

“One very familiar type of song is the Christmas carol, although it is perhaps a bit out of season at this time. However, I’m informed by my disc jockey friends — of whom I have none — that in order to get a song popular by Christmas time, you have to start plugging it well in advance. So here goes. It’s always seemed to me, after all, that Christmas, with its spirit of giving, offers us all a wonderful opportunity each year to reflect on what we all most sincerely and deeply believe in. I refer, of course, to money. And yet, none of the Christmas carols that you hear on the radio or in the street even attempts to capture the true spirit of Christmas, as we celebrate it in the United States, that is to say, the commercial spirit. So I should like to offer the following Christmas carol for next year as being perhaps a bit more appropriate.”

A Christmas Carol

Merrily

Tom Lehrer (1928–2025)

mf

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time, featuring a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass line uses chords and single notes.

5 F D⁷ G⁷ C⁷ F F⁷

Christ-mas time is here, by gol-ly, dis-ap-pro-val would be fol-ly, deck the halls with

mf

The first system of the vocal and piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts at measure 5. The piano accompaniment includes a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melody with some accidentals, and the bass staff has a simple bass line. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line.

10 B^b B^bm F G⁷ C⁷ F D⁷

hunks of hol-ly, fill the cup and don't say when. Kill the tur-keys, ducks and chick-ens,

The second system of the vocal and piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues from measure 10. The piano accompaniment continues with the same structure as the first system. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line.