

A Christmas Stocking Stuffer

Old-Fashioned Christmas Carols
From Anne & Rob Burns as

THE LITTLE DICKENS BAND

1. **Masters in This Hall/Old Noll's Jig**

Anne: voice, guitar; Rob: dulcimer

The words to “Masters in This Hall” were written by William Morris, circa 1860, to a French traditional tune. “Old Noll’s Jig” was published in The Dancing Master in 1702. It complements “Masters in This Hall” and we like to call it “Old Noel’s Jig” to honor the season.

2. **Sans Day Carol**

Anne: voice; Rob: English concertina, voice

This Cornish traditional song celebrates the qualities of the holly tree.

3. **The Holly and the Ivy**

Anne & Rob: voices

Most will recognize the words of this traditional song, but the tune is less well known. We like to sing it for its rollicking jig rhythm.

4. **Greensleeves**

Rob: dulcimer; Anne: guitar

“Greensleeves” dates from late 16th century England and is one of the best known tunes of all time. We feature Rob’s improvised variations on the dulcimer.

5. **Sweep's Hornpipe**

Rob: keyless Irish flute; Anne: pennywhistle

This Irish hornpipe also goes by the name, “Belfast Hornpipe,” but we thought “Sweep’s” sounded more Christmas-y. Don’t forget to have the sweep into your house to clean the chimney for Saint Nick!

6. **In the Bleak Midwinter**

Anne: 1-key flute, voice; Rob: guitar

We use two musical settings of the poem by Christina Rossetti (1830-94). The first three verses are sung to the setting by Gustav Holst (1874-1934) and the fourth verse is to the setting by Harold Darke (1888-1976). We conclude with a reprise of verse 1 to Holst’s tune.

A Christmas Stocking Stuffer was recorded in Michigan at the Troy Historical Museum and the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm.

Anne and Rob thank the museum staffs and trustees for assistance with this project.

Engineer: James Gibeau

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Contact information and liner notes: reasonablefax.com

7. **Joy to the World**

Rob: dulcimer; Anne: 1-key flute

On this piece, we emphasize the percussiveness of the hammered dulcimer with repeated and rolled notes in imitation of kettle drums. The flute takes the part of trumpets with fanfare figures.

8. **God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen**

Anne & Rob: 1-key flutes

This haunting traditional melody called out for variations. We obliged.

9. **Joys Seven**

Rob: voice, English concertina; Anne: voice

We are charmed by the old rustic formulas of telling stories. “Joys Seven” is a great example of a counting song.

10. **Adagio from Opus 5, No. 2 in D**

11. **Allegro from Opus 5, No. 2 in D**

Anne & Rob: 1-key flutes

We often include Baroque music in our Christmas presentations. These movements by Johann J. Quantz capture the holiday spirit.

12. **The Grampound Wassail**

Anne: voice, pennywhistle; Rob: voice, pennywhistle

We found the words and tune to this Cornish traditional song in Everyman’s Book of English Country Songs, edited by Roy Palmer, 1979.

13. **Auld Lang Syne**

Anne: voice, pennywhistle; Rob: guitar

The text of this song was written by Robert Burns (the other) in 1796. For the tune, we have merged two different melodies. We don’t know the origins of the tune for the verse, but have heard it sung by folksinger friends. The tune we used for the chorus is reputed to be the original tune for the poem.