA’S CLAssIC eGGNOG

A version of this recipe for Martha’s signature eggnog first appeared in the Entertaining book. She makes it every Christmas, without fail.

6 large eggs, separated
¾ cup superfine sugar
2 cups whole milk
3 cups heavy cream, plus more for garnish
½ cup bourbon, preferably Maker’s Mark
¼ cup dark rum, preferably Mount Gay
¼ cup Cognac, preferably Rémy Martin Grand Cru
Freshly grated nutmeg, for sprinkling


2. Just before serving, beat whites until stiff peaks form. Fold whites into eggnog. Whisk remaining 1 cup cream until stiff peaks form, and fold into eggnog. (Alternatively, you can fold half the whipped cream into eggnog, and top with remaining half.) Sprinkle with nutmeg. Serves 12.

Note: This recipe contains eggs that are not cooked.