

Christmas Music Trivia

Questions and Answers



1. What holiday song was the first song to be broadcast in space?
Answer: "Jingle Bells." In 1965, Gemini 6 astronauts reported a "low-flying object traveling from the north pole" to mission control. Then, they played "Jingle Bells" over the radio transmission using a harmonica that they smuggled aboard the spacecraft.
2. What holiday was "Jingle Bells" originally written for?
Answer: Thanksgiving. In 1867, James Lord Pierpont wrote the originally titled "One Horse Open Sleigh" to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. In the decades that followed, the song became associated with the Christmas holiday.
3. True or false? "Jingle Bells" was written by the uncle of J.P. Morgan, the American financier.
Answer: True. James Lord Pierpont's sister married Junius Spencer Morgan. They named their son John Pierpont Morgan.
4. What song inspired the parody "All I Want for Christmas Is a Beatle"?
Answer: "All I Want for Christmas (Is My Two Front Teeth)." Don Gardner wrote this song in 1944 for a Christmas concert for his wife's second-grade class. He noted that most of the children had their two front teeth missing. The parody was recorded in 1963 by singer-comedienne Dora Bryan.
5. True or false? Gardner didn't think his song "All I Want for Christmas (Is My Two Front Teeth)" would be a hit.
Answer: True. Gardner sold the song to a New York music publisher who told him, "It'll never be a hit." However, it was immensely popular when it was released by Spike Jones and His City Slickers in 1948.
6. What Christmas song with a color in the title did Elvis sing for his 1968 Christmas TV special?
Answer: "Blue Christmas." This TV special is the only existing video recording of Elvis singing a Christmas song. In 2008, video of country singer Martina McBride was digitally imposed onto the original Elvis video to make it appear as though they are singing a duet. When the duet hit #22 on the charts, it was the first time an Elvis single topped the charts since 1982.
7. A line in "Blue Christmas" goes, "You'll be doing alright with your Christmas of white..." What other Christmas song is this line referring to?
Answer: "White Christmas." The song "Blue Christmas" was released by Elvis 15 years after "White Christmas."
8. What artist first popularized the song "White Christmas"?
Answer: Bing Crosby. Crosby recorded this song in October 1942. It topped the charts for 11 weeks after its release, well past the Christmas season.
9. True or false? The song "White Christmas" was written for the movie of the same name.
Answer: False. The movie *White Christmas* was actually developed in response to the popularity of the song of the same name. The song "White Christmas" debuted in the 1942 film *Holiday Inn*.
10. Who wrote the song "White Christmas"?
Answer: Irving Berlin. According to Berlin, who was a prolific American composer, it was one of his simpler songs, having only 54 words and 67 notes.