

# Songbook Holiday

**"Merry Christmas, Darling"**

**"Jingle Bells"**

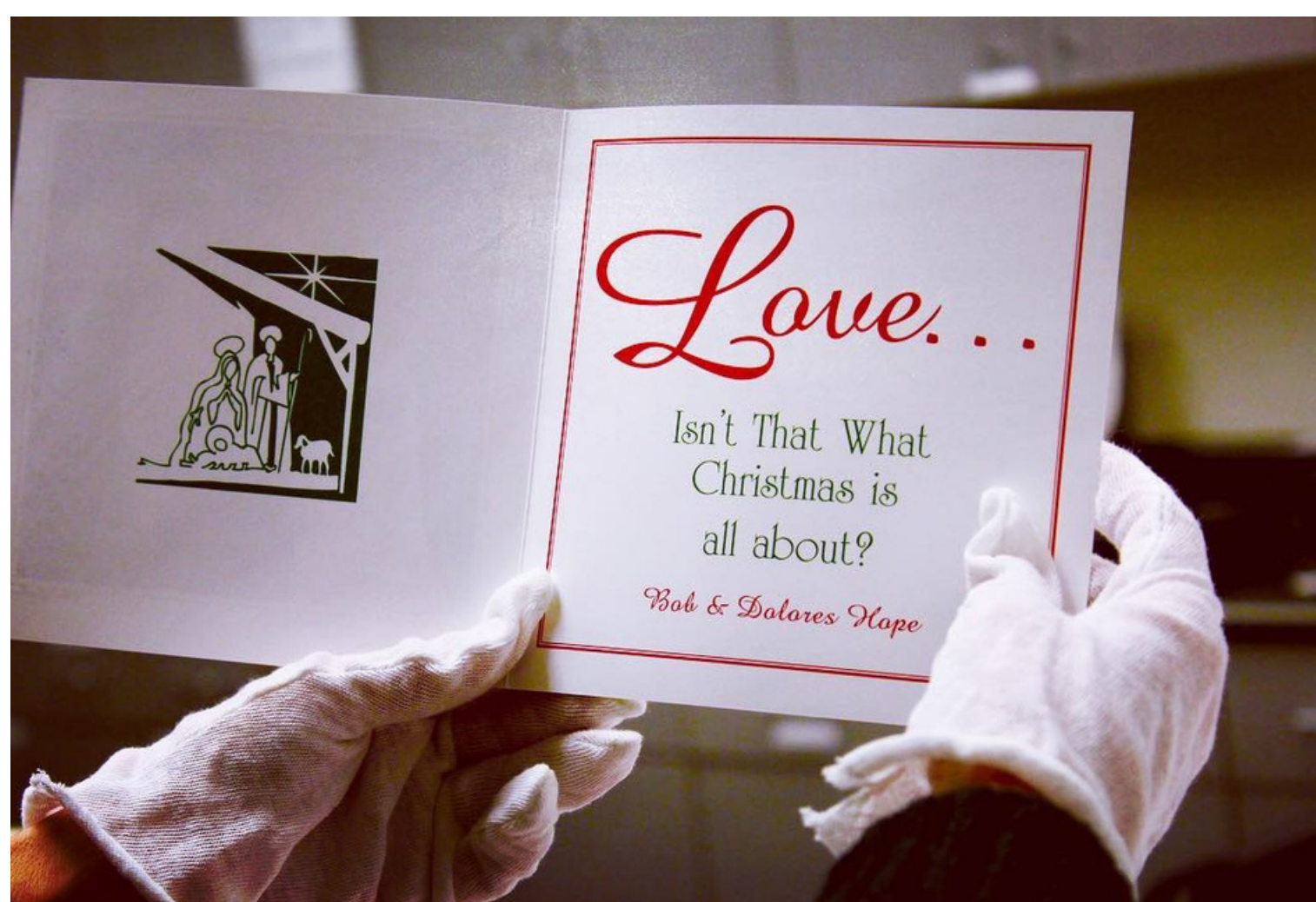
**"Frosty the Snowman"**

**"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"**

**"Winter Wonderland"**

## Holiday Classics of the Songbook

**Celebrate the holiday season with the timeless charm of nostalgic songs from the Great American Songbook. Experience the magic of this musical tradition, where iconic voices and timeless arrangements come together to create a festive soundtrack that captures the spirit of the holiday season.**



**Song: "Merry Christmas, Darling" (1970)**

**Songwriters: Richard Carpenter and Frank Pooler**

***Brief Context:*** The Carpenters' "Merry Christmas, Darling," written by Richard Carpenter and Frank Pooler, is a 1970 single that became a signature hit. Karen Carpenter's emotive vocals and Richard Carpenter's arrangement contributed to its enduring popularity, capturing the sentimental and nostalgic feelings of the holiday season.

***Activity:*** Listening

**What do you need?**

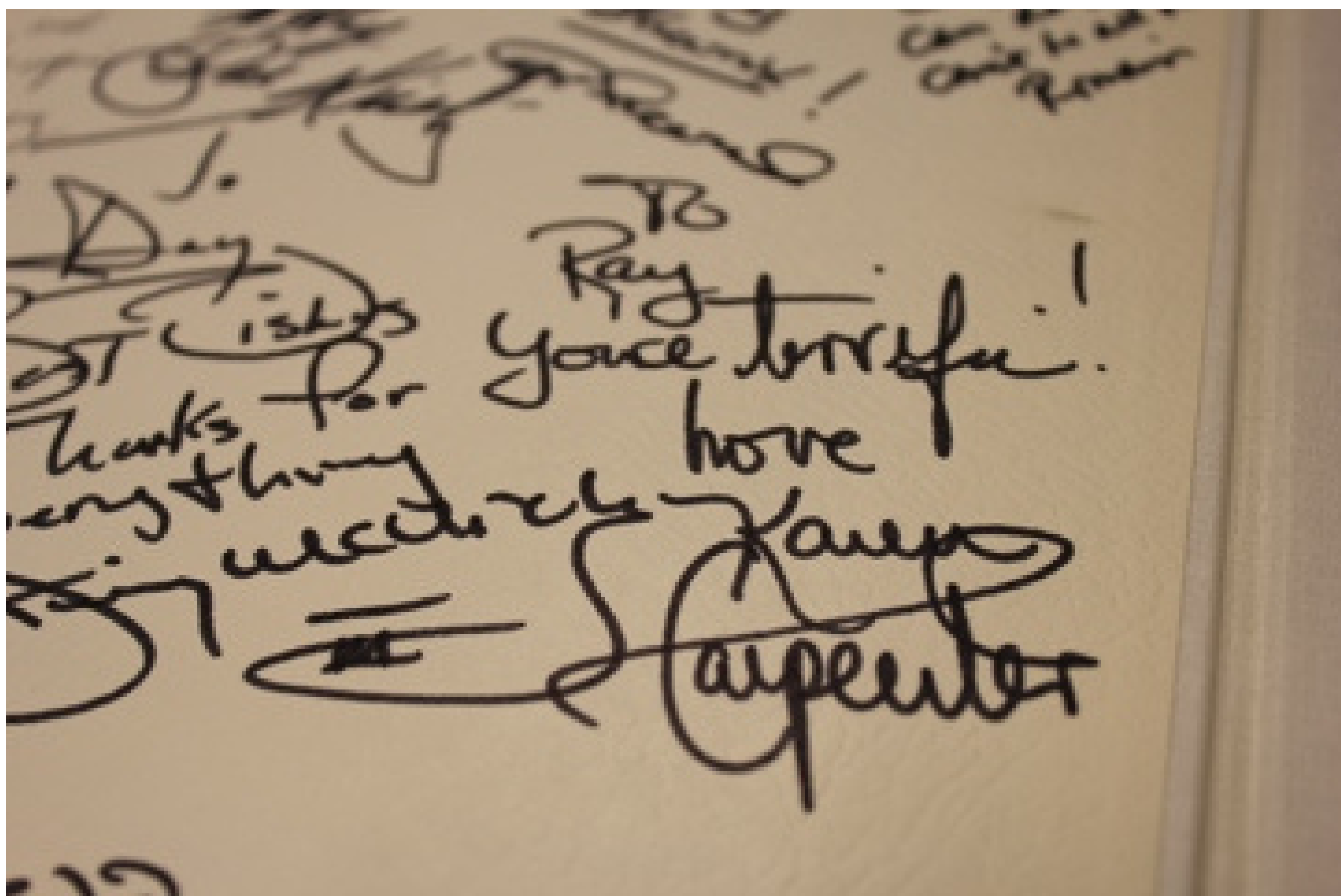
- Perfect Harmony "Merry Christmas, Darling" video

***Songbook Archives Artifact***

After the success of "Christmas Portrait," Richard and Karen Carpenter hosted their second holiday special, "The Carpenters: A Christmas Portrait," on December 19, 1978. The program featured their annual holiday party with family, Gene Kelly, and other guests. The highlight was Karen's performance of the Carpenters' iconic Christmas ballad, "Merry Christmas Darling." Ray Charles, the arranger, directed the musical elements and preserved notes from the cast in his production binder.



# Songbook Archives Artifact



**Ray Charles' production binder for "The Carpenters: A Christmas Portrait" (Songbook Library & Archives)**





**Song: "Jingle Bells" (1857)**  
**Made popular by: Frank Sinatra**

***Brief Context:*** "Jingle Bells" is one of the most well-known and most often sung American songs in the world. Originally called "The One Horse Open Sleigh" by James Pierpont, the 1857 song became connected to Christmas in the 1860s and 1870s and was first recorded in 1889. In 1943 Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters recorded the song. It reached #19 on the charts and sold over a million copies. Glenn Miller, Les Paul, and Benny Goodman would then go on to record their versions of "Jingle Bells."

***Activity:* Singing**

***What do you need?***

- **Perfect Harmony "Jingle Bells" video**
- **Perfect Harmony "Jingle Bells" lyrics**

***Fun Fact***

**"Jingle Bells" became the first song played in space when, on 16 December 1965, it was broadcast during NASA's Gemini 6A space flight. Thomas Stafford, an airforce pilot, and Wally Schirra, a Navy pilot, played the Christmas anthem "Jingle Bells" on a harmonica and miniature sleigh bells just before re-entering Earth's atmosphere.**



# **Jingle Bells**

**Dashing through the snow  
In a one-horse open sleigh  
O'er the fields we go  
Laughing all the way  
Bells on bobtails ring  
Making sprits bright  
What fun it is to ride and  
Sing this sleighing song tonight!**

**Oh! Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
Jingle all the way  
Oh, what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh!  
Hey! Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
Jingle all the way  
Oh, what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh!**

**Song: "Frosty the Snowman" (1950)**  
**Songwriters: Walter "Jack" Rollins and Steve Nelson**

***Brief Context:*** "Frosty the Snowman," written by Walter "Jack" Rollins and Steve Nelson in 1950, narrates the story of a snowman brought to life by a magical hat, engaging in adventures with children. Gene Autry and the Cass County Boys recorded it in 1950, peaking at number 7 on the Billboard pop singles chart. In 1969, the song inspired the animated TV special "Frosty the Snowman," produced by Rankin/Bass Productions. Frosty has become an iconic Christmas figure.

***Activity: Movement***

***What do you need?***

- **Perfect Harmony "Frosty the Snowman" video**

***Suggested Seated Movement***

**Follow Perfect Harmony leader Donna or create your own seated movement!**

**Use movements like . . .**

- **Create an imaginary snowman with your hands**
- **Move your arms like you're skiing**
- **Wiggle your fingers like snow is falling**



**Song: "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" (1943)**

**Songwriters: Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane**

***Brief Context:*** "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" was originally sung by Judy Garland in the 1944 MGM movie musical *Meet Me in St. Louis*. In the movie's memorable scene, Garland's character, Esther, sings the song to cheer up her younger sister, Tootie, who is sad that their family is moving from St. Louis to New York City.

***Activity: Singing and Discussion***

***What do you need?***

- Perfect Harmony "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" video
- Perfect Harmony "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" lyrics

***Suggested Discussion Prompt***

**Who do you think of when you want to wish someone a Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah?**

**You may think of:**

- A child
- A spouse
- A caretaker
- A friend



# **Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas**

**Have yourself a merry little Christmas**

**Let your heart be light**

**From now on**

**Our troubles will be out of sight**

**Have yourself a merry little Christmas**

**Make the Yule-tide 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 Christmas now**



**Song: "Winter Wonderland" (1934)**  
**Songwriters: Felix Bernard and Richard B. Smith**

**Brief Context:** Whether you're hoping for a snowy holiday season or not, it's more than likely that you'll hear "Winter Wonderland" by Felix Bernard and Richard Bernhard Smith at some point during December. Since its original recording in 1934 by Richard Himber, it has been covered by more than 200 artists including Johnny Mathis, Perry Como, Ella Fitzgerald and Tony Bennet. Guy Lombardo's recording was the highest on the charts at its introduction, but the most commonly played version today is the 1987 recording performed by Eurythmics.

**Activity: Listening**

**What do you need?**

- Perfect Harmony "Winter Wonderland" video

**Archives Artifact**

The Songbook Library & Archives houses thousands of pieces of original sheet music including "Winter Wonderland." The inspiration for the song reportedly came from Honesdale, Pennsylvania, where Richard Smith, the lyricist, was inspired by the town's winter beauty.

