

Folk Song: Here We Come A-Wassailing

The origin of "Here We Come A-Wassailing" can be traced back to 17th century England, where it was a traditional song sung during the Christmas and New Year season. Neighbors would go from house to house "wassailing" or singing carols and wishing the inhabitants goodwill and good health. After the visitors finished their song, they were given a drink, usually wassail (a beverage made from hot mulled cider, ale, or wine with spices) or small gifts by their friends at the house.

One of the earliest versions of this carol appeared in print around 1650, with lyrics that were much shorter than those we use today. The first full version recorded appeared in 1760 under the title "A New Christmas Carol," and its popularity quickly spread across Britain.

When 18th century settlers brought this carol to America, they adapted it slightly. Some of the original lines were changed to reflect American culture, while others were added or removed entirely. You might know the version called, "Here We Come A-Caroling."

Today, "Here We Come A-Wassailing" remains a beloved holiday carol that continues to be sung by families and communities all over the world. Whether you're singing it around the Christmas tree, or visiting friends and neighbors on New Year's Eve, this song will always bring joy and cheer to those who hear it!

Here We Come A-Wassailing

from Hark! A Christmas Sampler

Traditional Yorkshire carol

$\text{♩} = 120$ With great joy

Here we come a - was - sail - ing A - mong the leaves so green. []
are not dai - ly beg - gars Who beg from door to door, But
bless the mas - ter of this house Like wise the mis - tress, too, And

5 $\text{♩} = 120$

Here we come a - wand - 'ring So fair to be seen.
we are neigh - bors' chil - dren Whom you have seen be - fore. Love and joy come to
all the lit - tle chil - dren That 'round the ta - ble go.

10

you, And to you your was - sail, too, And God bless you and send you a hap - py New

16

Year, And God send you a hap - py New Year. We God Year.