

Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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Carol for the Twelfth Day

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Sweet master of this habitation
With my mistress be so kind
As to grant an invitation
If we may this favor find
To be now invited in
Then with mirth we will begin.
Happy sweet and pleasant songs which unto this time belongs.

Chorus

Let every loyal honest soul
Contribute to the wassail bowl.

So may you still enjoy the blessing
Of a loving virtuous wife,
Riches, honour still possessing
With a long and happy life,
Living in prosperity
Then let generosity
Always be maintained I pray.
Don't forget the good old way.

Before the season is departed
In your presence we appear,
Therefore soon be noble hearted
To afford som dainty cheer
Freely let us have it now
Since the season doth allow.
What the house doth now afford
Should be plac'd upon the board

Chorus

Whether it be roast beef or fowl
And liquour well the wassel bowl.

For now it is a time of leisure,
Then to those that kindness show
May they have wealth, peace and pleasure
And the spring of bounty flow
To enrich them while they live
That they may afford to give,
To maintain the good old way
Many a long and happy day

Chorus

Let every loyal honest soul
Contribute to the wassail bowl.

You worthy are to be commended
I in this you will not fail.
Now our song is almost ended
Fill our bowl with nappy ale.
Then we'll drink a full carouse
To the master of this house
Aye and to our mistress dear
Wishing both a happy year,
In peace and love without controul
Who brought Joy to our wassel bowl.

-No. 37 from the MS belonging to Miss. Minnie Davies Gilbert and Mrs. Patience Harding, great granddaughters of the original collector. The MS of Cornish Carols was compiled for Davies Gilbert by John Hutchens about 1826, as cited in: Canow Kernow., ed. Inglis Gundry, The Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, 1966. Pp.18-19.

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