



THE RUFF TIMES



Christmas Around the World

Roslin Chen



FRANCE

In France, a Nativity crib made from clay is commonly used as a decoration in homes. In December, some towns and cities sell Nativity figures. Alongside the normal Nativity figures, some scenes have others such as a butcher, a baker, a policeman and a priest.

GERMANY

Instead of exchanging presents on Christmas Day, most Germans exchange presents on Christmas Eve. The Christmas Markets in Germany are famous for selling Christmas-themed food and decorations. It is said the most famous German decorations are glass ornaments.

SWEDEN

One of the biggest celebrations in Sweden around Christmas time is St. Lucia's (or St. Lucy's) Day, on December 13th. St. Lucia was a Christian girl killed for her faith. The name Lucy means "light" and it is told she would wear candles on her head and secretly bring food to persecuted Christians in Rome. This day is now celebrated by a girl dressed in a white dress with a red sash around her waist, and a crown of candles on her head. Some towns and villages choose their own St. Lucia to lead a procession where carols are sung.

SOUTH AFRICA

Due to the fact the country is located in the Southern Hemisphere, Christmas in South Africa is celebrated in the summer. Therefore, the holiday is filled with sunshine and blooming flowers. Carol singing is very popular on Christmas Eve, and some people like to go camping over the holiday. <http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/>

Top 5 Glam Metal Jams

Mack Coholan

If I have one musical guilty pleasure, it is most definitely the glam metal genre. It is so ridiculous and over the top, yet so hard not to constantly bang your head and sing along to the goofy lyrics while simultaneously miming the wicked

guitar riffs.

Despite its sheer stupidity and the debatable musical capabilities from the artists, I would like to share my personal top five favourites from the genre.

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The North Poll

Jana Bataineh

Merry Christmas, Bulldogs! It is time once again to bring out the ugly Christmas sweaters and the Santa mugs! No matter what you're celebrating, there is one thing that always ties the holidays together: the movies! I conducted a survey to find out everyone's favourite holiday movies. The resulting list includes both popular classics and coming-of-age movies alike.

10. The Santa Claus
9. The Polar Express
8. Miracle on 34th Street
7. A Charlie Brown Christmas
6. Love Actually
5. Scrooged
4. Home Alone
3. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
2. The Grinch
1. Elf

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey, and happy holidays to all!

What I Want For Christmas

Jana Bataineh



When u got dat' instagram filter just perf

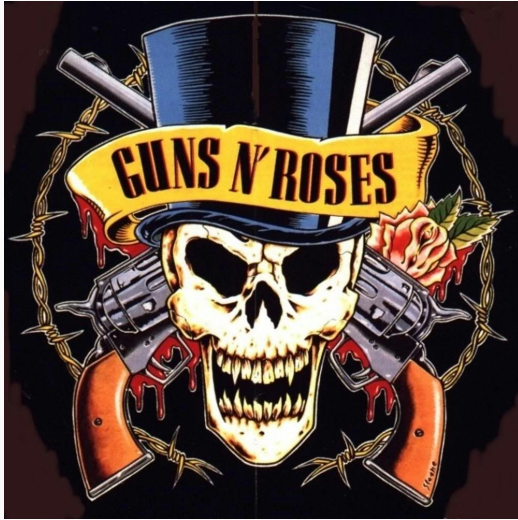
I am not celebrating Christmas this year,
But I ask you to grant me one wish.
I ask you to give the world peace,
Not some fancy edible dish.
I cannot seem to celebrate,
When all I can see is sadness and hate.
I cannot seem to eat Christmas dinner,
When people are hungry and cold from the winter.
I cannot seem to sing the carols this year,
When death is caused by words loud and clear.
I cannot seem to unwrap that present,
When some still seem to be in the Dark Ages as peasants,
I cannot hang up those Christmas lights,
When some still sleep with fear at night.
How can I celebrate,
When people are locked in this horrible fate,
This is not a happy date,
When all I see are signs of hate.
I ask you, God, to stop this misery,
For I cannot wait anymore.
Because Christmas should be a celebration not just
for the rich,
But also the poor.
Christmas will not be happy this year,
Until I stop seeing those black death tears,
I won't be happy,
The carolers won't be pleased.
Because the season isn't really jolly,

And the air is filled with the scent of pain not holly,
I wish upon that star above,
That next year Christmas won't be about presents
and trees,
That Christmas will be about happiness and love.
So Merry Christmas I say,
And may this be a happy holiday,
But I ask shall the world remain in the same way,
Will you ask of those who were killed today,
So Merry Christmas and a happy new year,
But will you think about those living in fear.
So think and think and think,
This is not about you or me it is about that
indefinite human link.
So may this be a happy holiday for those who
celebrate today,
And may God fill the air with happiness and love
next year I say.



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**#5 – “Every Rose Has Its Thorn” by Poison
Album: *Open Up and Say... Ahh!* (1988)**

This would not be much of a glam metal list if there was not at least one power ballad. Like most other power ballads of the era, Poison’s “Every Rose Has Its Thorn” is a song that deals with the lead singer’s emotional troubles with the soulful guitar emphasizing this.

Belting out the words to this is a joy, like many other ballads of the era. Unlike the others; however, “Every Rose Has Its Thorn” hits all the right notes (pun intended). I can thank Brett Michaels for that, his singing is key in making this a great song for karaoke.

**#4 – “Kickstart My Heart” by Mötley Crüe
Album: *Dr. Feelgood* (1989)**

One of my favourite metal clichés is the usage of unnecessary umlauts (the two dots above the “o” and “u”). Many of their best songs are quick and driven by their intense beats. This makes “Kickstart My Heart” ideal. It does exactly what it tells you it is going to do; it gives your heart a kickstart!

I tend to listen to heavy music in the morning. It keeps me awake in time for school. After all, it is kind of hard to stay asleep when your heart is bouncing out of your chest and you just want to head bang and air guitar everywhere. This is definitely one of those songs. How can you not be pumped up after hearing how pumped up Mötley Crüe is?

**#3 – “Livin’ on a Prayer” by Bon Jovi
Album: *Slippery When Wet* (1986)**

I’m not exactly sure this song needs a lot of explaining. It is “Livin’ on a Prayer”, for crying out loud! Everyone knows this song and everyone loves to perform it whenever someone decides to break out Rock Band or when it’s played on the radio; however, it doesn’t deserve the #1 spot because of oversaturation.

While the vocals and bassline are incredibly memorable, it is a bit of a cliché. An obvious pick for a list like this, but it is here for a reason. “Livin’ on a Prayer” is simply iconic.

**#2 – “Pour Some Sugar on Me” by Def Leppard
Album: *Hysteria* (1987)**

This song does just about everything right, with its multiple guitar riffs, great beats, and ridiculous vocals, the song is a package deal. All the same, the vocals may be slightly too much at some points.

Despite all the good points of the song, it is hard for me to properly belt out lines like “Sweet to taste, saccharine” and “Do you want sugar? One lump or two?” They are just far too silly for me to properly digest without howling in laughter.

Nevertheless, I cannot deny that this song does just about everything I want in a glam metal song; however, all the one-armed drumming in the world cannot save the song from its flaws. Sorry, Rick Allen.

**#1 – “Sweet Child O’ Mine” by Guns N’ Roses
Album: *Appetite for Destruction* (1988)**

As soon as this song begins, you know you are in for something special. The opening guitar riff to “Sweet Child O’ Mine” already solidifies it as the best glam metal song of all time. It’s almost impossible not to love?

Not to say the rest of the song is not fantastic as well. Axl Rose’s vocals are incredible. He can manage to make a one syllable word into one that lasts for two or three, while somehow making one able to sing along.

Creating this list, I immediately knew what I would put as number one. No song rivals the simultaneous goofiness and sheer emotion that comes out of this Guns N’ Roses classic. It is the pinnacle of the genre. There is a reason so many glam metal bands tried to be Guns N’ Roses, and it is because they perfected the genre with songs like “Sweet Child O’ Mine”.





