

Merry Christmas to all my friends and family. I hope you enjoy this story.

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O Holy Night

One of my favorite songs of all time.

O Holy Night

The song was originally a poem written by a Frenchman, Pacide Cappeau de Roquemaure in 1847. He was asked by a parish priest to compose a poem for the Christmas mass. He was surprised by the request but honored the priest and began to write "Cantique de Noel". He read the book of Luke and began to imagine that he was there and how it must have felt. He was inspired by his own story so much that he felt it worthy of music. He was not musically inclined so he asked a friend to help him.

Composer Adolphe Adam was famous for orchestra works and ballets all over the world but he was a little disturbed when his friend asked him to compose music to something that, as a Jew, was not something he celebrated. Nevertheless, his friend had asked and he complied to his wishes. He finished the work and the song was performed three weeks later at the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve in France. The song became quite popular within the church but was later banned.

Church leaders found out that Adams was a Jew and that Pacide didn't go to church and wasn't a believer. They banned the song from their parishes, yet the song lived on through the people. In 1906, Reginald Fessenden, a University professor, did something that seemed impossible. He spoke into a microphone and for the first time in history, a man's voice was broadcast over the airwaves. He read from the book of Luke about the birth of the Christ child. People heard this and thought it was a miracle from God. After his reading, he played the version of "O Holy Night" on his violin and it became the first song to ever be sent through the air via radio waves. It

was the beginning of a new medium that would take music around the world. The words have changed slightly over the years but still the message from a Jew and a non believer has continued to bring hope and Christ into people's lives. One song, one message, one Holy Night.

O Holy Night

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.
Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was born;
O night, O holy night, O night divine!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!
Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

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