

Decorations and shopping are integral parts of the holiday season, but very often it is the music being played over the airwaves that sets the tone for the festivities to come.

Christmas music has been enjoyed for decades and certain compositions are widely loved and played year after year.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers who compiles lists of the most popular songs, lists “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town” and “Winter Wonderland,” both of which were written in 1934, as the oldest and most popular tunes. The newest popular song is “Wonderful Christmastime,” composed in 1979.

Though personal preference often determines a holiday playlist, the following tunes are of the more popular Christmas songs:

“White Christmas” is the most covered Christmas song of all time. There are more than 500 versions in several different languages.

- “The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)” - Mel Torme, Robert Wells
- “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town” - Fred Coots, Haven Gillespie
- “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” - Ralph Blane, Hugh Martin
- “Winter Wonderland” - Felix Bernard, Richard B. Smith
- “White Christmas” - Irving Berlin
- “Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!” - Sammy Cahn, Jule Styne
- “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” - Johnny Marks
- “Jingle Bell Rock” - Joseph Carleton Beal, James Ross Boothe
- “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” - Walter Kent, Kim Gannon, Buck Ram
- “Little Drummer Boy” - Katherine K. Davis, Henry V. Onorati, Harry Simeone
- “Sleigh Ride” - Leroy Anderson, Mitchell Parish
- “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” - Edward Pola, George Wyle
- “Silver Bells” - Jay Livingston, Ray Evans
- “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” - Johnny Marks
- “Feliz Navidad” - Jose Feliciano
- “Blue Christmas” - Billy Hayes, Jay W. Johnson
- “Frosty the Snowman” - Steve Nelson, Walter E. Rollins
- “A Holly Jolly Christmas” - Johnny Marks
- “I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus” - Tommie Connor
- “Here Comes Santa Claus (Right Down Santa Claus Lane)” - Gene Autry, Oakley Haldeman
- “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas” - Meredith Willson
- “(There’s No Place Like) Home for the Holidays” - Bob Allen, Al Stillman
- “Carol of the Bells” - Peter J. Wilhousky, Mykola Leontovich
- “Santa Baby” - Joan Ellen Javits, Philip Springer, Tony Springer
- “Wonderful Christmastime” - Paul McCartney