

Pagan Yule Carols



Some of these songs are Paganized versions of old favorites, some are secular carols that need no filching.

This booklet is assembled for your singing pleasure with contributions from Coyote Morningstar, Lady Bridget, Lady Sirona & Laertius.

Many of these were published in the Green Egg Yule 1992(?) Songbook attributed to the Greenwood Singers.

Grateful credit is given to the creative lyricists who penned the words where such information is known.

WHERE POSSIBLE
LARGER FONT IS USED

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Yule Fires

Tune: Greensleeves

Author of verses unknown.

Chorus added by Cernowain Greenman

Verse 1:

In ancient days the folk of old
When chilled with fright by winter's cold,
Did kindle up a great Yule fire
With leaping flames in it's great pyre.
(to Verse 2)

Verse 2:

So to entice the waning sun,
To rise again and wider run;
It's fiery course across the sky,
To warm them so they would not die.(Chorus)

Chorus:

Yule Fires light up the night!
Yule fires give us delight!
Yule Fires call back the Sun,
And keep our hearts ever burning! (to Verse 3)

Verse 3:

So we, whose minds now sends a chill,
Of anger in the "e-vil will",
The human conflict, hate and strife,
Which holds a menace over life;
(to Verse 4)

Verse 4:

Would kindle up a flame of love
That we within our hearts may move,
In Yuletide job, with love embrace
And thus abide in peace and grace (Chorus)



What Child Is This, Who Rises Now?

Tune: Greensleeves

What child is this, who rises now
From His Mother's womb returning?
Her children greet most joyously
The sight of His face's bright burning.

Chorus:

This, this is the Sun child born.
The radiant one, the light returned.
Born unto the world again
This child, the promise of summer.

His growing light returns the warmth
That darkness stole from out the Earth.
To bud the leaves, and blossoms bring,
To signal the Spring's rebirth.



Brothers, Sisters, Come to Sing

Tune: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Music by Felix Mendelssohn

Words by Ellen Cannon Reed (1st verse)

Brothers, sisters, come to sing
Glory to the new-born King!
Gardens peaceful, forests wild
Celebrate the Winter Child!
Now the time of glowing starts!
Joyful hands and joyful hearts!
Cheer the Yule log as it burns!
For once again the Sun returns!
Brothers, sisters, come and sing!
Glory to the new-born King!

Brothers, sisters, singing come
Glory to the newborn Sun
Through the wind and dark of night
Celebrate the coming light.
Sun's glad rays through fear's cold burns
Life through death the Wheel now turns
Gather round the Yule log and tree
Celebrate Life's mystery
Brothers, sisters, singing come
Glory to the new-born Sun.



Chestnut Song

(Chestnuts roasting on an open fire)

Lyrics and Music by Mel Torme and Robert Wells

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire,
Jack Frost nipping at your nose,
Yuletide carols being sung by a choir
And folks dressed up like Eskimos.

Ev'rybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe
Help to make the season bright.
Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow
Will find it hard to sleep tonight.

They know that Santa's on his way;
He's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his
sleigh.
And ev'ry mother's child is gonna spy
To see if reindeer really know how to fly.

And so I'm offering this simple phrase
To kids from one to ninety two;
Although it's been said many times, many ways,
"Blessed Yuletide" to you.



We Wish You A Blessed Solstice

Traditional English

We wish you a Blessed Solstice!
We wish you a Blessed Solstice!
We wish you a Blessed Solstice and Happy
New Year!

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;
Good tidings for Solstice and a Happy New
Year!

Oh, bring us a figgy pudding!
Oh, bring us a figgy pudding!
Oh, bring us a figgy pudding and a cup of good
cheer!

We WON'T go until we get some!
We WON'T go until we get some!
We WON'T go until we get some!
So bring some out here!

We wish you a Blessed Solstice!
We wish you a Blessed Solstice!
We wish you a Blessed Solstice and Happy
New Year!



To Drive the Cold Winter Away

(Traditional English)

All hail to the days that merit more praise
 Than all of the rest of the year
 And welcome the nights that double delights
 As well for the poor as the peer
 Sweet blessing attend each merry man's friend
 Each does but the best that he may
 Forgetting all wrongs with poems and songs
 To drive the cold winter away.

Tis ill for the mind to anger incline
 To think of small injuries now
 If wrath be Jusee, don't lend her thy cheek
 Don't let her inhabit thy brow
 Cross out of thy book malevolent looks
 Both beauty and youth's decay
 And spend the long night in honest delight
 To drive the cold winter away.

When the Yule tide comes in like a bride
 With holly and ivy clad
 Twelve days in the year must mirth and good cheer
 In every household is had
 The popular guise is then to devise
 All manner of holiday play
 Both women and men do the best that they can
 To drive the cold winter away.

This time of the year is spent in good cheer
 With neighbors who gather to meet
 Just sit by the fire with friendly desire
 With others in love to greet
 All grudges forgot are put in the pot
 All sorrows aside they lay
 The old and the young do carol this song
 To drive the cold winter away.

A fire is burning
 The long night draws near
 All who need comfort
 Are welcome by here

We'll dance 'neath the stars
 And toast the past year
 For the spirit of solstice
 Is still living here

-We'll count all our blessings
 While the Mother lays down
 With snow as her blanket
 Covering the ground

Thanks to the Mother
 For the life that she brings
 She'll waken to warm us
 Again in the spring

The poor and the hungry
 The sick and the lost
 These are our children
 No matter the cost

Come by the fire
 The harvest to share
 For the spirit of solstice
 Is still living here

This song is sung as a round:

“Voice #1: A fire is burning
Voice # 2: (Fire is burning), etc.

DANCING IN A WICCAN WONDERLAND

Tune: "Walkin' In A Winter Wonderland"

Music by Dick Smith / Words by Alexander & Archer

Verse 1

Pagans sing, are you listenin',
Altar's set, candles glisten,
It's a Magickal night, we're having tonight,
Dancing in a Wiccan Wonderland

Blades held high, censer smoking,
God and Goddess, we're invoking,
Through Elements Five, we celebrate life,
Dancing in a Wiccan Wonderland

Bridge

In a Circle we can light a Yule Fire,
And await the rising of the Sun,
It's the Great Wheel turning for the new year,
loaded with abundance and great fun.

Verse 2

Queen of Heaven, is in Her place,
Triple Goddess, now the Crone Face,
Above and Below, She's the Goddess we know,
Dancing in a Wiccan Wonderland

Now the God, is Provider,
Giving game for our Fire,
Above and Below, He's the Horned One we Know,
Dancing in a Wiccan Wonderland

Bridge

In a Circle we can light a Yule Fire,
And await the rising of the Sun,
It's the Great Wheel turning for the new year,
loaded with abundance and great fun.

Final Verse

Later on, by the fire,
Cone of Power, gettin' higher
It's a Magickal Night we're having tonight,
Dancing in a Wiccan Wonderland



The Holly and the Ivy

Traditional Old English Carol

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown.
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown. (Chorus)

Chorus:

The rising of the sun and
The running of the deer,
The playing of the merry pagans
Sweet singing in the snow.

The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flow'r,
The Goddess bears the Holy Child
Who rises as the sun. (Chorus)

The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood,
The Goddess bears her Holy Child
To give Himself for Her. (Chorus)



The 13 Days of Solstice

Traditional: Old English Carol

(Here is the last verse, which will clue you in on what the rest of the verses are. Enjoy! –Cern)

On the thirteenth day of Solstice,
My Coven gave to me:

Thirteen candles burning,
Twelve cauldrons boiling,
Eleven herbs a-drying,
Ten flowers blooming,
Nine shamans drumming,
Eight tantric lessons,
Seven Books of Shadows,
Six Goddess statues,

Five oaken staves!

Four elements,
Three money spells,
Two pentacles
And a raven in a birch tree.



Day-0 (the Sun is Reborn)

Music: "Day-O" traditional

Words by Tina Galfo

Chorus:

Day-o, Day-o,
Daylight come and the Sun is reborn.
Day-O, day-o.
Daylight come and the Sun is reborn.

Verse 1

Tonight we dance till the morning come.
Daylight come and the Sun is reborn.
Tomorrow we greet the newborn Sun.
Daylight come and the Sun is reborn.

Now is the darkest season of the year, but,
Daylight come and the Sun is reborn.
Now comes the cure for winter's fears, yes,
Daylight come and the Sun is reborn. (Chorus)

Verse 2

The darkness flies before his face.
Daylight come and the Sun is reborn.
Light is returning to this place.
Daylight come and the Sun is reborn.

The Lady has given birth to her son.
Daylight come and the Sun is reborn.
When he grow up they gonna have some fun.
Daylight come and the Sun is reborn. (Chorus)

Verse 3

The season wheel it will forever turn.
Daylight come and the Sun is reborn.
As the fire within, it will ever burn.
Daylight come and the Sun is reborn.

(Chorus 2 Xs)



Deck the Hall

(Traditional Pagan Song)

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,
Fa la la la la, la la la la!
Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa la la la la, la la la la!
Don we now our gay apparel,
Fa la la la, la la la la la!
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,
Fa la la la la, la la la la!

See the blazing Yule before us,
Fa la la la la, la la la la!
Strike the harp and join the chorus,
Fa la la la la, la la la la!
Follow me in merry measure,
Fa la la la, la la la la la!
While I tell of Yuletide treasure,
Fa la la la la, la la la la!

Fast away the old year passes,
Fa la la la la, la la la la!
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,
Fa la la la la, la la la la!
Sing we joyous all together,
Fa la la, la la la la la la!
Heedless of the wind and weather,
Fa la la la la, la la la la!



Silent Night, Solstice Night

Music by Franz Gruber

words by Ellen Cannon Reed

Silent night, Solstice Night
All is calm, all is bright

Nature slumbers in forest and glen
Till in Springtime She awakens again
Sleeping spirits grow strong!
Sleeping spirits grow strong!

Silent night, Solstice night
Silver moon shining bright
Snowfall blankets the slumbering Earth
Yule fires welcome the Sun's rebirth
Hark, the Light is reborn!
Hark, the Light is reborn!

Silent night, Solstice night
Quiet rest till the Light
Turning ever the rolling Wheel
Brings the Winter to comfort and heal
Rest your spirit in peace!
Rest your spirit in peace!



Share The Light

Tune: "The First Noel", Old English Carol

Verse 1

On this Win-ter holiday,
Let **us** stop and recall
That this season is holy
To one and to all.
Unto some a Son is born,
Unto us comes the Sun,
And we know, if they don't,
But that all paths are one. (Chorus)

Chorus:

Share the light, share the light!
Share the light, share the light!
All paths are one on this holy night!

Verse 2

Be it Hanukkah or Yule,
Christmas or Solstice night,
All ce- le- brate the e-ternal light.
Lighted tree or burning log,
Or eight candle flames:
All gods are one god, whatever their
names. (Chorus)



¡El Solsticio!

Tune: "Feliz Navidad", music by Jose Feliciano

Words by Cernowain Greenman

¡El Solsticio!
¡El Solsticio!
¡El Solsticio!
Sea bendijo su año nuevo.

The Solstice has come!
The Solstice has come!
The Solstice has come!
It's time for magick and lots of fun!

I wanna wish you a happy Solstice!
I wanna wish you a happy Solstice!
I wanna wish you a happy Solstice!
From the cauldron of my hearth!



Faunus the Roman Goat-God

(Tune: Rudolph the Red nosed Reindeer)
words by Morven, Jennifer, Roger, Chip, & BG

Faunus the Roman Goat-God
Had a very rigid pr*ck
And if you ever saw it
You would say it's quite a trick
All the other deities
Used to leer suggestively
They always wanted Faunus
To Join in the revelry

Then one frosty Saturnalia
Juno made this call
"Faunus since you're hung so well,
Won't you ring my solstice bell?"

Then all the others pouted
And they muttered jealous-ly
"Faunus, the Roman goat-god
Better save a turn for me!"



Our Lady Moon Shines Softly Down

Tune: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
music by Lewis H. Redner

Our Lady moon shines softly down
To light the Earth below
As we, her children, gather here
Around the Yule fire's glow (Chorus)

Chorus:

We wait for morning's dawning
First light of holy birth
Our Lady turns the wheel of life
Her Son returns to Earth

With joy we'll greet his dawning
A new year has begun
With increased light comes hope so
bright
Reborn in ev'ryone (Chorus)



Our Lady Greensleeves

Tune: "Greensleeves" ("What Child Is This?")
Old English Melody

Midwinter moon is shining bright
The yuletide log is burning.
The people gather 'round tonight
The Sabbath wheel is turning.
Joy! Mirth! The Sun's rebirth!
Now as of old we greet Thee.
Life's ring is the song we sing
Of praises to the Lady.

Tw'as at the feast of bright Beltane
When we all were a-Maying,
Sweet minstrel Queen in Her gown of green
Spring roundelay was playing.
And though now roped in snow
Her wintry garb deceives, for
Be dipped with holly and mistletoe
She is still Our Lady Greensleeves.

So drink ye wassail everyone
Good Pagans all made merry
With wine as red as the reborn Sun,
As red as holly-berry.
Dance, sing, come join the ring,
As Her Yuletide spell she weaves.
Fair Queen, the evergreen,
Sweet lovely Lady Greensleeves.



Gloria

Tune: "Angels We Have Heard On High"
Music: Traditional Old French-English Carol
Words by Ellen Cannon Reed

Snow lies deep upon the Earth
Still our voices warmly sing
Heralding the glorious birth
Of the Child, the Winter King

(Chorus)

Glo - - ria!
In excelsis Deo!
Glo - - ria!
In excelsis De - a!

Our triumphant voices claim
Joy and hope and love renewed
And our Lady's glad refrain
Answers Winter's solitude *(Chorus)*

In Her arms a holy Child
Promises a glowing Light
Through the winter wind so wild
He proclaims the growing Light. *(Chorus)*

Now the turning of the year
Of the greater Turning sings
Passing age of cold and fear
Soon our golden summer brings. *(Chorus)*





Good Pagan Folk Rejoice

Tune: "Good Christian Men Rejoice"

Good Pagan folk rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Give ye heed to what we say
News! News!
Our Lord the Sun is born today
Greet him as the dawn's first light
Bids farewell to dark of night
The Sun returns today
The Sun returns today

Good Pagan folk, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Gather round the Yuletide tree
Peace! Peace!
Hope he brings for you and me
winter's cold is nearly gone
We wait for spring with Joyous song
Our Lord returns to Earth
Our Lord returns to Earth

Good Pagan folk, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice
Praise our Lady, praise her Son
Joy! Joy!
New life they bring to everyone
Dance and sing and merry meet
As the Lord of Light we greet
The Sun returns today
The Sun returns today

O Holy Night! O Holy Dawn!

Tune: "O Holy Night"

Music by Adolphe Charles Adam
Words in 2nd verse by Willowsong

O holy night! The stars shine in their
brightness.
It is the night of the dear Sun Child's birth.
Long lay the world in growing cold and
darkness
'Till He appeared, casting light o'er the Earth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
All nature sings! Oh raise your joyous voices!
Oh night divine! This night the Sun is born!
Oh night divine! Oh night, Oh night divine!

Oh, holy dawn! The clouds are brightly shining.
It is the morn of the Sun king's rebirth.
Long lay the world in barren coldness pining
Til He appeared to awaken the Earth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices.
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Gather round the fires! Oh, raise your joyful
voices!
Oh dawn Divine, when the Sun King is reborn.
Oh dawn Divine. Oh dawn, oh dawn Divine



O Come All Ye Faithful!

Tune: "Adestes Fideles"

Words by Ellen Cannon Reed

O come all ye faithful
Gather round the Yule Fire
O come ye, O come ye
To call the Sun!
Fires within us
Call the Fire above us (Chorus)

Chorus:

O, come, let us invoke Him!
O, come, let us invoke Him!
O, come, let us invoke Him!
Our Lord, the Sun!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee!
Born again at Yuletide!
Yule fires and candle flames
Are lighted for You!
Come to thy children
Calling for thy blessing! (Chorus)



GOD REST YE MERRY PAGANFOLK

Tune: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen;

Words by Anie Burke-Webb

Gods bless ye merry Paganfolk
Let nothing you affright
There's naught but peace will touch us here
On this the longest night.
For our Great Mother will give birth
And turn the dark to light.

Chorus:

*And the Wheel's turning round and round and
round
Turning around
And the Wheel is turning round and round and
round!*

Into the West's fast dimming light
The Dark God must retreat
As all of life must come at last
To death the longest sleep
But our Great Mother then gives birth
The circle is complete
Chorus

At morning's first bright ray of light
Arrives the Sun Child's birth
Returning through the Mother's womb
Life promised to the Earth
Now that our Mother's labor's done
Rejoice with song and mirth
Chorus



Have A Holly Jolly Yuletide

Music by Johnny Marks

Have a holly jolly Yuletide
It's the best time of the year
I don't know if there'll be snow
But have a cup of cheer
Have a holly jolly Yuletide
And when you walk down the street
Say hello to friends you know
And ev'ryone you meet

Oh, ho, the mistletoe
Hung where you can see
Somebody waits for you
Kiss him once for me

Have a holly jolly Yuletide
and in case you didn't hear
Oh, by golly have a holly jolly
Yuletide this year!



O Yuletide Tree

Tune: "O Christmas Tree" (O Tannenbaum")
Traditional

O Yuletide Tree, O Yuletide tree
How lovely are thy branches
O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree
How lovely are thy branches
The thought of you as Yule draws near
Brings joyful tidings of great cheer
O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree
To us you are so lovely

Oh Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree
Evergreen and fragrant
O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree
Evergreen and fragrant
We bring you in our home to be
A sign of life's eternity.
O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree
Forever green and lovely.

O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree
We thank you for your blessings
O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree
We thank you for you blessings
With golden start and twinkling light
You cheer us on this holy night
O Yuletide tree, O Yuletide tree
Thou art most fair and lovely.



Mother Berta's Coming To Town

Tune: "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town"
Music by J. Fred Coots & Haven Gillespie
Words by Steven Posch

Combined Verse:

You better watch out when winter comes nigh
You better not doubt, I'm telling you why,
Mother Berta's coming to town.

She carries a sack made out of a skin
She dumps the toys out and stuffs bad kids in.
Mother Berta's coming to town.

1st Bridge:

She rides on Master Skeggi
A goat whose back is strong
Her beard is grey and scraggly
And her tail is ten feet long!

Single Verse:

With six or eight horns, a moustache or two
Make a mistake, she's coming for YOU!
Mother Berta's coming to town. (next Bridge)

2nd Bridge:

She know with whom you're sleeping
She knows with whom you wake
She knows each thought you're thinking
So don't THINK for Goddess' sake!

Single Verse

So when the winds howl way up above
Listen as she and Skeggi pass by
Mother Berta's coming,
Mother Berta's coming,
Mother Berta's coming to town! (End)

Have Yourself A Merry Little Yuletide

Tune: "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"
Words by Hilda Marshall

Have yourself a merry little Yuletide
Let your heart be light
From now on our troubles will be out of sight
Have yourself a merry little Yuletide
Make the Sabbath gay
From now on our troubles will be miles away

Here we are as in olden days
Happy golden days of yore
Faithful friends who are dear to us
Gather near to us once more

Through the years we all will be together
If the Fates allow
Hang a shining star upon the highest bough
And have yourself a merry little Yuletide now.



Joy to the World, the Sun has Come

Tune: "Joy To The World"

Music by Lowell Mason

Joy to the world, the sun has come!
Let Earth receive her Lord!
Let every heart, prepare Him room,
And all of nature sing, and all of nature
sing,
And all, and all of na- ture sing!

Welcome the Lord, who brings us Light!
The Lady gives him birth!
His living light returneth to warm the
seeds within us!
And wakes the sleeping earth, and
wakes the sleeping earth,
And wakes, and wakes the sleeping
earth!

We light the fires, to greet the sun;
Our light, our life, our Lord!
Let every voice, join in the life's song!
And merry turns the wheel, and merry
turns the wheel,
And merry, and merry turns the wheel!



Moon Of Silver

Tune: "We Three Kings"

Music by John Henry Hopkins

Maiden, Mother, Ancient Crone,
Queen of Heaven on your throne,
Praise we sing Thee, Love we bring
Thee,
For all that you have shown. (Chorus)

Chorus:

O..oh, Moon of Silver, Sun of Gold,
Gentle Lady, Lord so bold!
Guide us ever, failing never,
Lead us in the ways of old.

Maiden, Mother, Ancient Crone,
Queen of Heaven on your throne,
Praise we sing Thee, Love we bring
Thee,
For all that you have shown. (Chorus)

2. Lord of Darkness, Lord of Light,
Gentle Brother, King of Might,
Praise we sing thee, Love we bring
Thee
On this Solstice night. (Chorus)

