

The Story of "Silent Night"

"Silent Night" is such an iconic Christmas song that it's hard to imagine it's not some ancient folk tune that wafted out of the mist one wintery night. But the song did not spring from some holly-and ivy-lined fairy glade, instead the origin of the peaceful song comes 200 years ago during a turbulent time in Europe.

The continent was reeling in the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars. Financial scarcity and insecurity abounded, further stoked by fires, floods and famine. But the conflict was, at least, finally over. In 1816, Josef Mohr, a Catholic priest from Oberndorf bei Salzburg, which had just come under Austrian rule, wrote a poem called "Stille Nacht" to commemorate the coming of peace. Then, he put the poem aside for two years. He returned to the poem in the winter of 1818, when the river Salzbach flooded into Mohr's parish church of Saint Nicholas. So the congregation could have music on Christmas Eve, Mohr asked school teacher and church organist Franz Xaver Gruber from the neighboring village of Arndorf to set his poem to music to be sung by two voices and a guitar. Gruber wrote the arrangement in an afternoon.

Because guitar was not an instrument approved by the Church, the duo waited until the conclusion of Christmas Eve mass before debuting the song. Mohr sang tenor and strummed the guitar while Gruber sang bass, with the congregation coming in on the chorus.

The song might have remained a one-night wonder, but when the organ repairman Karl Mauracher arrived, he heard the song and took the sheet music home with him to Tyrol, an area known for its choirs. The choirs began singing the tune, and eventually it was translated and spread around Europe. In 1839, it came to the United States when the Rainer Family Singers toured the New World.

By the 1850s, the carol was so popular and important that the Royal Hofkapelle (court orchestra) in Berlin wanted to trace its origins. The theory was that it may have been composed by Johann Haydn, the brother of well-known composer Joseph Haydn. Eventually, the inquiry made it back to Gruber, who wrote a brief history of the tune called "Authentic Origination of the Composition of the Christmas Carol 'Silent Night.'"

The story doesn't end there. In 1912, according to the Austrian National Tourism Office, sculptor Joseph Mühlbacher wanted to create a memorial to the song's originators. Though paintings of Gruber were made during his lifetime, Mohr always resisted having an image made. So Mühlbacher set about locating Mohr's

grave—yes, his grave—in the town of Wagrain, which was his last posting as a priest. He proceeded to dig up Mohr's skull, using his remains to inform his sculpture of the two men. For several years, the skull remained in storage. When a chapel named after the song was constructed on the site of St. Nicholas church in the 1920s, Mohr's skull was embedded in the wall, where it remains today. Mühlbacher's sculpture of the two men, meanwhile, stands outside the Silent Night Chapel.

The story of “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

God rest ye merry gentlemen' means “Gentlemen, may god keep you in harmony and happiness.” The expression is no longer used other than as the title and first line of the popular Christmas Carol.

Thus knowing the origin of the words would make our Christmas different. Knowing the true meaning of Christmas is pretty much huge. Merry is not Santa Clause and all things cute about Christmas. Some references say that merry is MIGHTY, though research on that has not proven concrete.

The Text of “In Remembrance”

Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow, I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain, I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you wake in the morning hush, I am the swift, uplifting rush of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft starlight at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry. I am not there, I did not die!

The Lyrics to “Nyon Nyon” by Jake Runestad

Nyon nyon, nyon nyon, nyon nyonnnnnn-
Nyon (Nyon, nyon nyon nyon, nyon nyon nyon, nyon nyon, nyon)
Nyon (Nyon, nyon nyon nyon, nyon nyon nyon, nyon nyon, nyon)

Nyon (Nyon, nyon nyon nyon, nyon nyon nyon, nyon nyon, nyon)
Nyon (Nyon, nyon nyon nyon, nyon nyon nyon, nyon nyon, nyon)
See maka hu when ya ba doobe da
See maka hu when ya ba da
See maka hu when ya ba doobe da
When ya ba doobe da da

See maka hu when ya ba doobe da
See maka hu when ya ba doobe da
See maka hu when ya ba doobe da
See maka hu when ya ba doobe da

See maka hu when ya su ba da
See maka hu when ya su ba da
See maka hu when ya su ba da
See maka hu when ya su ba da
Su ba da
Su ba da

Nyon, nyon nyon
Nyon, nyon nyon
Nyon, nyon nyon
Nyon, nyon nyon
Nyon, nyon nyon
Nyon, nyon nyon
Nyon, nyon nyon
Ooit! *Pop*

ti kah, ah sa (wee-ahh, wee-ahh)
Ooit! *Pop* ti kah, ah sa (wee-ahh, wee-ahh)
Ooit! *Pop* ti kah, ah sa (wee-ahh, wee-ahh)
Ooit! *Pop* ti kah, ah sa (wee-ahh, wee-ahh)
See maka hu, when ya ba doobe da
See maka hu, when ya ba da
See maka hu, when ya ba doobe da
When ya ba doobe da
See maka hu, when ya ba doobe da
See maka hu, when ya ba da
See maka hu, when ya ba doobe da
When ya ba doobe da
See maka hu, when ya ba doobe da
See maka hu, when ya ba da
See maka hu, when ya ba doobe da
When ya ba doobe da
See maka hu, when ya ba doobe da
See maka hu, when ya ba da
See maka hu, when ya ba doobe da
When ya ba doobe da

Wa-na na na na na na-na na
Wa-na na na na na na-na na
Wa-na na na na na na-na na
Nyon, nyon, nyon nyon, nyon, nyon nyon, nyon
Nyah! Nee! Ooh! Ah!
When wa wah now, wha now ow whanow anow
When wa wah now, wha now ow whanow anow
When wa wah now, wha now ow whanow anow
When wa wah now, wha now ow whanow anow
When wa wah now, wha now ow whanow anow
When wa wah now, wha now ow whanow anow
When wa wah now, wha now ow whanow anow
When wa wah now, wha now ow whanow anow
When wa wah now, wha now ow whanow anow
When wa ow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow
Wow
Wow
Wow

The Lyrics to “O, My Love’s Like a Red, Rose”

O my Love is like a red, red rose That’s newly sprung in June; O my Love is like a melody that’s sweetly played in tune.

So fair art thou, my bonnie lass, So deep in love am I; And I will love thee still, my dear, till all the seas gang dry.

Till all the seas gang dry, my dear, and the rocks melt with the sun; I will love thee still, my dear, while the sands of life shall run.

So fare thou art, my bonnie love! So deep in love am I, and I will come again, my love, though it were ten thousand mile.

The Lyrics to “The Neighbor’s Chorus” by Jacques Offenbach

Please excuse us, mister, we don’t want to bother, we only want to know
Why do you look so low? Give us all the lowdown,
Did you reach a show-down with your last lady love?
Did she keep you waiting, did she break your date?
Please elucidate, please elaborate

Did she treat you badly, was she very bad?
Did she make you mad? Are you very sad?
Was she a very rich man's daughter
Who showed that she was not all you thought her?
When with your songs of love you sought her,
Were you dowsed with water poured down from above?
Did you beat her, try to choke her till you made her pout?
Did her father take a poker, did he throw you out?
Did you beat her and choke her and knock her all about? Ah!

Fact Check Regarding "Ring Around the Rosie"

The usual story is this: This nursery rhyme began about 1347 and derives from the not-so-delightful Black Plague, which killed over twenty-five million people in the fourteenth century. The "ring around a rosie" refers to the round, red rash that is the first symptom of the disease. The practice of carrying flowers and placing them around the infected person for protection is described in the phrase, "a pocket full of posies." "Ashes" is a corruption or imitation of the sneezing sounds made by the infected person. Finally, "we all fall down" describes the many dead resulting from the disease.

HOWEVER, these "related" references do not seem to appear until approximately 200 years after the song was created.

PSLCES

Plant your feet shoulder width, outside foot slightly forward

Shift your weight forward onto the balls of your feet

Lift your upper body

Cheekbones - Raise them

Eyebrows - Raise them, too

Sparkle - put a sparkle in your eyes

now SING!

Lyrics to "Watch With Me" by Daniel Gawthrop

Tarry here and watch with me.

Blood and body proffered now to sanctify the Paschal lamb.

From warmth and comfort driven now to that most bitter cup.

And as he pled, we slept.

Tarry here and watch with me.

Bowed by sin, yet unredeemed in sorrow, even unto death.

Thy will, not mine, be done this night, in agony he prayed.
And as he bled, we slept.

Tarry here and watch with me.
Friends, a stones throw distance kept; succor sought, by angels given.
A kiss, betrayal, and a cross; the hour is at hand.
And as it fled, we slept.