

“One very familiar type of song is the Christmas carol, although it is perhaps a bit out of season at this time. However, I’m informed by my disc jockey friends — of whom I have none — that in order to get a song popular by Christmas time, you have to start plugging it well in advance. So here goes. It’s always seemed to me, after all, that Christmas, with its spirit of giving, offers us all a wonderful opportunity each year to reflect on what we all most sincerely and deeply believe in. I refer, of course, to money. And yet, none of the Christmas carols that you hear on the radio or in the street even attempts to capture the true spirit of Christmas, as we celebrate it in the United States, that is to say, the commercial spirit. So I should like to offer the following Christmas carol for next year as being perhaps a bit more appropriate.”

## A Christmas Carol

Merrily

Tom Lehrer (1928–2025)

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. The right hand features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with chords, while the left hand plays a simple bass line of quarter notes.

5 F D<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> F F<sup>7</sup>

Christ-mas time is here, by gol-ly, dis-ap-pro-val would be fol-ly, deck the halls with

The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by the lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

10 B<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m F G<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> F D<sup>7</sup>

hunks of hol-ly, fill the cup and don't say when. Kill the tur-keys, ducks and chick-ens,

The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and a bass line. The key signature remains one flat (Bb).