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# Sassy Girl's Guide to the Holidays

Entertain

## Holiday Harmony

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The holidays: for many it's the best time of the year, full of presents, parties, and a plethora of yummy baked goods, while others feel aggravated once the calendar takes that chilly dip into December. It's a fact that a steady diet of Mariah Carey squealing "Jingle Bells" is enough to send even the happiest of people around the bend. If you're feeling more Scrooge than Santa, you'll enjoy this seasonal sampling of some less-conventional holiday tunes.

### Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy – Bing Crosby and David Bowie

Back in 1977, this unique pairing of the traditional and the modern raised many an eyebrow. How would the staid Bing mesh with the flamboyant Bowie? Turns out, very well thank you! Much like mixing chocolate and peanut butter, there's no rhyme or reason—the end result is pure bliss. This track, a combo of two of the most beloved seasonal standards, has become a classic in its own right.

Best lyric: I pray my wish will come true, for my child and your child too. He'll see the day of glory, see the day when men of good will, live in peace, live in peace again. Peace on Earth, can it be? Can it be?

### Do They Know It's Christmas – Band-Aid

The clanging opening bells, Bono, Duran Duran, Boy George...Sting! It's the grand-daddy of charity singles! Sir Bob Geldof invited all his mates to participate in what turned out to be the who's who of the UK music industry circa 1984. Twenty-three years later, this song still gives goose bumps. Unfortunately, its message is needed as much now as it was back then.

Best lyric: It's Christmastime, There's no need to be afraid. At Christmastime, we let in light and we banish shade. And in our world of plenty we can spread a smile of joy. Throw your arms around the world at Christmastime.

### Fairytale of New York – The Pogues featuring Kirsty MacColl

Nothing says the holidays more than a stinky, drunk Irishman singing a ditty about good times in the Big Apple. This humble tune once thought to be just an Indie gem is now one of the most popular non-traditional holiday anthems around. Grab yourself a pint and slur yourself silly.

Best lyric: You were handsome; you were pretty, Queen of New York City. When the band finished playing, they howled out for more. Sinatra was swinging, all the drunks they were singing. We kissed on a corner then danced through the night. The boys of the NYPD choir were singing Galway Bay, and the bells were ringing out for Christmas Day.

### Trim Up the Tree – How the Grinch Stole Christmas Soundtrack - animated

Kids of all ages (and I'm counting myself in that demo) get a chuckle out of this crazy carol consisting of fabricated vocab from the Dr. Seuss animated television special. It's silly in a totally juvenile way and that's not a bad thing! Top marks for creating lyrics such as "pantookas" and "whiffer bloofs." Why analyze such

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joyous Who-ville fun? It's fantastic and guaranteed to put a smile on the face of the Grinchiest of Scrooges! Best lyric: Trim up the tree with Christmas stuff, Like bingle balls, and whofoo fluff. Trim up the town with goowho gums and bizibix and wums. Trim every blessed window and trim every blessed door. Hang up whobohoo bricks, Then run out and get some more!

#### **A Marshmallow World – Dean Martin & Frank Sinatra**

Imbided a few too many rum and eggnogs? Here's the perfect track for those liquored-up, late-night holiday sing-a-longs. In the live version of this Rat Pack classic, Dean and Frank sound a little too sauced for their own good. The holidays are a time to drink and be merry. Just be careful not to knock over the Christmas tree while you're at it.

Best lyric: It's a marshmallow world in the winter, when the snow comes to cover the ground. It's the time for play, it's a whipped cream day. I wait for it the whole year round.

#### **All I Want for Christmas Is You – Olivia Olson**

Taken from the soundtrack of "Love, Actually", this pop-tastic piece runs rings around the saccharine schmaltz recorded by pariah Mariah. Young Olivia was only 10 years old when she lit up movie screens with this rendition. Like the film it concludes, it's full of energetic optimism just perfect for the ever-hopeful holiday season.

Best lyric: Oh I don't want a lot for Christmas. This is all I'm asking for. I just want to see my baby, standing right outside my door. Oh I just want you for my own. More than you could ever know. Make my wish come true. Baby all I want for Christmas is... you.

#### **I Was Born on Christmas Day – Saint Etienne featuring Tim Burgess**

Take the breathy energy of Sarah Cracknell, add a guest-starring dose of The Charlatans' leading man, Tim Burgess, wrap them up in a big red bow and you've got this Christmas cracker of a tune. The lyrics tell a rambling tale of one couple's antics but it's one of the least seasonal Christmas tunes out there. Saint Etienne co-founder Bob Stanley was actually born on Christmas Day; hence, the title. It's the perfect appetizer for revellers who want a taste of Christmas but not a whole plate full.

Best lyric: Getting groovy after Hallowe'en. Mid-November got back on the scene. I'm so glad that I just got my pay. I was born on Christmas Day.

#### **Christmas with the Devil – Spinal Tap**

Your boyfriend didn't gift you with the number-one choice on your wish list while your family decides it's your turn to whip up the entire Christmas dinner. Sometimes the holidays aren't the cozy fireplace-filled fantasy we're after. For moments of holiday angst, David St. Hubbins, Nigel Tufnel et al have crafted a Christmas nightmare to go with your stocking full of coal.

Best lyric: The elves are dressed in leather, and the angels are in chains. (Christmas with the Devil) The sugar plums are rancid, and the stockings are in flames (Christmas with the Devil).

Written by: Jackie Middleton

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