

Up on the Housetop

B.R. Handy

Up on the Housetop, written in 1864, is one of the oldest American secular Christmas songs (only outdone by Jingle Bells, written in 1857). The author, Benjamin Hanby, also wrote the popular "Darling Nelly Gray." Up on the Houstop is based on Clement Moore's 1822 poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

Here are the original lyrics for "Santa Claus," by Benjamin R. Hanby from Chapel Gems for Sunday Schools; Selected from "Our Song Birds" for 1866

1. Upon the house, no delay, no pause
Clatter the steeds of Santa Claus;
Down thro' the chimney with loads of toys
Ho for the little ones, Christmas joys.

CHORUS: O! O! O! Who wouldn't go.
O! O! O! Who wouldn't go,
Upon the housetop, click! click! click!
Down thro' the chimney with good St. Nick.

2. Look in the stockings of Little Will,
Ha! Is it not a "glorious bill?"
Hammer and gimlet and lots of tacks,
Whistle and whirligig, whip that cracks. **CHORUS**

3. Snow-white stocking of little Nell,
Oh pretty Santa cram it well;
Leave her a dolly that laughs and cries,
One that can open and shut its eyes **CHORUS**

4. Here are the stockings of Lazy Jim,
What will the good Saint do for him?
Lo! he is filling them up with bran
There, he is adding a new ratan! **CHORUS**

5. Pa, ma, and Uncle, and Grandma too,
All I declare have something new;
Even the baby enjoys his part,
Shaking a rattle, now bless his heart. **CHORUS**

6. Rover come here, are you all alone,
Haven't they tossed you an extra bone?
Here's one to gladden your honest jaws
Now waga "thank'ee" to Santa Claus. **CHORUS**