



***Laughter
And
Libations***

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Bach's Cantata 191

The Bach Cantata 191, "Gloria in excelsis Deo," dating to 1745, is so obviously Christian that serious re-writing was necessary to make it singable. This version doesn't have a thing to do with the solstice or Yuletide, but it's fun none-the-less.

**Pagans we have heard get high,
Secretly token o're the plains,
And the Mountain states in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.**

**In Colorado . . . and Washington we get stoned.
In Colorado . . . and Washington we get stoned.**

**Legislatures now in jubilee,
With dope taxes to proclaim,
Budgets balanced, yes they be,
Increasing pot sales is our aim.**

**In Colorado . . . and Washington we get stoned.
In Colorado . . . and Washington we get stoned.**

**Come to Washington and see,
The evergreen state where pot is king,
Adore Colorado on bended knee,
Rocky Mountain High has a new meaning.**

**In Colorado . . . and Washington we get stoned.
In Colorado . . . and Washington we get stoned.**

**My woman's to uptight to get laid,
With a booty worthy of praise.
Mary Jane lend your aid,
With my heart I solemnly beg.**

**In Colorado . . . and Washington we get stoned.
In Colorado . . . and Washington we get stoned.**

“One Horse Open Sleigh”

Jingle Bells, written by James Lord Pierpoint, was copyrighted on September 16, 1857 as “One Horse Open Sleigh.” Originally a drinking song, it was written in commemoration of the annual sleigh races in Medford, Massachusetts. Tavern goers were supposed to jingle the ice in their glasses while singing and the double meaning of “upsot” was thought to be humorous.

**Dashing through the snow,
In a one horse open sleigh,
Over the fields we go,
Laughing all the way.**

**Bells on bobtail ring,
Making spirits bright,
What fun it is to ride and sing,
A sleighing song tonight!**

**Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
in a one horse open sleigh.**

**A day or two ago,
I thought I’d take a ride,
And soon Miss Fanny Bright,
Was seated by my side.**

**The horse was lean and lank,
Misfortune seemed his lot,
He got into a drifted back,
And we got upsot!**

**Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
in a one horse open sleigh.**

**A day or two ago,
A story I must tell,
I went out in the snow,
And on my back I fell.**

**A gent was riding by,
In a one horse open sleigh,
He laughed as there I sprawling lie,
But quickly drove away.**

**Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
in a one horse open sleigh.**

**Now, the ground is white,
So go it while you’re young.
Take the girls tonight,
And sing this sleighing song.**

**Just get a bobtailed bay,
Two-forty for his speed,
Hitch him to an open sleigh,
And Crack! You’ll take the lead.**

**Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
in a one horse open sleigh.**

“I’ll be Home for Christmas”

Most Christians don’t realize that Yule is a Pagan holiday associated with pre-Christian Germanic peoples and involves Odin leading everyone on a wild hunt. Substituting ‘Christmas’ with solstice and Yuletide leaves other carolers thinking you’re simply singing an alternate version of a song. A good example of how this works, is the carol, “I’ll be Home for Christmas,” recorded by Bing Crosby in 1943.

**I’ll be home for ~~Christmas~~ Yuletide,
You can plan on me.
Please have snow and mistletoe,
And presents on the tree.**

**~~Christmas~~ Solstice Eve will find me,
Where the love light gleams.
I’ll be home for ~~Christmas~~ Yuletide,
If only in my dreams.**

**I’ll be home for ~~Christmas~~ Yuletide,
You can plan on me.
Please have snow and mistletoe,
And presents on the tree.**

**~~Christmas~~ Solstice Eve will find me,
Where the love light gleams.
I’ll be home for ~~Christmas~~ Yuletide,
If only in my dreams.
If only in my dreams.**

“The Wassail Song”

Wassail is a warm alcoholic drink whose base consists of hot-mulled cider. The drink is traditionally associated with wassailing, a ritual to ensure a good harvest. Wassailers would stop at the land owner’s house to refill their cups, and then consume the liquor while wandering through the orchards singing amongst the trees. Given the reference of singing “among the leaves so green” this ritual was likely preformed at the Vernal Equinox or Beltane, not Yule, when the trees would be bare. How this tune became associated with Christmas is a mystery.

Wassail Recipe: In a large stock pot combine 2 quarts of apple cider, 2 quarts of cranberry juice, and ½ cup of honey. Make a spice bag by tying 5 cinnamon sticks (about 3 inches long each), 2 dozen cloves, and 2 dozen allspice in a piece of cheese cloth and add to juice mixture. Bring to a boil, skimming off froth as necessary. Reduce heat to simmer. Half 2 granny smith apples, remove cores and thinly slice before adding to pot. Simmer 10 min. Add 2 cups of apple flavored brandy, such as Calvados. Serve warm.

**Here we come a-wassailing,
Among the leaves so green.
Here we come a wandering,
So fair to be seen.**

REFRAIN

*Love and joy unto you,
And to your wassail, too.
Goddess bless you and send you a
happy new year.
Goddess send you a happy new year.*

**We are not daily beggars
Who beg from door to door,
But we are neighboring kinfolk
Who you have seen before.**

REFRAIN

**Gentle Lady of this house,
Who wears a golden ring,
Let her bring us a glass of wassail
And we shall better sing.**

REFRAIN

**We have got a little purse
Of stretching leathers skin;
We want a little of your money
to line it well within.**

REFRAIN

**Bless the Master of this house,
Likewise the Mistress too,
And all the little children
That ‘round the table go.**

REFRAIN

**Good Master and Good Mistress
While sitting by the fire,
Think of us poor beggars,
a-wandering in the mire.**

REFRAIN