



Daily Sparkle CD - A Review of Famous Songs of the Past

‘Fascinating Facts’ December 2018

Track 1 Here Comes Santa Claus

Here Comes Santa is a Christmas song written by Gene Autry and Oakley Haldeman. Autry got the idea for the song after riding his horse in the 1946 Santa Claus Lane Parade (now the Hollywood Christmas Parade) in Los Angeles during which crowds of spectators chanted, "Here comes Santa Claus". This inspired him to write a song that Haldeman set to music.

Gene Autry (September 29, 1907 – October 2, 1998), was an American performer who gained fame as a singing cowboy on the radio, in movies, and on television for more than three decades beginning in the early 1930s. Autry was also owner of a television station, several radio stations in Southern California, and the Los Angeles/California Angels Major League Baseball team from 1961 to 1997. From 1934 to 1953, Autry appeared in 93 films and 91 episodes of The Gene Autry Show television series. During the 1930s and 1940s, he personified the straight-shooting hero—honest, brave, and true—and profoundly touched the lives of millions of Americans. Autry was also one of the most important figures in the history of country music. His singing cowboy movies were the first vehicle to carry country music to a national audience. In addition to his signature song, Back in the Saddle Again, Autry is still remembered for his Christmas holiday songs, Here Comes Santa Claus, which he wrote, Frosty the Snowman, and his biggest hit, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer". The town of Gene Autry, Oklahoma was named in his honour.

Track 2 Winter Weather

A little-known song that was, apparently, intended as a Christmas hit, but never made it. Goodman's 1941 band was one of his best, with Big Lou McGarity on trombone, Mel Powell on piano, Dave Tough (by the sound of it) on drums, and Peggy Lee the female vocalist. The male vocalist was Art Lund (aka London)

Peggy Lee (May 26, 1920 – January 21, 2002) was an American jazz and popular music singer, songwriter, composer and actress, in a career spanning six decades. From her beginning as a vocalist on local radio to singing with Benny Goodman's big band, she forged a sophisticated persona, evolving into a multi-faceted artist and performer. She wrote music for films, acted, and created conceptual record albums—encompassing poetry, jazz, chamber pop, and art song.

Benjamin David "Benny" Goodman (May 30, 1909 – June 13, 1986) was an American jazz and swing musician and bandleader, known as the "King of Swing". In the mid-1930s, Benny Goodman led one of the most popular musical groups in America.

His bands launched the careers of many major names in jazz. During an era of segregation, he also led one of the first well-known integrated jazz groups. Goodman continued to perform to nearly the end of his life.

Track 3 Puppet on a String

Puppet on a String is the name of the Eurovision Song Contest-winning song in 1967 by British singer Sandie Shaw. It was her thirteenth UK single release. The song was a UK Singles Chart number one hit on 27 April 1967, staying at the top for a total of three weeks.

Sandie Shaw

Sandie Shaw (born Sandra Ann Goodrich; 26 February 1947) is an English singer. On leaving school, she worked at the nearby Ford Dagenham factory, and did some part-time modelling before coming second as a singer in a local talent contest. As a prize, she appeared at a charity concert in London, where her potential was spotted by singer Adam Faith. One of the most successful British female singers of the 1960s, in 1967 she became the first Briton to win the Eurovision Song Contest with the song "Puppet on a String". After a long and successful career, Shaw announced her retirement from the music industry in 2013.

Track 4 Deck the Halls

Deck the Halls is a traditional Yuletide/Christmas and New Years' carol. The melody is Welsh dating back to the sixteenth century, and belongs to a winter carol, Nos Galan. In the eighteenth-century Mozart used the melody for a violin and piano duet, Sonata No. 18.

Dame Julie Andrews was born in 1935 and is an English film and stage actress, singer, and author. She is the recipient of many screen and theatre awards. Andrews is a former child actress and singer who made her Broadway debut in a 1954 production of *The Boy Friend*, and rose to prominence starring in musicals such as *My Fair Lady* and *Camelot*. In 1957, she made her

television debut with the title role in Cinderella, which was seen by over 100 million viewers. Andrews was in Mary Poppins (1964) and The Sound of Music (1965). From 1964 to 1967, she was the biggest film star in the world, with the additional box office successes of her films The Americanization of Emily, Hawaii, Torn Curtain, and Thoroughly Modern Millie.

In the 1970s, Andrews' film career slowed down following the commercial disappointments of Star!, Darling Lili, and The Tamarind Seed. Andrews' film career had a major revival in the 2000s with the successes of The Princess Diaries, its sequel The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement, the Shrek animated films, and Despicable Me (2010). Her voice, which originally spanned four octaves, was damaged by a throat operation in 1997.

Track 5 With A Song In My Heart

With A Song In My Heart is a show tune from the 1929 Rodgers and Hart musical *Spring Is Here*.

Doris Day (born Doris Mary Ann Kappelhoff, April 3, 1924) is an American actress, singer, and animal rights activist. With an entertainment career that spanned through almost 50 years, Day started her career as a big band singer in 1939. She made more than 650 recordings, making Day one of the most popular and acclaimed singers of the 20th century. Over the course of her career, Day appeared in 39 films. She was ranked the biggest box-office star, the only woman on that list, for four years (1960- 1964). She received an Academy Award nomination for her performance in Pillow Talk. Day made her last film in 1968. She continues to work for animal rights.

Track 6 Land Of My Fathers

Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau is the national anthem of Wales. The title – taken from the first words of the song means "Land of My Fathers". The words were written in 1856 by Evan James and the tune composed by his son, James James, from Glamorgan. James James, the composer, was a harpist who played his instrument in the public house he ran, for the purpose of dancing. The song has been used in the context of a national anthem at official governmental ceremonies and at receptions of the British monarchy. Usually this will be the only anthem sung, and it will be sung only in Welsh. God Save the Queen, the national anthem of the United Kingdom, is sometimes played alongside Hen Wlad fy Nhadau during official events with a royal connection.

Paul Leroy Robeson (April 9, 1898 – January 23, 1976) was an American singer and actor who was a political activist for the Civil Rights Movement. His advocacy of anti-imperialism, affiliation with Communism, and criticism of the US brought retribution from the government and public condemnation. He was blacklisted, and to his financial and social detriment, he refused to

rescind his stand on his beliefs and remained opposed to the direction of US policies. Robeson won a scholarship to Rutgers University, where he was a football All-American and class valedictorian. He graduated from Columbia Law School while playing in the National Football League (NFL) and singing and acting in off-campus productions. After theatrical performances in *The Emperor Jones* and *All God's Chillun Got Wings* he became an integral part of the Harlem Renaissance.

Track 7 I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus

I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus is an American Christmas song with music and lyrics by Tommie Connor. The song was commissioned by Saks Fifth Avenue in 1952 to promote the store's Christmas card for the year, which featured an original sketch by artist Perry Barlow.

The Beverley Sisters were a British female vocal trio, popular during the 1950s and 1960s. The trio consists of eldest sister Joy (born 1924) and the twins, Teddie and Babs (born 1927). Their style is loosely modelled on that of the The Andrews Sisters. Their notable successes have included "Sisters", "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" and "Little Drummer Boy". They are the daughters of George Arthur Chinery and Victoria Alice Miles, who were known as the Music Hall act 'Coram & Miles'.

Track 8 Here We Come A-Wassailing

Here We Come A-wassailing is an English traditional Christmas carol and New Year's song, apparently composed c. 1850. The old English wassail song refers to 'wassailing', or singing carols door to door wishing good health.

Kings College Choir is one of today's most accomplished and renowned representatives of the great British choral tradition. It was created by King Henry VI, who founded King's College, Cambridge in 1441, to provide daily singing in his Chapel, which remains the main task of the choir to this day. Today the choir derives much of its fame from the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast worldwide to millions on Christmas Eve every year, and the TV service Carols from King's which accompanies it.

Track 9 Knock On Wood

Knock on Wood is a song written by M.K. Jerome and Jack Scholl for the film *Casablanca*, where it was performed onscreen by Dooley Wilson. In the film, band leader Sam, played by Wilson, sings the refrain "Who's got trouble? / Knock on wood" at Rick's Cafe American during an early conversation between main character and bar owner Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart) and black market dealer Guillermo Ugarte (Peter Lorre).

Arthur "Dooley" Wilson (April 3, 1886 – May 30, 1953) was an American actor and singer, who is best remembered as the piano-player and singer Sam who sings "As Time Goes By" at the request of Ilsa Lund (Ingrid Bergman) in *Casablanca* (1942). Wilson was a drummer and singer who led his own band in the 1920s, touring nightclubs in London and Paris. In the 1930s he took up acting, playing supporting roles onstage on Broadway and in a series of modest films. His role in *Casablanca* was by far his most prominent, but his other films included *My Favorite Blonde* (1942) with Bob Hope and *Stormy Weather* (1943) with Lena Horne and the Nicholas Brothers.

Track 10 Twistin' the Night Away

Twistin' the Night Away is a song written and recorded by Sam Cooke. It was released as a single in 1962, peaking at number 6 in the UK Singles Chart.

Sam Cooke (January 22, 1931 – December 11, 1964), born Samuel Cook, was an American recording artist, singer-songwriter and entrepreneur. He is commonly known as the King of Soul for his distinctive vocal abilities and influence on the modern world of music. His pioneering contributions to soul music led to the rise of Aretha Franklin, Bobby Womack, Al Green, Curtis Mayfield, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Billy Preston and popularised the likes of Otis Redding and James Brown. Cooke was also among the first modern black performers and composers to attend to the business side of his musical career. He founded both a record label and a publishing company as an extension of his careers as a singer and composer. He also took an active part in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. Cooke was shot dead in 1964, at the age of 33, in a motel in Los Angeles, California.

Track 11 White Christmas

White Christmas is an Irving Berlin song reminiscing about an old-fashioned Christmas setting. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the version sung by Bing Crosby is the best-selling single of all time, with estimated sales in excess of 50 million copies worldwide.

Harry Lillis "**Bing**" **Crosby** (May 3, 1903 – October 14, 1977) was an American singer and actor. Crosby's trademark bass-baritone voice made him one of the best-selling recording artists of the 20th century, with over half a billion records in circulation. A multimedia star, from 1934 to 1954 Bing Crosby was a leader in record sales, radio ratings and motion picture grosses. His early career coincided with technical recording innovations; this allowed him to develop a laid-back, intimate singing style that influenced many of the popular male singers who followed him, including Perry Como, Frank Sinatra, and Dean Martin.

Track 12 There's Always Room In Our House

A hit for Guy Mitchell released in 1951.

Guy Mitchell, born Albert George Cernik (February 22, 1927 – July 1, 1999) was an American pop singer, successful in his homeland, the U.K. and Australia. As an international recording star of the 1950s he achieved record sales in excess of 44 million units and this included six million-selling singles. In the fall of 1957, Mitchell starred in his own ABC variety show, The Guy Mitchell Show.

Track 13 I Love A Lassie (Medley)

I love a Lassie is a traditional Scottish ballad.

Bill McCue OBE was a traditional Scottish singer. In 1982 he was awarded an OBE for his contribution to Scottish music. In 1999 he died aged 65.

Track 14 Take Good Care Of My Baby

Vee reached the high point of his recording career when his recording of the Carole King-penned "Take Good Care Of My Baby" topped the U.S. pop charts in 1961.

Robert Thomas Velline (April 30 1943 – October 24 2016), known as **Bobby Vee**, was an American pop music singer. Vee's career began amid tragedy. On February 3, 1959, the three headline acts in the Show the 'Winter Dance Party'— Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and The Big Bopper—were killed, in the crash of their aircraft in Iowa, while en route to the next show on the tour in Minnesota. Velline, then aged 15, and a hastily-assembled band of North Dakota schoolboys calling themselves The Shadows volunteered for and were given the unenviable job of filling in for Holly and his band at the Show. Their performance there was a success, setting in motion a chain of events that led to Vee's career as a popular singer.

Track 15 Everything's Coming Up Roses

A song from the 1959 Broadway musical Gypsy: A Musical Fable. Introduced in the musical's production by Ethel Merman, "Everything's Coming Up Roses" became one of Merman's signature songs.

Ethel Merman (January 16, 1908 – February 15, 1984) was an American actress and singer. Known primarily for her belting voice and roles in musical theatre, she has been called "the undisputed First Lady of the musical comedy stage." Anything Goes proved to be the first of five Cole Porter musicals in which Merman starred. In addition to the title song, the score included "I Get a Kick Out of You", "You're the Top". She was in the musical Annie Get your Gun which opened on May 16, 1946, at the Imperial Theatre, where it ran for

nearly three years and 1,147 performances. During that time, Merman took only two vacations and missed only two performances because of illness.

Track 16 Once In Royal David's City

Once in Royal David's City is a Christmas carol originally written as poem by Cecil Frances Alexander.

Westminster Cathedral Choir: The establishment of a fine choral foundation was part of the original vision of the founder of Westminster Cathedral, Cardinal Herbert Vaughan. Vaughan laid great emphasis on the beauty and integrity of the new cathedral's liturgy, and regarded a residential choir school as essential to the realisation of his vision. Daily sung Masses and Offices were immediately established when the cathedral opened in 1903, and have continued without interruption ever since. Today, Westminster Cathedral Choir is the only professional Catholic choir in the world to sing daily Mass and Vespers.

Track 17 A Handful Of Songs

This track is a popular song, written by Jay Livingston with lyrics by Ray Evans was published in 1947. The song appeared in the Bob Hope and Jane Russell film, The Paleface, and won the Academy Award for Best Original Song.

Tommy Steele OBE (born Thomas William Hicks, 17 December 1936), is an English entertainer. Steele is widely regarded as Britain's first teen idol and rock and roll star. Steele shot quickly to fame in the UK as the frontman for a rock and roll band, the Steelmen, after their first single, "Rock With The Caveman," reached number 13 in 1956. Steele and other British singers would pick known hit records from the United States, record their cover versions of these songs, and release them in the UK before the American versions could enter the charts.

Track 18 Poetry In Motion

Poetry in Motion is a UK number-one single of 1961, recorded among others by Johnny Tillotson. The song was written by Paul Kaufman) and Mike Anthony, who said that the inspiration for it came from looking up from their work and seeing a procession of young ladies from a nearby school pass by on the sidewalk outside each afternoon.

Johnny Tillotson (born April 20, 1939 in Jacksonville, Florida) is an American singer and songwriter. He enjoyed his greatest success in the early 1960s, when he scored 9 top-ten hits on the pop and country charts including "Poetry In Motion" and the self-penned "It Keeps Right On a-Hurtin".

Track 19 Let It Snow

Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! is a song written by lyricist Sammy Cahn and composer Jule Styne in July 1945. It was written in Hollywood, California during one of the hottest days on record. First recorded in 1945 it has become one of the best-selling songs of all time. Due to its seasonal lyrics, it is commonly regarded as a Christmas song. Yet despite its cheery, holiday feel, it is a love song that never mentions Christmas.

Dean Martin (born Dino Paul Crocetti; June 7, 1917 – December 25, 1995) was an American singer, film actor, television star and comedian. One of the most popular and enduring American entertainers of the mid-20th Century, Martin was nicknamed the "King of Cool" due to his seemingly effortless charisma and self-assuredness. Martin was a major star in four areas of show business: concert stage/night clubs, recordings, motion pictures, and television. Martin's relaxed, warbling crooning voice earned him dozens of hit singles including his signature songs Memories Are Made of This, That's Amore, Everybody Loves Somebody, You're Nobody till Somebody Loves You and Volare. For three decades, Martin was among the most popular acts in Las Vegas. Martin sang and was one of the smoothest comics in the business. In 1965, Martin launched his weekly comedy-variety series, The Dean Martin Show, which exploited his public image as a lazy, carefree boozier. There he perfected his famous laid-back persona of the half-drunk crooner suavely hitting on beautiful women with hilarious remarks.

Track 20 Oh! Carol

Oh! Carol is an international hit written by Neil Sedaka in 1958. Sedaka had dated Carole King when he was still at high school, and she was still called Carol Klein, so he used her name for the song.

Neil Sedaka (born March 13, 1939) is an American pop/rock singer, pianist, and composer. His career has spanned nearly 55 years, during which time he has sold millions of records as an artist and has written or co-written over 500 songs for himself and other artists, collaborating mostly with lyricists Howard Greenfield and Phil Cody.

Track 21 Mary's Boy Child

A hit for Harry Belafonte. It was recorded in 1956 for his album An Evening with Belafonte. It was written by Jester Hairston. A friend asked him to write a song for a birthday party. Hairston wrote the song with a calypso rhythm because the people at this party would be mainly West Indians.

Harold George "**Harry**" **Belafonte**, Jr. (born March 1, 1927) is an American singer, songwriter, actor and social activist. He was dubbed the "King of Calypso" for popularising the Caribbean musical style with an international audience in the 1950s. Belafonte is perhaps best known for singing The

Banana Boat Song, with its signature lyric "Day-O". Throughout his career he has been an advocate for civil rights and humanitarian causes and was a vocal critic of the policies of the George W. Bush Administration. From 1932 to 1940, he lived with his grandmother in her native country of Jamaica. In the 1940s he became interested in American Negro Theatre.

While primarily known for Calypso, Harry has recorded in many genres, including blues, folk, gospel, show tunes, and American standards. As The Beatles and other stars from Britain began to dominate the U.S. pop charts, Harry's commercial success diminished; He supported the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and was one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s confidants. In 2001 he went to South Africa to support the campaign against HIV/AIDS. He was also active in the anti-apartheid movement. In January 2006 Harry said that if he could choose his epitaph it would be, "Harry Belafonte, Patriot.

Track 22 How Far Is It To Bethlehem

This is a traditional English Christmas carol. The lyrics were written by Frances Chesterton and the music is based on a 16th-18th century hymn tune called "Stowey".

St Patrick's Cathedral Choir. The choir of the Cathedral in Armagh has nearly 60 singers. As well as singing for Cathedral services they have sung with Pery Como and Pavarotti. They have also sung at the White House.

Track 23 Who Wants to be a Millionaire?

A song written by Cole Porter for the 1956 film High Society, where it was introduced by Frank Sinatra and Celeste Holm. Whilst looking at expensive wedding presents, the singers decide that they in fact have little desire to be fabulously wealthy. The song also appeared in the 1973 Christmas special of The Goodies television series, The Goodies and the Beanstalk. It later inspired the title of the popular game show Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?

Frank Sinatra (December 12, 1915 – May 14, 1998) began his musical career in the swing era with Harry James and Tommy Dorsey. Sinatra became an unprecedentedly successful solo artist in the early to mid-1940s, after being signed to Columbia Records in 1943. Being the idol of the "bobby soxers", he released his first album, The Voice of Frank Sinatra in 1946. His professional career had stalled by the 1950s, but it was reborn in 1953 after he won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in From Here to Eternity.

He signed with Capitol Records in 1953 and released several critically lauded albums (such as In the Wee Small Hours, Songs for Swingin' Lovers, Come Fly with Me, Only the Lonely and Nice 'n' Easy). He toured internationally, was a founding member of the Rat Pack and kept company with celebrities and

statesmen, including John F. Kennedy. Sinatra is one of the best-selling artists of all time.

Celeste Holm (April 29, 1917 – July 15, 2012) was an American stage, film and television actress. Holm's first major part on Broadway was in William Saroyan's revival of *The Time of Your Life* (1940) however the role that got her the most recognition from critics and audiences was as Ado Annie in the premiere production of *Oklahoma!* in 1943. In 1946 she made her film debut in *Three Little Girls in Blue*, making a startling entrance in a “Technicolor red” dress singing *Always a Lady*. In 1947 she won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in *Gentleman's Agreement*. She was also Oscar nominated for her roles in *Come to the Stable* (1949) and *All About Eve* (1950).

Track 24 Happy Days Are Here Again

Today, the song is probably best remembered as the campaign song for Franklin Delano Roosevelt's successful 1932 presidential campaign. According to *TIME* magazine, it gained prominence after a spontaneous decision by Roosevelt's advisers to play it at the 1932 Democratic National Convention.

Mitchell "Mitch" Miller (July 4, 1911 – July 31, 2010) was prominent in the American music industry. Miller was involved in almost all aspects of the industry, working as a musician, singer, conductor, record producer and record company executive. Miller was one of the most influential people in American popular music during the 1950s and early 1960s, both as the head of A&R at Columbia Records and as a best-selling recording artist with an NBC television series, *Sing Along with Mitch*.

Track 25 Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas is a song introduced by Judy Garland in the 1944 MGM musical *Meet Me in St. Louis*. A family is distraught by their father's plans to move to New York City for a job promotion, leaving behind their beloved home in St. Louis, Missouri, just before the long-anticipated 1904 World's Fair begins. In a scene set on Christmas Eve, Judy Garland's character, Esther, sings the song to cheer up her despondent five-year-old sister, Tootie, played by Margaret O'Brien.

Judy Garland (born Frances Ethel Gumm; June 10, 1922 – June 22, 1969) was an American actress, singer and vaudevillian. Described by Fred Astaire as "the greatest entertainer who ever lived" and renowned for her contralto voice, she attained international stardom throughout a career that spanned more than 40 years as an actress in musical and dramatic roles, as a recording artist and on the concert stage. She was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actress for her role in the remake of *A Star is Born*.

After appearing in vaudeville with her two older sisters, Garland was signed to

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer as a teenager. There she made more than two dozen films, including nine with Mickey Rooney and the 1939 film with which she would be most identified, *The Wizard of Oz*. Despite her professional triumphs, Garland struggled immensely in her personal life, starting from when she was a child. Her self-image was strongly influenced by film executives, who said she was unattractive and constantly manipulated her onscreen physical appearance. She was plagued by financial instability, often owing hundreds of thousands of dollars in back taxes. She married five times. She also had a long battle with drugs and alcohol, which ultimately led to her death at the age of 47.

Track 26 Top Hat, White Tie & Tails

Top Hat, White Tie and Tails is a popular song written by Irving Berlin for the 1935 film *Top Hat*, where it was introduced by Fred Astaire. The song title refers to the formal wear required on a party invitation, top hat, white tie, and a tailcoat.

Fred Astaire (born Frederick Austerlitz; May 10, 1899 – June 22, 1987) was an American film and Broadway stage dancer, choreographer, singer and actor. His stage and subsequent film career spanned a total of 76 years, during which he made 31 musical films. He was named the fifth Greatest Male Star of All Time by the American Film Institute. He is particularly associated with Ginger Rogers, with whom he made ten films. Gene Kelly, another major innovator in filmed dance, said that "the history of dance on film begins with Astaire".

Track 27 The Loveliest Night of the Year

The Loveliest Night of the Year is a popular song. The music was first published as a waltz called "Sobre las olas" ("Over the Waves") in 1888 written by Juventino P. Rosas. In 1950 the music was adapted by Irving Aaronson with lyrics by Paul Francis Webster for the movie *The Great Caruso*. It was sung by Mario Lanza and became one of the most popular songs of 1951.

Mario Lanza (January 31, 1921 – October 7, 1959) was an American tenor, actor, and Hollywood movie star of the late 1940s and the 1950s. After appearing at the Hollywood Bowl in 1947, Lanza signed a seven-year contract with MGM's head, Louis B. Mayer, who saw his performance and was impressed by his singing. His movie debut was in *That Midnight Kiss* (1949) with Kathryn Grayson and Ethel Barrymore. The following year, in *The Toast of New Orleans*, his song "Be My Love" became his first million-selling hit. In 1951, he played the role of Enrico Caruso his tenor idol, in the biopic, *The Great Caruso*, with the song "The Loveliest Night of the Year". Lanza was known to be "rebellious, tough, and ambitious", and during most of his film career, he suffered from addictions to overeating and alcohol which had a

serious effect on his health and his relationships with directors, producers and, occasionally, other cast members. Hollywood columnist Hedda Hopper writes that "his smile, which was as big as his voice, was matched with the habits of a tiger cub, impossible to housebreak". She adds that he was the "last of the great romantic performers". He died at only 38.

Track 28 Christmas Is Coming

Christmas Is Coming is a nursery rhyme and Christmas carol (frequently sung as a round) The musical version of the rhyme was popularised by The Kingston Trio as A Round About Christmas, on their album The Last Month of the Year. The rhyme also became the basis for the song Christmas Is a-Comin re-written by Frank Luther and performed by Bing Crosby.

Harold George "**Harry**" **Belafonte**, Jr. (born March 1, 1927) is an American singer, songwriter, actor and social activist. He was dubbed the "King of Calypso" for popularising the Caribbean musical style with an international audience in the 1950s. Belafonte is perhaps best known for singing The Banana Boat Song, with its signature lyric "Day-O". Throughout his career he has been an advocate for civil rights and humanitarian causes and was a vocal critic of the policies of the George W. Bush Administration. From 1932 to 1940, he lived with his grandmother in her native country of Jamaica. In the 1940s he became interested in American Negro Theatre.

While primarily known for Calypso, Harry has recorded in many genres, including blues, folk, gospel, show tunes, and American standards. As The Beatles and other stars from Britain began to dominate the U.S. pop charts, Harry's commercial success diminished; He supported the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and was one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s confidants. In 2001 he went to South Africa to support the campaign against HIV/AIDS. He was also active in the anti-apartheid movement. In January 2006 Harry said that if he could choose his epitaph it would be, "Harry Belafonte, Patriot.

Track 29 Jingle Bells

Jingle Bells is one of the best-known and commonly sung American songs in the world. It was written by James Lord Pierpont (1822–1893) and published under the title "One Horse Open Sleigh" in the autumn of 1857. Although not originally intended on having any connection to Christmas, it later became associated with Christmas music and the season in general.

Alton **Glenn Miller** (March 1, 1904 – missing in action December 15, 1944) was an American big band musician, arranger, composer, and bandleader in the swing era. He was the best-selling recording artist from 1939 to 1943, leading one of the best known big bands. While he was traveling to entertain U.S. troops in France during World War II, Glenn Miller's aircraft disappeared in bad weather over the English Channel.

Track 30 Rudolf The Red Nosed Reindeer

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is a song written by Johnny Marks based on the 1939 story Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer published by the Montgomery Ward Company. In 1939 Marks' brother-in-law, Robert L. May, created Rudolph as an assignment for Montgomery Ward and Marks decided to adapt the story of Rudolph into a song.

Harry Lillis "**Bing**" **Crosby** (May 3, 1903 – October 14, 1977) was an American singer and actor. Crosby's trademark bass-baritone voice made him one of the best-selling recording artists of the 20th century, with over half a billion records in circulation. A multimedia star, from 1934 to 1954 Bing Crosby was a leader in record sales, radio ratings and motion picture hits. His early career coincided with technical recording innovations; this allowed him to develop a laid-back, intimate singing style that influenced many of the popular male singers who followed him, including Perry Como, Frank Sinatra, and Dean Martin. Crosby boosted American G.I. morale during World War II and, during his peak years, around 1948, polls declared him the "most admired man alive," ahead of Jackie Robinson and Pope Pius XII.

Track 31 The Twelfth Day Of Christmas

An English Christmas carol that enumerates in the manner of a cumulative song a series of increasingly grand gifts given on each of the twelve days of Christmas (the twelve days that make up the Christmas season, starting with Christmas Day). The song, published in England in 1780 without music as a chant or rhyme, is thought to be French in origin.

Pierino Ronald "**Perry**" **Como** (May 18, 1912 – May 12, 2001) was an American singer and television personality. During a career spanning more than half a century and "Mr. C.", as he was nicknamed, sold millions of records and pioneered a weekly musical variety television show, which proved to be one of the most successful in television history broadcast throughout the world. Also a popular recording artist, Perry Como produced numerous hit records with record sales so high the label literally stopped counting! His combined success on television and popular recordings was not matched by any other artist of the time. Como's appeal spanned generations and he was widely respected for both his professional standards and the conduct in his personal life. One of the many factors in his success was Como's insistence on good taste. Another was his naturalness; the man viewers saw on the screen was the same person who could be encountered behind a supermarket shopping cart, at a bowling alley, or in a kitchen making breakfast.