

Top 10 Traditional Christmas Songs Sung By Your Favorite Contemporary Artists

Here are some of the best traditional Christmas songs, sung by contemporary Christian artist:

1. "O Come O Come Emmanuel" by House of Heroes from the album, *Season to be Gotee*.
2. "O Come All Ye Faithful" by Big Daddy Weave from *Christ is Come*.
3. "Do You Hear What I Hear" by Future of Forestry from their *Advent Christmas Vol. 2* album.
4. "O Holy Night" by Laura Cooksey, released as a digital single.
5. "The First Noel" by Phil Wickham from his album, *Songs for Christmas*.
6. "Angels We Have Heard on High" by Third Day from their excellent *Christmas Offerings* album.
7. "Silent Night" by Amy Grant recorded on the *O Come All Ye Faithful* album.
8. "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" by Downhere from their Christmas album, *How Many Kings*.

9. "Away in a Manger" by Casting Crowns from *Peace On Earth*.

10. "O Little Town of Bethlehem" by Rebecca St. James from her 2010 *Essential Christmas* album.



Photo by Ken Japp Photography

Jeff and Leah Rybak from Virginia Beach received an award for best Christian Rock at the DMV Christian Music Awards in November. Jeff and Leah are the lead artists of the Contemporary Christian Rock band, Rooted Deep. Rooted Deep also just completed the Godly Music Tour, which included the music of Sincerely Jude and Renaissance Movement



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What You Might Want to Know Before You Go ...

To The Movies

The WHOLE FAMILY

Rise of the Guardians – Jack Frost (voiced by Chris Pine) is reluctant to join the squad of traditional guardians of children that include Santa (Alec Baldwin), the Easter Bunny (Hugh Jackman), the Sandman (does not speak) and the Tooth Fairy (Ida Fisher). However, he joins them temporarily to combat the last-bling bogeyman (Baz Luethgen) (voiced by Jack Black). This is a struggle between the battling archetypes of good and evil over the fate of the world's children. So there are portions of the action that might be too dark and scary for the smallest members of the clan. PG

Wrack It Ralph – Animated feature about the villain (voiced by John C. Reilly) of a video game that wrecks a building which the hero (voiced by Jack McBrayer) continually fixes. After 30 years, the villain is tired of what he does and escapes his game, landing in another game where he fights space bugs as a hero, and in yet another game where he helps a girl race a go-kart on candy racetracks; he also meets a woman (voiced by Sarah Silverman). The film contains mild cartoonish violence and some crude humor. PG

TEENS and OLDER

Life of Pi – After a ship transporting zoo animals sinks, the zoo-owner's son (voiced by Suraj Sharma) is the only human survivor. Just 16 years old, he must lead a flimsy crew of wild animals that include an orangutan, a wounded zebra, a hyena and a Bengal tiger. The film contains a complex treatment of religious faith requiring mature interpretation, potentially upsetting scenes of life-threatening danger and animal aggression, some mildly vulgar wordplay and ecological humor. PG

SkyFall – After getting shot during a mission, James Bond (Daniel Craig) retires to a tropical island while many think he is dead. However, when terrorists attack the MI6 headquarters, Bond comes back. The film contains scenes of intense action violence and torture, implied nonmarital sexual activity, mild sensuality and innuendo as well as some profane and rough language. PG-13

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 – The final episode in the "Twilight" series finds the Cullen clan defending their family against the Volturi after it is discovered that Edward and Bella have a child. The film contains some harsh but bloodless violence, fleeting gore, semi-graphic marital lovemaking with partial nudity and a couple of coarse terms. PG-13

ADULT Viewing

Anna Karenina – Leo Tolstoy's stern morality tale about the destructive nature of adultery has migrated to the big screen. And it unpacks the profound unhappiness that unfolds in the wake of its title character's determination to embrace forbidden love at any cost. This isn't a straight re-creation of the grim Russian morality tale. Rather, the filmmakers decided to tell the story as if it happened on an actual stage with actors, stage cues, the whole bit. Potentially upsetting scenes of life-threatening danger and animal aggression, some mildly vulgar wordplay and fleeting ecological humor. R



Hitchcock – A look at the romance between Alfred Hitchcock (Anthony Hopkins) and his wife Alma Reville (Helen Mirren) and the painstaking process of making one of his most successful films, "Psycho." Contains a moderate amount of sex and nudity, violence and profanity. PG-13

Lincoln – President Abraham Lincoln (Daniel Day-Lewis) spends his final four months in office sparring with all comers, including the legislature, his generals, the Confederacy, his staff and his wife as he tries to pass the 13th Amendment and end the Civil War. The film contains intense, but mostly bloodless, battlefield violence, a scene involving severed limbs, combatation, about a dozen uses of profanity, racial slurs, a couple of rough terms and occasional crude language. PG-13

Red Dawn – Remake of the 1984 film about American teenagers vs. communists. The North Koreans invade Spokane, Washington and take its citizens hostage, imposing martial law. Local teens (Josh Peck, Josh Hutcherson, Adrienne Palicki, Isabel Lucas, and Connor Cruise) name themselves the "Wolfpack" after their high school football team and train in the woods in order to acquire the guerrilla fighting techniques needed to free their city. The film contains some harsh but bloodless violence, fleeting gore, semi-graphic marital lovemaking with partial nudity and a couple of coarse terms. PG-13

Morally OFFENSIVE

Fight – A commercial airline pilot (Denzel Washington) performs an emergency landing in a substantial airline carrying over 100 people and saves almost everyone on board. Although he seems to be a hero who saved dozens of people, an official investigation discovers that he had alcohol in his system during the flight. The film contains a discreet treatment of religious faith, intense disaster scenes, full nudity, a nonmarital situation, drug and abusive alcohol use as well as frequent profane and rough language. R

The Man with the Iron Fists – On the hunt for a hidden treasure of gold, a band of warriors, assassins, and a rogue British soldier descend upon a village in feudal China, where a humble blacksmith boldly defies himself and his fellow villagers. The film's sexual content is extreme and grossly insulting to women. The film contains excessive bloody violence, gruesome images, graphic sexual activity, implied abhorrent sex acts, a prostitution theme, drug use, much rough language and a few crude or coarse terms. R

The Sessions – Based on a true story about California journalist Mark O'Brien (John Hawkes) who was paralyzed below the neck by polio. Stuck in an iron lung, he hires a sex surrogate (Helen Hunt) in order to lose his virginity after consulting with his priest (William H. Macy). The film contains strong sexual content, including graphic scenes of adulterous sexual activity with full nudity, a benign view of nonmarital and abhorrent sex, at least one rough term and occasional crude and coarse language. R

