

Christmas Songs for Bowed Psaltery

If I know a song is within a given mode, I know it can be played entirely on the notes on the right side of the psaltery. If a song is pentatonic (melody only contains 5 notes) or hexatonic (melody only contains six notes), the song might fit on the right side of the psaltery starting from more than one place.

All of these songs can be played on the notes on the right side of most psalteries.

Angels We Have Heard On High

C Ionian

Song starts on E and ends on C

Away In A Manger (two versions exist)

C Ionian

Version 1 song starts on a high G and goes down, song ends on a C

Version 2 song starts on a low G and goes up, song ends on a C

Bring A Torch Jeannette Isabella

C Ionian

Songs starts on a G and ends on a C

Deck The Halls With Boughs Of Holly

C Ionian

Song starts on a G and ends on a C

First Noel, The

C Ionian (the song ends on an E but the final chord is traditionally a C)

Song starts on E and can end on E or C above starting E

Friendly Beasts, The (Jesus our brother kind and good)

C Ionian

Songs starts on C and ends on C

Gabriel's Message

Hexatonic (only six notes in the melody)

Song starts on a low A and ends on a D, it also does not use the B note

Go Tell It On The Mountain (two versions possible for right side of psaltery)

Hexatonic (only six notes in the melody)

Version 1 song starts on E and ends on C, does not use the B note

Version 2 song starts on B and ends on G, does not use the F note

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

A Aeolian

Songs starts on an A and ends on an A

Good King Wenceslas

C Ionian

Songs starts on C and ends on C

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

C Ionian

Song starts on a G and ends on a C

Here We Come A Wassailing

C Ionian

Songs starts on C and ends on a C

I Saw Three Ships

Hexatonic

Song starts on a G and ends on a C, does not use the A note

I Wonder As I Wonder (several versions are possible)

Hexatonic

Version 1 song starts on A and ends on G below the starting note A, does not use the B note

Version 2 song starts on A and ends on D, does not use the B note

E Phrygian

Song starts on E and ends on E, the last note before the final E is the F above the E

In The Bleak Midwinter

C Ionian

Song starts on E and ends on C

Jingle Bells

C Ionian

Song starts on E and ends on C

Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

Pentatonic

Version 1 song starts on E and ends on a C

Version 2 song starts on B and ends on a G

Joy To The World

C Ionian

Song starts on high C and ends on low C

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

A Aeolian

Song starts on A and ends on A

Little Drummer Boy, The

G Mixolydian

Song starts on G and ends on G

Lo How A Rose e're Blooming

C Ionian

Song starts on G and ends on C

Nuttin' For Christmas

C Ionian

Song starts on G and ends on C

Ode To Joy (a.k.a. Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee)

Pentatonic

Version 1 starts on E and ends on C

Version 2 starts on B and ends on G

Oh Christmas Tree

C Ionian

Songs starts on C and ends on C

Oh Come All Ye Faithful

C Ionian
Song starts on C and ends on C

O Come Little Children
C Ionian
Songs starts on G and ends on a C

Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel
A Aeolian
Song starts on A and ends on A

Silent Night
C Ionian
Song starts on G and ends on C

Silver And Gold
C Ionian
Song starts on E and ends on C

We Three Kings
A Aeolian Verse
C Ionian Chorus
Verse starts on E and ends on A
Chorus starts on B and ends on C

We Wish You A Merry Christmas
C Ionian
Song starts on G and ends on C