

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS

Digital Version - Ages 4-8



TEACHER'S GUIDE

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS

Digital Version - Ages 4-8

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Left to right: Dorothea, Gabriela, Jean-François, Gabi, and Stéphanie

OUR TEAM

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HOST French version

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VERSION 1

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS

Digital Version - Ages 4-8

INTRODUCTION

Dear teachers,

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS is an interactive educational workshop that is divided into 4 parts of 10-15 minutes, offering children aged 4 to 8 the opportunity to learn to sing Christmas carols while discovering winter legends from all over the world. By meeting 3 professional guest singers, the kids explore melody and tricks for singing together. During this process, the children's imagination is stimulated and they are invited to share the songs they have learned with their relatives or schoolmates.

It is important for us to introduce you to our educational intentions and all the necessary educational material in this document, which will allow you to co-create the workshop and live an optimal musical experience with your class.

We wish you a wonderful experience!

Cordially,
The Young Audience Artistic Team of Jeunesses Musicales Canada



Please contact our Music Mediator, Aurélie Négrier, with any questions:
youngaudiences@jmcanda.ca

Age range: 4-8 years old

Duration: +/- 13 minutes per video

Number of participants: 1 class

Languages: offered in French or English

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PRATICAL ADVICE

Listen to the modules before presenting them to your students.

We encourage you to learn and master the workshop's material before presenting it to your students.

Don't hesitate to **stop the video** in order to check that your students are doing what is asked or proposed.

This guide will provide you with leads to deepen the content of each of the videos and allow you to interact with it.

It is important to remind them that **the workshop is interactive, which means that the children are invited to actively participate in the program.**

All audio tracks are provided in this guide. Simply click on the hyperlinks at the bottom right of each page.



WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS

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LITTLE VOCAL WARM-UPS

Here are some ideas to prepare the children for a singing activity.

When we sing, our whole body sings!

It is important that our body and our voice are wide awake and well warmed-up before we start singing.

It only takes a few minutes by following these 3 phases of vocal warm-up!

WAKE UP THE BODY

Stretches

- We stretch by trying to touch the sky with our fingertips.
- We yawn silently and while making noise.
- Shrug and contract the shoulders, then release them while breathing.

Anchor to the ground

- Root yourself in the floor like a tree and make soft movements in all directions with your arms (as if the wind was blowing in our branches).
- The wind blows hard and pushes us forward, then backward, but our roots are solid and we stay firmly anchored in the earth.

Face massage

- We imagine we have a huge piece of gum in our mouth that forces us to make all kinds of faces.
- We massage the face, the temples, the forehead, the cheeks, the sides of the nose, the chin, the neck, and the shoulders.



WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS

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LITTLE VOCAL WARM-UPS (CONTINUED)

WAKE UP THE BREATH

Inhalation

- When I inhale, I breathe air into my nose, my mouth, and my lungs.
- Inhale through the nose, like when you want to smell a flower that smells good.
- Exhale with a sound of exclaimed "AH!" of admiration.

Exhalation (blow)

- To exhale is to let air out. We can let air out gently or heavily.
- Exhale gently by blowing soft like when you make a candle flame flutter without blowing it out.
- Exhale heavily by blowing hard like when you blow out the candles on a birthday cake!

Exhalation (on sound)

- Exhale by imitating a light breeze.
- Exhale by imitating a strong and powerful wind.

WAKE UP THE VOICE

Range: The extent of the voice from the deepest sound to the highest sound we can sing.

- Make siren sounds with your voice while drawing a big circle with your hand.
- Sing your first name while changing the pitch of your voice.
- Play with changing your voice by incarnating different characters.



WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS



PART 1

JULENISSE & HANS

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 1

JULENISSE & HANS

ACTIVITY CONTENT

Gabi wants to find out where the magic of winter comes from!

- Have you noticed that the days get shorter and the sun sets earlier when winter arrives?

The trees lose their leaves and slowly the cold sets in.

Humans have been living with the seasons for a very long time.

- What is your favourite season? Why is that?

All over the world, there are all kinds of celebrations around winter and many legends tell us about winter ...

WHAT IS A LEGEND?

In great-grandmother Gertrude's library, there are many dusty books in which we find all kinds of legends about winter.

- But, in fact, what is a legend?

A legend is a story in which the real and imaginary are mixed.

Maybe by exploring the legends, we will discover the secret behind the magic of winter?

- Do you know any winter legends?

We can think of Santa Claus, elves, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, the yeti, the Old Man Winter ...

Video Duration
15:15 min



WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 1

JULENISSE & HANS

ONCE UPON A TIME

We discover a legend that comes from the scandinavian region (Sweden, Norway).

This is the legend of Julenisse, a generous and prankster elf!

Once upon a time, in the great Swedish forest, there was a tiny, elderly little elf named Julenisse. Legend has it that he wore a long beard and possessed magical powers such as being invisible and talking to animals.

He lived on farms and protected the inhabitants!

A long time ago before Christmas even existed, during the longest and coldest night of the year that we called "**the winter solstice**"; while the farmers slept, our dearest Julenisse the house elf watched over the farm and brought gifts, joy, and luck to the whole household ...

No one has ever seen Julenisse the elf, but everyone secretly dreams of having a lucky charm elf that brings happiness to their long winters!

Keep an eye out, because Julenisse can surprise us at any time!

- Do you too have a holiday elf or a good luck charm?

Let's see how the children's imaginations play out ...

WHAT DOES IT MEAN: SOLSTICE?

The solstice is the ancestor of the 4 seasons you know! Before the existence of the calendar, humans used **the light of the sun or the movement of the moon** to know in which season of the year they were!

In the word **solstice**, we hear the word "sol," which is Latin for sun. Why? We know that the earth revolves around the sun. It makes one complete turn in a year!

Solstice represents a time of the year when the sun shines on the earth in a certain way:

- **The winter solstice** represents the day when the sun sets very early and the night is therefore the longest of the year. It takes place around December 20th. From that moment on, the days will start to get longer.

- **The summer solstice** represents the day when the sun sets very late and the night is therefore the shortest of the year. It takes place around June 20th. From that moment on, the days start to get shorter.



WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 1

JULENISSE & HANS

JULENISSE'S GIFT: HANS THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN

In opening the green gift, Gabi finds a tiny sopranino recorder and a strange message!

Julenisse's magic formula:

"O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum Wie treu sind deine Blätter"

- Are you able to repeat this magic formula?
- Do you know this language?

In a cloud of smoke appears Hans, the Pied Piper of Hamelin.

Hans teaches us that legends are often born from real events that have affected people. From these events, and over the years, all sorts of stories and legends have been invented.

The **legend of Hans** was inspired by an event that occurred in 1284 in Germany in the small town of **Hamelin**. This town was infested with **rats**, much to the dismay of its inhabitants. The legend testifies to the fear of the inhabitants of the town for centuries!

The **Pied Piper of Hamelin** was published in "**German Legends**" in 1816 by the **Brothers Grimm**.

You can discover different versions of the story.
(Click on the [hyperlink to the right](#))

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN GERMANY: THE TRADITION OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The tradition of the Christmas tree comes from the **Middle Ages**. During the winter solstice celebrations in Germany, a tree (often a **spruce** since it remained green and did not lose its needles), a **symbol of life**, was decorated with fruits, flowers, and wheat around December 20th. By decorating the tree with natural offerings, **they were celebrating the sun and the spring that was coming back**.



The Pied Piper of Hamelin
[Complete Version](#)

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 1

JULENISSE & HANS

DELVE DEEPER BY MOVING

Here's a movement activity, to the tune of *Guillot prend ton tambourin*
(Click on the hyperlink to the right.)

- Can you follow the music by clapping your hands?
- Can you hear the tambourine?
- Can you clap the rhythm of the tambourine with your hands?
- Stand up and try to find the sway of the music and mark the beat with you feet!

DELVE DEEPER BY LISTENING

Many artists have been inspired by winter and the solstice to create music or songs. Here are some pieces of music that represent winter.

Have fun listening to them!

(Click on the hyperlink to the right.)

- Do you recognize the instruments you hear?
- Is it an orchestra or a solo instrument?
- What makes you think of winter when you listen to these pieces?

DELVE DEEPER BY WATCHING

The Wonderful Adventures of Nils is a Swedish novel by Selma Lagerlöf.

Originally created to introduce Swedish folklore to young children in Sweden, the story of this little boy has spread all over the world:

The story tells of the adventures of a small Swedish farm boy who is reduced to a tiny size by a goblin's curse and is taken to travel with a flock of wild geese. Nils travels through a large part of Sweden, each stop presenting a new region and bringing about adventures linked to local tales and legends.

Here you will find a film adaptation of this fabulous story.

(Click on the hyperlink to the right.)



DELVE DEEPER BY MOVING
Guillot prends ton Tambourin:
By [l'ensemble Claude Gervaise](#)
By [Terry McDade & The McDades](#)

DELVE DEEPER BY LISTENING
[Claude Debussy – Des pas sur la neige](#)
[Antonio Vivaldi – The Four Seasons - Winter](#)

DELVE DEEPER BY WATCHING
[The Wonderful Adventures of Nils](#)

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 1

JULENISSE & HANS

LET'S SING *OH CHRISTMAS TREE!*

Now, we learn the traditional song *Oh Christmas Tree* in English. Invite the children to follow Gabi and Aurélie in this lesson.

Here are a few tips to help you with any additional learning without the video.

Work on the structure of the song

- What elements are repeated in the melody and rhythm of the song?
- Once you have identified the structure, are you able to follow along and sing it?

For ages 4 to 6

- Provide more opportunities to hear the song.
- Listen without singing or by singing in your head.
- Learn the melody in small sections.
- Little by little, the children will memorize the melody.

For ages 7 to 8

- Increase the number of opportunities to hear the song.
- Listen without singing or by singing in your head.
- Learn the melody in small sections.
- The learning process is a back-and-forth process between the facilitator, the teacher, and the children.

This is an important phase to clearly establish the melody, rhythm, and expressive elements of the song. You can sing the melody using other sounds.

Ex: Lou, Li, Lo, Da, Dou, Tu.



WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 1

JULENISSE & HANS

OH CHRISTMAS TREE - SCORE AND LYRICS

Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree
How are thy leaves so verdant
Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree
How are thy leaves so verdant.

Not only in the summertime,
But even in winter its prime!
Not only in the summertime,
But even in winter its prime!

Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree
How are thy leaves so verdant
Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree
How are thy leaves so verdant.

O Christmas Tree



Oh Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, How are thy leaves so
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, Much pleasure doth thou
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, Thy candles shine out

ver - dant! O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, How
bring me! O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, Much
bright - ly! O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, Thy

are thy leaves so ver - dant! Not on - ly in the
plea - sure doth thou bring me! For ev - 'ry year the
can - dles shine out bright - ly! Each bough doth hold its

sum - mer - time, But ev'n in win - ter is thy prime. O
Christ - mas tree, Brings to us all both joy and glee, O
ti - ny light, That makes each toy to spar - kle bright, O

Christ - mas tree, O Christmas tree, How are thy leaves so ver - dant!
Christ - mas tree, O Christmas tree, Much pleasure doth thou bring me!
Christ - mas tree, O Christmas tree, Thy can - dles shine out bright - ly!

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS



PART 2

LA BEFANA

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 2

LA BEFANA

ACTIVITY CONTENT

Gabi continues her search to discover where the magic of winter comes from.

- Do you remember the gift that Hans the Pied Piper gave us in the first workshop?

Hans gave us a beautiful Christmas tree and a fabulous song in German.

- Can you sing the tune of *Oh Christmas Tree* that you learned?

Gabi is going to look for a new legend in her great-grandmother Gertrude's library.

ONCE UPON A TIME ...

In the red book, we discover an incredibly old legend!

Once upon a time, a long time ago in Italy, there was a very, very, very, very old woman ... Very, very, very, very old, that means she was at least 1000 years old!

This old woman was always walking around with bags full of sweets and treats for the good kids! For the kids who were naughty, she gave them coal! It's hard to say precisely whether this old woman we call La Befana was nice or mean. But the Italian children loved to give her green soup so that she would be nice to them and shower them with candies! La Befana reminds us a little bit of Santa Claus who brings presents to good children. But La Befana offers her gifts on January 6th and not on December 25th like Santa.

- Do you know any witches?

- Are they nice or mean?

- Do you think all witches are bad?

Let the children express their imaginings.

Video Duration
14:15 min



WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 2

LA BEFANA

JULENISSE'S GIFT: LA BEFANA

When Gabi opens the red gift, she finds a broom!

- Have you ever received strange gifts?

Julenisse's magic formula:

"Viene viene la Befana, Viva viva la Befana"

- Are you able to repeat this magic formula?
- Do you know this language?

In a cloud of smoke appears a very old lady who is looking for her broom!

THE LEGEND OF LA BEFANA

The origin of la Befana goes back to well before the arrival of Christianity, so it would be at least 5500 years old! Before being associated with the Magi and the Epiphany, la Befana was embodied in the guise of a goddess who represented the spirit of the ancients who protected Italian homes in winter. If la Befana protected the house, then the harvest would be good!

La Befana presents herself to the Italian peasants under the guise of an old lady with a hooked nose symbolizing a **Mother Nature** tired of having put all her energy into making the earth fertile! She is the promise that spring will return!

Nowadays, Italian children and parents look forward to January 6th to exchange sweets or gifts!

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN ITALY: THE STOCKING TRADITION

A stocking full of sweets for the good kids and loaded with coal for the others! La Befana is quite old and she prefers to offer the first option to everyone. Phew! In Rome, this same Befana walks the piazza Navona, between the stalls of the Christmas market where thousands of stockings of la Befana are hung. Without a doubt in Rome, all children are good! Elsewhere in Italy, in Venice, Florence, Naples, Milan, Lecce, etc., la Befana stockings colour the streets and the houses and make the children happy.



WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS — PART 2

LA BEFANA

DELVE DEEPER BY LISTENING

For a very long time, witches have inspired many music composers.

Have fun listening to them!

(Click on the hyperlinks to the right.)

A witch in classical music

- Do you recognize the instruments you hear?
- Is it an orchestra or a solo instrument?
- What makes you think of a witch when you listen to these pieces?

A witch in song

- What "witch" vocabulary words do you remember from this song?
- What happens to the witch in the song?
- What instruments accompany the song?

Do you know any other songs about witches?



WITCHES IN CLASSICAL MUSIC

Moussorgski, Tableaux d'une exposition
La cabane sur pattes de poule (Baba Yagà)
 Orchestre de Paris

A WITCH IN SONG

I'm a crazy Witch

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS — PART 2

LA BEFANA

DIVE DEEPER BY MOVING

The Broom Dance of the Sorcerer's Apprentice by Dukas

A sorcerer's apprentice tries to animate a broom to do his job: fill a basin with water with buckets. But the broom doesn't want to do anything else...

Listen to the audio and identify the different actions and emotions in Dukas' music.

- The moment when the apprentice tries to enchant the broom.
- The moment when the broom comes to life and starts to move to the rhythm of the music.
- The moment when the apprentice loses control of the bewitched broom.

Once you have identified the 3 key moments, try to mime them to the music.

(1 group plays the sorcerer's apprentice who tries to bewitch the broom and the other group plays the bewitched broom.)

For inspiration, you can watch the excerpt from Walt Disney's Fantasia, in which Mickey plays the role of the sorcerer's apprentice.



DIVE DEEPER BY MOVING

Audio excerpt of the Sorcerer's Apprentice's key moments

Excerpt from Disney's Fantasia

Dukas' The Sorcerer's Apprentice orchestral version

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 2

LA BEFANA

LET'S SING *LA BEFANA VIEN DI NOTTE!*

Now, we learn a version of the traditional song *La Befana vien di notte* in English. Invite the children to follow Gabi and Aurélie in this lesson.

Here are a few tips to help you with any additional learning without the video.

Work on the structure of the song

- What elements are repeated in the melody and rhythm of the song?
- Once you have identified the structure, are you able to follow along and sing it?

For ages 4 to 6

- Provide more opportunities to hear the song.
- Listen without singing or by singing in your head.
- Learn the melody in small sections.
- Little by little, the children will memorize the melody.

For ages 7 to 8

- Increase the number of opportunities to hear the song.
- Listen without singing or by singing in your head.
- Learn the melody in small sections.
- The learning process is a back-and-forth process between the facilitator, the teacher, and the children.

This is an important phase to clearly establish the melody, rhythm, and expressive elements of the song. You can sing the melody using other sounds.



WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 2

LA BEFANA

LA BEFANA VIEN DI NOTTE - SCORE AND LYRICS

La Befana comes at night
on her broomstick she takes flight,
Good kids get a candy bowl,
Naughty ones will get some coal!

Viva viva la Befana!

In the winter starry night
She's above you Don't have fright
She's a lovely witch you'll see
Just be good you'll get candy.

Viva viva la Befana!

La Befana vien di notte

Giovanni Pascoli

Trad Italien

intro G C La Befana G C

mélodie guitare

La Be fa na comes at night
In the win ter star ry night

5

on her broom stick she takes flight
she's ab ove you don't have fright
Good kids get a can dy bowl
She's a love ly witch you'll see

9

AL CODA

choeur

Nau ghty ones will get some coal
just be goog you'll get can dy
vi va vi va la be fa na

13

Guit seule

Vi va vi va la be fa na

17

choeur

pia no pia no pia no pia no pia no pia no pia no pia no

21

la BEFANA

Rall

Vie ne vie ne la be fa na Vi va vi va la be fa na

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS



PART 3

WINTER ANGEL

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 3

WINTER ANGEL

ACTIVITY CONTENT

Gabi continues her research to discover where the magic of winter comes from.

- Do you remember the gift that la Befana gave us in the second workshop?

La Befana gave us sweets that fell from the sky and a rhyme from Italy.

- Are you able to sing *La Befana vien di notte* again?

Gabi will look for a new legend in her great-grandmother Gertrude's library!

Video Duration
12:10 min

ONCE UPON A TIME ...

Today we open the **white book**, like the white colour of the snow that covers everything during winter in Canada.

Once upon a time, in the cold of winter, there was a **snowman**. He was like all snowmen: a carrot for a nose, two buttons for his two eyes, a scarf, and a tuque!

In the coldest part of winter, **he was happy**. Children played around him, had snowball fights, built forst, and dug tunnels! But as the weather got warmer, our snowman started to melt. As he shrank visibly, a little girl who lived there had an idea: **she put the now-tiny snowman in a snow globe** so that he could stay there until the next winter.

Legend has it that the snow globes that decorate houses are populated with characters that bring good luck! That year, the nice little girl received the gift of her dreams ...

- What activities do you like to do in the snow?

- Do you think the little girl's idea to save the snowman was a good one?

- What is your dream gift?

Let the children express themselves freely ...



WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 3

WINTER ANGEL

JULENISSE'S GIFT: THE WINTER ANGEL

When Gabi opens the white gift, she discovers a tuque and mittens! It's a nice invitation to play outside in the snow.

Julenisse's magic formula: "Falalalalalalala"

- Are you able to repeat this magic formula?
- Do you know this language?

It is, in fact, an onomatopoeia that we hear in the traditional Christmas song: "Deck the Halls!"

In a cloud of smoke appears a funny winter angel in a hurry to go play outside!

WINTER LEGENDS OF CANADA

"Legends are the poetry of history." - Henry Raymond Casgrain

The legend told in this part was created for the educational purposes of the workshop. However, there are many legends that tell us the story of this great country of Canada.

Most of these legends originated with **Canada's First Nations people** and then slowly were told by word of mouth and transformed over time with the arrival of immigrants from around the world.

The **diversity of these stories makes us lose track of their origin** and it is often difficult to find out who told the story first. The telling of these legends allows us to better understand our history!

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN CANADA

In Canada, the **holiday season** is like anywhere else in the world: **a time for sharing with friends and family**. Everyone, according to their beliefs or desires, borrows traditions that can be found all over the world: the tree, the tasty yule log, cookies, Santa Claus, gifts...

But the magic of snow in Canada allows us to live the holiday season in natural settings immaculate in white! Many activities are organized outside: ice skating, the enchantment of the decorated and lit houses and streets, ice structures...

- And you, what are the holiday traditions that you know and love?



WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 3

WINTER ANGEL

DIVE DEEPER BY DISCOVERING

The fabulous *Nutcracker* ballet

Every year during the holiday season, in many cities across Canada, you can go to see the magical ballet: *The Nutcracker* by Piotr Illich Tchaïkovski.

- What do you think a ballet is?
- A ballet is a danced musical story!*

The *Nutcracker* is the story of a little girl named Clara who sees the toy she received as a gift come to life and take her to a magical world!

To see an excerpt, click on the hyperlink to the right.

- Do you recognize the instruments you hear?
- Is it an orchestra or a solo instrument?
- What makes you think of winter while listening to these pieces?

DIVE DEEPER BY MOVING

Waltz of the Snowflakes from the ballet *The Nutcracker*

The Waltz of the Snowflakes, composed by Tchaïkovski for the ballet *The Nutcracker*, is a wonderful representation of snowflakes' ballet in the sky ... If you listen carefully, you will hear a children's choir singing along with the orchestra ...

Listen to the audio and identify the different actions and emotions in the music:

- The moment when the snowflakes dance by the thousands.
- The moment when the storm calms down.
- The magical moment when the children walk in the snow!

Once you have identified the 3 key moments, try to mime them to the music.

(1 group plays the children walking in the snow and the other group plays the dance of the snowflakes turning and swirling.)

For inspiration, you can watch the excerpt from the New York Ballet in which you will find the snowflake dancers and the children walking around ...
(Click on the hyperlink to the right.)



DIVE DEEPER BY DISCOVERING
[The Nutcracker](#)
[Piotr Illich Tchaïkovski](#)
[Excerpts from the Bolshoi Ballet](#)

DIVE DEEPER BY MOVING
[Audio excerpt of the Waltz of the Snowflakes' key moments](#)

[Video of the Nutcracker ballet by the New York City Ballet](#)
[Choreographer: George Balanchine](#)

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 3

WINTER ANGEL

LET'S SING *DECK THE HALLS!*

Now, we learn a version of the traditional song *Deck the Halls* in English. Invite the children to follow Gabi and Aurélie in this lesson.

Here are a few tips to help you with any additional learning without the video.

Work on the structure of the song

- What elements are repeated in the melody and rhythm of the song?
- Once you have identified the structure, are you able to follow along and sing it?

For ages 4 to 6

- Provide more opportunities to hear the song.
- Listen without singing or by singing in your head.
- Learn the melody in small sections.
- Little by little, the children will memorize the melody.

For ages 7 to 8

- Increase the number of opportunities to hear the song.
- Listen without singing or by singing in your head.
- Learn the melody in small sections.
- The learning process is developing between the facilitator, the teacher, and the children.

This is an important phase to clearly establish the melody, rhythm, and expressive elements of the song. You can sing the melody using other sounds.

Ex: Lou, Li, Lo, Da, Dou, Tu.



WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 3

WINTER ANGEL

DECK THE HALLS! - SCORE AND LYRICS

Deck the halls with boughs of holly
 Falalalala, lalalala
 Tis the season to be jolly
 Falalalala, lalalala
 Don we now our gay apparel
 Falalalala, lalalala
 Troll the ancient Yule-tide carol
 Falalalala, lalalala

See the blazing Yule before us
 Falalalala, lalalala
 Strike the harp and join the chorus
 Falalalala, lalalala
 Follow me in merry measure
 Falalalala, lalalala
 While I tell of Yule-tide treasure
 Falalalala, lalalala



Deck the halls with boughs of ho lly Fa la la la la la la la la la
 See the bla zing Yule be fore us

Till the sea son to be jo lly Fa la la la la la la la la la
 Strike the harp and join the cho rus

Don we now our gay ap pa rel sure Fa la la Fa la la la la la la
 Fol low me in mer ry mea sure

Troll the an cient of Yule tide ca rol sure Fa la la la la la la la la la
 While i tell of Yule tide trea sure

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS



PART 4

ENSEMBLE ALKEMIA

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS — PART 4

ENSEMBLE ALKEMIA

ACTIVITY CONTENT

Gabi will finally discover where the magic that surrounds winter comes from!

- Do you remember all the legendary encounters we had?

We met Hans the Pied Piper of Hamelin and we sang Oh Christmas Tree!

We met la Befana and we sang La Befana vien di notte!

We met the little one dressed as a Winter Angel and we sang Deck the Halls!

Gabi will look for a new legend in her great-grandmother Gertrude's library!

ONCE UPON A TIME ...

This time, Gabi chose the golden book ... What legend will it tell us?

Once upon a time, there was a Celtic legend of the winter solstice: for the 12 days between December 25 and January 6, the people of Ireland and Scotland celebrated!

They prepared themselves by going to the market to get butter, eggs, vegetables, meat, spices and dried fruits to make their famous Christmas puddings. They gave each other gifts and organized feasts: banquets around a big bonfire! Singers called "waits" sang the traditional Christmas songs, called "carols." These little choirs would go around singing from house to house in order to bring joy to the inhabitants of the villages.

Legend has it that the villagers would cry tears of joy that would turn into snowflakes and bring the softest snow to the village ...

- Have you ever been lucky enough to have carolers come to your door?
- Do you think carols can bring joy to people's hearts?
- Why or why not?

Let the children express themselves freely ...

Video Duration
11:30 min



WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 4

ENSEMBLE ALKEMIA

JULENISSE'S GIFT: L'ENSEMBLE ALKÉMIA

When Gabi opens her last present, she is surprised to discover a log of wood!

- But what does a log of wood turn into?

Finally, our elf Julenisse shows up!

Thanks to him, we have discovered the mystery of the magic of winter!

- What do you think makes the holiday season so magical and extraordinary?

THE LEGEND OF CELTIC COUNTRIES

In ancient times, the Celtic people lived in France (which was not yet France), in England (which was not yet England), and we still find their traces today, in Ireland, in Scotland, in England, and even in the region of Brittany. In fact, these people were nomads, which means that they travelled a lot. In the Celtic tradition, at the winter solstice, the Oak King, symbol of the Light, won his battle against the Holly King, the king of the Shadow. Both were tree gods, symbols of life.

THE CELTIC HOLIDAY SEASON

The festival of Yule (or Winter Solstice Festival) is part of the Celtic calendar and marks the return of the sun (the days will begin to get longer). Yule symbolizes rebirth and the earth's ability to come back to life. To encourage and celebrate the return of the sun, the Celts decorated their homes with candles to mark the victory of light over the longest night of the year.

- Do you now understand the origin of the name "Julenisse"?

The word Julenisse begins with "Jule" derived from "Yule."

FROM THE WOOD LOG TO THE BUTTER LOG

The Celts burned a log on the solstice of December 21. This huge log of wood, which had to burn for 12 days in the fireplace, was a way to welcome the new year while ensuring a good harvest season. And then with time, the tradition slowly changed and the log of wood was transformed into a delicious pastry!



WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 4

ENSEMBLE ALKEMIA

THE CAROLERS

Ensemble ALKEMIA offers us 3 Christmas carols specific to the tradition of the English carolers.

The carolers go around in small groups to spread the Christmas spirit and joy from house to house. They are often dressed in colorful old-fashioned clothing and wear funny top hats! (Click the hyperlink to the right.)

You have to go back a long way to find the first carolers.

This practice is rooted in antiquity during the winter solstice celebrations. Peasants sang at the doors of the houses of the richest in exchange for a little food. These songs were passed on from generation to generation through oral tradition, that is, before writing was even invented!

DIVE DEEPER BY LISTENING

Now that you have listened to the 3 pieces proposed by the Ensemble ALKEMIA, would you be able to answer these few questions:

- In which languages are the Christmas carols sung?
The songs are all sung in their original language (German, Italian, and English), in French, and in English.
- Do all the singers sing the same thing at the same time?
No, each singer sings his own musical line. This is called polyphonic singing.
- Are the songs happy or sad?
Most of the time, carolers sing songs of hope!
- Are there any musical instruments to accompany the singers?
No. The Ensemble ALKEMIA sings without instrumental accompaniment, i.e. "a cappella."



THE CHRISTMAS CAROLERS
Christmas Carolers - The First Noel

WINTER MUSIC AND LEGENDS – PART 4

ENSEMBLE ALKEMIA

GUIDE TO THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS CAROLER

Dress warmly.

If you have a Christmas hat or a red scarf, don't hesitate to use it.

Find some bells or a tambourine to accompany you.

Gather your family or a small group of friends, because the more the merrier!

Go around the neighborhood ringing doorbells to sing one or more Christmas songs for your dazzled neighbors!

And don't forget: it's important to always start together on the same note! :)

Have fun!





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