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From the novel by Charles Dickens, see a Christmas Carol. For other purposes, see The Christmas Carol (disambiguation). Weihnachtslieder redirects here. For Cornelius, see Weihnachtslieder, Op. 8 (Cornelius).

This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Non-citations of materials can be challenged and removed. Find sources: Christmas carol - news newspaper book scientist JSTOR (February 2008) (Learn how and when to remove this template message) Christmas carol group in Bangalore, India Kids sang Christmas carols brass band playing Christmas carols Christmas carols in Russia (Belgorod region, 2012) Christmas carol carols (song or anthem) on Christmas Day, traditionally sung at Christmas or during Christmas celebrations. The term noel is sometimes used, especially for French-born carols. Christmas carols can be seen as a subset of the wider category of Arianism. The story of the 1582 published version of the Latin carol Personent hodie The first famous Christmas carols can be traced to 4th century Rome. Latin hymns such as Veni redemptor gentium, written by Archbishop Ambrose of Milan, were strict statements of the theological doctrine of incarnation in opposition to Arianism. Corde natus ex Parentis (From the heart of the father born) Spanish poet Prudentius (d. 413) is still sing in some churches today. In the 9th and 10th centuries, the Christmas Sequence or Prose was introduced in northern European monasteries, developing under Bernard Clervo in a sequence of rhymed stanzas. In the 12th century, the Parisian monk Adam St. Victor began to receive music from popular songs, presenting something closer to the traditional Christmas carol. In the 13th century, France, Germany and, in particular, Italy, under the influence of Francis of Assisi developed a strong tradition of popular Christmas songs in regional native languages. Christmas carols in English first appeared in 1426 by John Audley, a Shropshire chaplain who lists twenty-five Christemas carols probably sung by groups of wassailers who went from house to house. The songs, now known specifically as carols, were originally common songs sung during festivals such as the harvest and Christmas. It was only later that carols began to sing in church, and to be specially associated with Christmas. Many of the carols that have gained popularity today have been printed in Piaë Cantiones, a collection of late medieval Latin songs that was first published in 1582. Early Latin forms of carols such as Christ was born at Christmas, Good Christian people rejoice and the Good King Wenceslas can be found in Book. Adest Adest (O Come all ye faithful) appears in its present form in the mid-18th century, although the words may have originated in the 13th century. The origin of the melody is disputed. Carols became popular after the Reformation in countries where Protestant churches gained notoriety (as well-known reformers such as Martin Luther, they are the authors of carols and encourage their use in worship). This was a consequence of the Lutheran Reformation warmly welcoming music. 19th-century carol books such as Christmas Carols, New and Old (1871) helped make carols popular in the 19th century helped to broaden the popular appeal of carols. First appearance in print God rests ie Merry, gentlemen, First Noel, I saw three ships and Hark! Herald Angels Sing was in the 1833 William Sandys collection Christmas Hymns, Ancient and Modern. Composers such as Arthur Sullivan helped repopularise carols, and it was this period that led to such favorites as The Good King Wenceslas and He Came at Midnight Clear, a New England carol written by Edmund H. Sears and Richard S. Willis. The publication in 1871 of Christmas carols, the New and Old Henry Ramsden Bramley and Sir John Steiner, was a significant contribution to the revival of carols in Victorian Britain. In 1916, Charles Lewis Hutchins published Carols Auld and Carols New, a scientific collection that suffered from short circulation and is therefore rarely available today. The Oxford Hymn books, first published in 1928 by Oxford University Press (OUP), were a particularly successful collection; edited by British composers Martin Shaw and Ralph Vaughan Williams, as well as the cleric and author Percy Dearmer, it has become a widely used source of carols among choirs and church congregations in the UK and remains in print to this day. Singing carols was popularized in the 20th century when OUP published one of the most popular carol books in the English-speaking world, Carols for Choirs. First published in 1961 and edited by David Willcocks and Reginald Jack, this bestseller series has since expanded to a five-volume set. Along with editor John Rutter, compilers included numerous arrangements of carols derived from sources such as Piaë Cantiones, as well as works by contemporary composers such as William Walton, Benjamin Britten, Richard Rodney Bennett, William Mathias and John Rutter. Today carols are regularly singed at Christmas services. Some compositions have words that clearly do not have a religious theme, but are often still called carols. For example, a 16th-century song A Bone, God Wot!, seems to be a garbage song (which is singed while drinking or when requesting ale), but is described in the British Library's Cotton collection as Christmas In 1865, Christmas lyrics were adopted for the traditional English folk song Greensleeves, becoming the world-famous Christmas song What Child is This?. Little research has been done on singing carols, but one of the few sociological studies of caroling in early 21st century Finland has determined that the sources of songs are often misunderstood, and that it is simplistic to suggest caroling is mainly due to Christian beliefs, because it also reinforces the preservation of diverse national customs and local family traditions. The modern caroling practice can be seen in Dial-A-Carol, an annual tradition held by students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where potential audiences call singers to request a speech over the phone. It is not clear whether the word carol is from the French carol or the Latin karula meaning circular dance. In any case the dancing seems to have been abandoned quite early. A typical time of 3/4 (waltz) will usually support the last value. Music Traditionally, carols have often been based on medieval chords, and that is what gives them their uniquely distinctive musical sound. Some carols, such as Personent hodie, Good King Wenceslas and The Holly and the Ivy, can be traced directly to the Middle Ages, and are among the oldest musical compositions that are still regularly sung. The compositions that are becoming popular carols continue. For example, many carols written by Alfred Burt are regularly sung in both sacred and secular settings and are among the most famous modern Christmas carols. Church and liturgical use Almost all famous carols sang in the church only in the second half of the 19th century. (quote necessary) Hymns Ancient and Modern 1861-1874 included several carols. Isaac Watts, the father of the English hymn, wrote Joy to the World, which became a popular Christmas carol, although it is widely believed that Watts wrote it not only for Christmas. Charles Wesley wrote the lyrics to at least three carols, of which the most famous was originally entitled Hark! Like all of Welkin's rings, later edited on Hark! Herald Angels sing. The tune from Felix Mendelssohn's Festgesang cantata in 1840 was adapted by William Cummings in accordance with the words of Wesley. This combination first appeared in Anthems Ancient and Modern in 1861. (quote needed) Silent night comes from Austria. The carol was first performed at Nikolaus Kirche (St. Nicholas Church) in Oberndorf, Austria, on December 24, 1818. More composed the words much earlier, in 1816, but on Christmas Eve brought them to Gruber and asked him to compose a melody and guitar accompaniment for a church service. English translation was in 1871 it was published in the Methodist Hymn. The episodes describe several different episodes of Christmas, except for the birth of Jesus himself, described in Christmas carols, such as: Annus, for example, Gabriel's Message Census of Augustus, a rare subject, but touched in the day when men were counted Daniel Thambyrajah Nils (1964) Annuncia shepherds, for example, While the shepherds watched them, for example, the Czech carol Nesem V News (translated as English, for example, Star of the East Visit the Magi, for example, We are the Three Kings of the Massacre of Innocent People, for example, Coventry Carol Also, some carols describe Christmas events of religious nature, but are not directly related to Christmas. For example: The Good King wenceslas, based on the legend of St. Vincelaus helps the poor man on December 26 (Stephen's holiday) Dean Dong had fun on a high and I heard the bells at Christmas, reflecting on the practice of ringing church bells at Christmas Early examples of This Night Endris This Night Endris, a 15th century English Christmas song discovered by Thomas Wright in 1847. Performed by the U.S. Army Choir.

Problems with playing this file? See the media report. Antiquarians in the 19th century rediscovered the early carols in museums. According to the Encyclopædia Britannica, about 500 were found. Some are wassailing songs, some are religious songs in English, some in Latin, and some are pasta - a mixture of English and Latin. Since most people did not understand Latin, it is implied that these songs were written for church choristers, or perhaps for an educated audience at the royal courts. The most famous survival of these early pasta carols is the head of a boar. The tradition of singing carols outside church services in the early 19th century is best illustrated by Thomas Hardy's novel Under the Greenwood Tree (1872). In England and other countries, such as Poland (kolęda), Romania (kolinda) and Bulgaria (koledari), there is a tradition of carols (formerly known as wassailing), in which groups of singers travel from house to house, singing carols on each, for which they are often rewarded with gifts, money, minced meat or a glass of appropriate drink. The money raised in this way is now usually given to charity. Singing carols in the church was initiated on Christmas Eve 1880 in Truro Cathedral, Cornwall. (see article about nine lessons and carols), and is now seen in churches around the world. The songs, which were chosen for singing in the church, omitted carols, and the words hymn and carol were used almost interchangeably. Shortly before that, in 1878, the Salvation Army, under the leadership of Charles Fry, established Play carols for Christmas using a brass band. Carols can be sung by individual singers, but also often sing larger groups, including professionally trained choirs. Most churches have special services where carols are sing, usually in conjunction with scripture readings about Christ's birth; it is often based on the famous Festival of Nine Lessons and Hymns at King's College, Cambridge. In classical music in the 1680s and 1690s, two French composers included carols in their works. Louis-Claude Dakin wrote 12 noees for the organ. Marc-Antoine Charpentier has written several instrumental versions of the Noeli, as well as one major choral work by Messe de minuit pour No'1. Johann Sebastian Bach has included Christmas carols in his cantatas for Christmas, including his Christmas oratorio. Peter Cornelius included carol melodies in the accompaniment of his song cycle Weihnachtslieder Op. 8. Other examples include: Ralph Vaughan Williams: Fantasy on Christmas Carols, 1912. Victor Hely-Hutchinson: Carol Symphony, 1927. Benjamin Britten: The Ceremony of Hymns (for Choir and Harp), a 1942 poem by Christina Rossetti in the Bleak Midwinter was set to music by Gustav Holst (1905), Harold Darke (1911) and others. Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki widely cites the Christmas anthem Silent Night in his Second Symphony, nicknamed the Christmas Symphony. Star Singers Home Article: Star Boys' Singing Procession in Austria, Belgium and Germany, Christmas is celebrated by some with children dressing up as the Three Kings, carrying a star on the pole. Moving from house to house from New Year to January 6, children sing religious songs and are called star singers. They are often rewarded with sweets or money that is usually given to a local church or charity. C.M.B is written in chalk on the houses they visited. Although it is sometimes taken as a reference to the three kings - Caspar, Melchior and Baltasar - he may have originally represented the words Christ mansionem benedicat (Christ bless this house). For the country of Australia, South Africa and New zealand This section does not refer to any sources. Please help improve this section by adding links to reliable sources. Non-sources of materials can be challenged and removed. (August 2016) (Learn how and when to remove this message template) In Australia, southern Africa and New York, where it's midsummer at Christmas, there's a tradition of Carols at candlelight concerts held outdoors at night in cities and towns across the country, in the weeks leading up to Christmas. First held in Melbourne, Carols by Candlelight is held every Christmas Eve in capital cities and many small towns and cities across Australia. Performers at concerts include opera singers, musical theatre performers and musical singers. People

