

# Jingle Bells

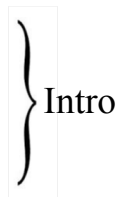
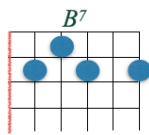
James Lord Pierpont, 1857

Sing and play along with an anonymous but jolly guy @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzXfigN-Jts>

*A*  
Dashing through the snow,  
*D*  
In a one-horse open sleigh.  
*E7*  
O'er the fields we go,  
*E*  
Laughing all the way.  
*E*  
Bells on bobtail ring,  
*D*  
Making spirits bright.  
*E7*  
What fun it is to ride and sing,  
*E*  
A sleighing song tonight!

## CHORUS

*E A*  
Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells,  
*D A*  
Jingle all the way!  
*D A*  
Oh, what fun it is to ride,  
*B7 A*  
In a one horse open sleigh! Hey!  
*A*  
Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
*D A*  
Jingle all the way!  
*D A*  
Oh, what fun it is to ride,  
*E7 A*  
In a one horse open sleigh!



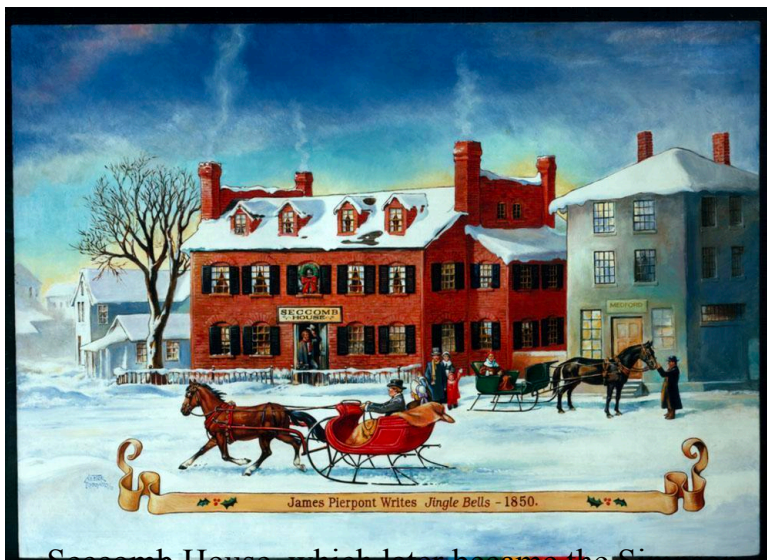
*A*  
A day or two ago,  
*D*  
I thought I'd take a ride;  
*E7*  
And soon, Miss Fanny Bright,  
*A*  
Was seated by my side.  
*D*  
The horse was lean and lank.  
*A D*  
Misfortune seemed his lot.  
*E7*  
He got into a drifted bank,  
*A*  
And then we got upsot.  
*A*  
Now the ground is white,  
*D*  
Go it while you're young.  
*E7*  
Take the girls tonight,  
*A*  
And sing this sleighing song.  
*A*  
Just get a bob-tailed nag,  
*D*  
Two forty for his speed.  
*E7*  
Then hitch him to an open sleigh,  
*D*  
And crack, you'll take the lead!

## CHORUS

*Christmas as you go*

# History

Controversy and competing theories surround the writing of “**Jingle Bells**” by James Pierpont. Some say he composed the song in 1857 in Simpson Tavern in the center of Medford Square for children celebrating his Boston Sunday School Thanksgiving. Some say he wrote the song in Savannah Georgia. What ever the truth may be, it was well received from the beginning and has been a Christmas song ever since.



Seccomb House, which later became the Simpson Tavern, Medford.

Illustration by Nestor Redondo, [www.wbur.org](http://www.wbur.org)

It's a humorous picture of the sleigh races between Medford and Malden Squares in Boston. The sleigh drivers were typically young men and often as interested in wooing young ladies as focusing on racing. James Pierpont was one of those drivers.

A plaque commemorating the "birthplace" of "Jingle Bells" adorns the side of a building in Medford, Massachusetts.

Music historian James Fuld notes that "the word jingle in the title and opening phrase is apparently an imperative

verb." However, it is commonly taken to mean a certain kind of bell.

"Jingle Bells" was the first song broadcast from space, in a Christmas-themed prank by Gemini 6 astronauts Tom Stafford and Wally Schirra. While in space on December 16, 1965, they sent this report to Mission Control: "We have an object, looks like a satellite going from north to south, probably in polar orbit... I see a command module and eight smaller modules in front. The pilot of the command module is wearing a red suit..." The astronauts then produced a smuggled harmonica and sleigh bells and broadcast a rendition of "Jingle Bells." The harmonica, shown to the press upon their return, was a Hohner "Little Lady", a tiny harmonica approximately one inch long, by 3/8 of an inch wide.



*Wikipedia and multiple other internet sources*

*Christmas as you go*