



Christmas Concert Ideas



Ideas for the Christmas Concert

"We're doing two songs in our Christmas concert as well as one poem. We're singing 'Nuttin' for Christmas' with our Grade Seven buddies. The grade sevens are singing the part where they explain all the naughty deeds they did and that someone snitched on them (that's when they point to my kids), and the kindergarteners sing the part about 'they're getting nuttin' for Christmas, their mommies and daddies are mad....' (as they point back to the grade sevens)."

Christmas Boxes

Big boxes little ones
Some in between
All holding presents
That cannot be seen.

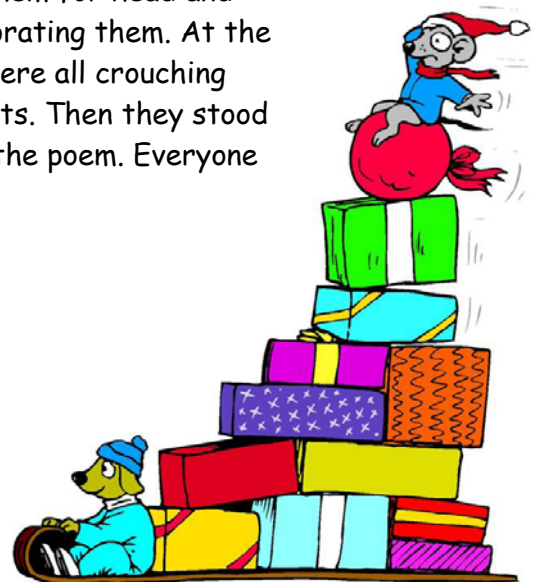
Boxes with ribbons
Boxes with string
Boxes with wrappings
That don't tell a thing.

Boxes with lids on
Boxes that fold
Boxes that whisper
Of treasures they hold.

Green boxes, red boxes
Silv'ry ones too
Under the Christmas tree
Waiting for you.

"We got a box from the grocery store for each child - big enough to put on.

Parents cut holes in them for head and arms The kids had fun decorating them. At the concert, the kids at first were all crouching around the tree like presents. Then they stood up, came forward and said the poem. Everyone loved it!"



"I had my class do a dance to Raffi's *Christmas Time is Coming* on his Christmas album. The song is very country. The children wore denim skirts, jeans, vests and plaid skirts. They wore cowboy hats with garland tacked on. We did a simple dance that I created to go with the music. They were lined up in two lines facing a partner, and did some movements like dancing up to each other (more of a stepping) and then clapping, then repeating with a do-si-do, then repeating with a swing your partner kind of thing. Kept on doing that kind of thing a few times, then we made a circle and danced to the middle, then out again. We just used very basic dance steps and put them to the music. The finale was where we lined up facing the audience and one line zigzagged through the other line. Everyone was clapping to the music. It worked out great."

Helpful Hints!

First, here is some common-sense advice from someone who had done dozens of these!

1. Many schools do whole school plays and singing. I have to say that usually parents are happier when each class does a piece separately. They know when their child is coming on, and can see their child perform without large crowds of students. This way each class is given its time to shine. There is always a lot of variety this way, so the parents don't get bored.
2. Keep it short! This is easier for you and the chance of it going smoothly is increased. Keep the whole concert between 40 minutes and one hour, if possible. Try to have the least possible time between 'acts', too.
3. Keep it simple, especially with the younger children.
4. Cute is good! If you can have the parents laughing or wiping tears from their eyes that is a success.
5. Do what your class (and you) are good at. If you sing a lot with your class, sing in the concert. If you do poetry and choral speech, do that. If you dance in PE, that is an option. Doing something that you don't usually do makes it much more difficult.
6. Plays are difficult. The audience will be filled with noisy pre-schoolers and the rustle of adults, and primary voices are rarely strong enough to be heard. Plays take a huge amount of practice and are rarely very successful.
7. Keep costumes and props simple.
8. If your children are singing, it is really important to put them in the right order. For example, you will likely have 3 to 5 kids who can carry a tune and are able to sing out clearly and reasonably loudly. Put these children together in the center of the group so their voices come together. They will carry the rest of the class! Apart they wouldn't feel this power and their voices would be lost. Talk to these children about singing loudly together.

Practice with your kids until they can do it in their sleep. Practice coming on stage, where they should stand and how they get off the stage. They should be able to do it without your prodding in the real concert.

"We did a very simple part for the concert. I had my kids come in pjs carrying a stuffed toy, and they sat around a fireplace on the stage and sang "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and "Up on the Housetop". It didn't matter where they sat (within reason) and was really simple to set up and practice. The kids looked cute, too."

"We sang the 12 Days of Christmas (to a taped version), with two children holding up the appropriate large picture of the items each time they were mentioned. The right number of items was on the chart; 5 golden rings, seven swans a'swimming, etc. The gifts are, of course, cumulative, so at the 12th verse all the cards are up at the end."



Familiar songs are good for the younger classes. Sing Jingle Bells, Up On the Housetop, Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, etc. Have the students wear elf hats, their pajamas, or reindeer headbands. If your students are not strong singers, play a tape of the song and let the kids sing along.

Try Raffi's 'Looks Like Santa' or the song 'Must Be Santa' - wear Santa hats and maybe beards, too!

Reindeer Pokey

(Tune: Hokey Pokey) Wear brown and a reindeer headband.

Wear bell bands on the wrists.

You put your antlers in. You put your antlers out,
You put your antlers in and you shake them all about.
You do the Reindeer Pokey and you turn yourself around.
That's what it's all about!



Then you can do the 'left hoof' and 'right hoof' (hands), 'back hooves' (jump forward), 'brown tail' (turn around and do a booty shake), and then the 'whole reindeer' to end it - or repeat the first verse.

The ABCs of Christmas

Do the ABCs of Christmas, each child holding up a picture or letter in turn with everyone saying the words.

<http://www.alphabet-soup.net/chris/abcchrist.html>

This is a religious one....

<http://home.att.net/~scorh5/ChristmasABC.html>

A more secular version....

<http://www.santas.net/theabcsofchristmas.htm>
verses for each.

This version has 4 line

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

<http://pjkondrat.blogspot.com/2004/12/kindergarten-christmas-program.html>

Look at these great headbands, complete with red noses!

S-A-N-T-A *(Tune: Old McDonald)*

Who laughs this way, HO HO HO, S-A-N-T-A,
Who drives the sleigh through sleet and snow, S-A-N-T-A,
His hair is white, his suit is red,
He wears a red hat on his head.
Who brings fun for girls and boys, S-A-N-T-A



"We are going to do a song called the Turkey Dance (based on the Chicken dance)."

An Acrostic:

The children can carry a large picture of the item or the item itself - or be dressed to match.

C is for Christmas, I love it so,
H is for holly and Santa's ho, ho,
R is for reindeer prancing around,
I is for icicles drip-dripping down,
S is for stockings all hung in a row,
T is for toys all tied with a bow,
M is for mistletoe, who will kiss me?
A is for angel on top of the tree.
S is for Santa he soon will be here
Santa is coming to bring Christmas cheer.

Where is Santa? - To Frere Jacques

Where is Santa? Where is Santa?
(large shrugs with the arms)

Dressed in red, dressed in red,
(hands go from head to feet)

Hurry up and find him, hurry up and find
him, (run on the spot)

I can't wait (child points to himself)
So DON'T BE LATE! (loudly)

Do Rudolph in sign language - Or Away in a Manger fits sign language, too.

"A couple of my favourite things in the past were:

- a song called "Christmas Chopsticks" -- basically the words of the 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' set to the music of 'Chopsticks'.

Charlotte Diamond has a song on one of her tapes called 'Zulu Carol'. Very catchy, very melodious, lots of opportunity for primary percussion stuff!"

Bedtime on Christmas Eve:

Have all the children in pyjamas, carrying a stocking or a stuffed toy. Sing perhaps two simple songs - *Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Up on the Housetop, Jingle Bells*, etc. It can end with *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.



The Twelve Days of Christmas - the tune is a bit difficult, so you might borrow a few older singers to carry the tune. You can make it.... '....Santa gave to me, a _____. The children can come out singly or in pairs carrying a toy or Santa can be there and give the toy to the child. To make it more amusing, Santa can give the wrong toys - Barbies for the boys, trucks to the girls, etc., and then the children can trade when they are finished singing.

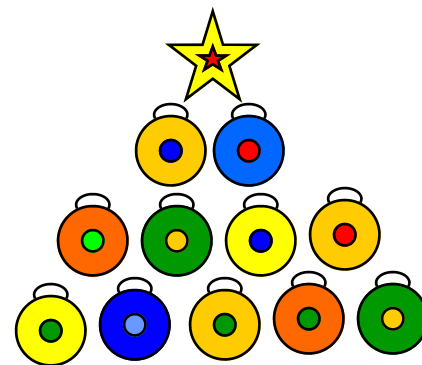
The Nativity - Most concerts will have this and the Kindergarten children are cute acting it out. Have older children sing appropriate carols and the K children simply placed with little acting.

Concert Opening:

Merry Christmas and how do you do! (1)
We are all so glad to see you. (2)
We have songs to sing, and poems to say (3)
So wait 'til we're through, don't go away! (all)
The others said I was too small
to welcome you today. (4)
They said I would forget the words
and not know what to say. (5)
But teacher said that she was sure
though I was very small (6)
My welcome would be big as big (7)
So welcome to you all. (all)
My mother thinks I'm pretty good (8)
And Grandpa thinks I'm bright (9)
Grandma thinks I'm perfect (10)
And dad thinks I'm just right. (11)
Auntie thinks I'm special. (12)
Big brother thinks I'm grand (13)
So just to please my family,
Won't you give me a good hand? (all)
Laurie Benjamin

The Christmas Tree

"The children come onto the stage and form a tree shape, with the front row sitting on the floor, the next row sitting on a bench or chairs, the third row standing, and one child standing on a chair, the highest at the top of the tree. It is important that each child knows exactly where to sit or stand to form the tree shape. Each child holds a large attractive stiff cardboard tree ornament, such as a ball or a bell. The child at the top has a star. Each of these decorations has a circle or shape cut out of the centre, and cellophane of different colours is glued behind the shape. The children hold their decorations in front of them as they sing a song. When they are finished, the lights go off and every child shines a flashlight through the cellophane. The audience loves it!"



Eight Little Reindeer

Last year the kids made reindeer antlers on head bands and wore them while they chanted:
8 little reindeer pulling Santa's sled
One fell down and bumped his head
The elves called Santa and Santa said
'7 little reindeer can pull my sled!' (*one class member was chosen to dress as Santa and said this line*)
7 little reindeer pulling Santa's sled
etc.....
1 little reindeer pulling Santa's sled
One fell down and bumped his head
The elves called Santa and Santa said
'WHERE'S RUDOLPH?'

My Christmas Stocking

This originally went to music, but you can do it as choral speech with single children or partners saying the parts. Each child provides a stocking to go with the part he says and holds the stocking up as the lines are recited. Keep the stockings behind the back out of sight, and produce them when the time is appropriate. The parents really enjoy this - especially the shopping bag, and the uncle's huge sock.

1. My Christmas stocking will be
Bright red with my name in white on the toe
Just so old St. Nick will know
This stocking belongs to me.

Chorus:

Christmas stockings hung with care
Christmas stockings everywhere
Christmas stockings filled with toys
Bringing joy to girls and boys.

2. My Christmas stocking will be
All green with a tiny bell that rings
So I can tell when Santa brings
A new Christmas toy to me.



3. My Christmas stocking will be made of wool
The kind that stretches and never gets full
Mine will be striped and woollen, too
With a hole in the bottom where
the toys fall through.

4. Ours will have a special treat
That old St. Nicholas can eat
And mine will be, just like me,
It'll have two left feet.

5. My Christmas stocking will be
Pink and white with a touch of lace,
Mine will hang by the fireplace
For all of the world to see.

6. My Christmas stocking will be
Long and thin with a point on the tip
A perfect fit for the rocket ship
Santa's going to bring to me.

7. Our Christmas stocking will
glow in the dark
So old St. Nick can find it
Mine will be tiny but I don't care
I'll hang a shopping bag behind it.

8. Mine will have a darn or two
But I don't really mind
It belonged to my uncle who
Was over six foot nine.

9. My Christmas stocking will be a drum
That's what they use where I come from.
Mine will be two wooden shoes
That's what my people use.

If you are giving a 'concert' to a small group - just your parents, for example, do a Christmas Readers' Theatre. Here are links to several:

<http://www.readinglady.com> Click on 'Readers' Theater'.

Look for 'Arthur's Christmas', by Marc Brown and 'Redheaded Robbie's Christmas Story'.

http://www.fvsd.ab.ca/stm/christmas_sites.htm

Go to Cathy's site and then to the Christmas concert links. Many of the plays must be purchased, but there are some free ones.



A Concert Opening.....

We brought you all a present
It's not one you can keep
You'll never find it in a store
Or hanging from a tree
It's not made for keeping
You must give it right away
So, here's a special homemade gift
For a happy Christmas Day!

and the kids blow a great big kiss to the audience aahhh

An Acrostic

C is for Christmas I wait for all year.
H is for holly that brings so much cheer.
R is for reindeer that pull Santa's sleigh.
I is for icicles dripping all day.
S is for Santa who seldom is seen.
T is for tree that is lovely and green.
M is for mistletoe, hugs, and a kiss.
A is for angel who looks just like this.
S is for stockings all loaded with toys, from all of the elves to the girls and the boys.

We hold large letters up and perform spelling the word.



Christmas Lights

On Christmas Eve, just after dark,
We hurry to our little park
And join a happy crowd, to see
The lights come on the Christmas tree.

The tree is proud and very high.
It points a finger to the sky.
It waits all year for this one night
When it is dressed in jewels of light.

And now it's time to light the tree.
The crowd is quiet as can be,
And then the lights begin to shine.
Red ones, blue ones, gold ones twine.

And at the top a Christmas star!
It can be seen from near to far.
The star that once on Christmas night
Guided the shepherds with it's light.

"I set the kidlets up in the shape of a Christmas tree - 7 on the bottom (sitting), 6 behind them (kneeling), 5 behind them (standing), 4 behind them standing on a bench, 3 on anchored chairs, 2 on a table, and the 'star' on the top was on a ladder (being securely held by a Teaching Assistant). They 'secretly' held their flashlights behind them as they found their place on the stage. They paused dramatically at the 'The crowd was quiet as can be' portion and then turned their flashlights (covered in coloured cellophane held by elastic) on at the 'And then the lights begin to shine' part. The crowd clapped at this point, and ohhed and ahhed."

Also see page 6.....

A Christmas Alphabet

Here I am, just to say, I hope you like our Holiday play!
Alphabet is its name, So listen closely to our alphabet game.

A is for angels we like to make in the snow.

B is for burning candles that shine throughout the holiday season.

C is for the Christmas and Chanukkah holidays we share.

D is for dreidels that spin and spin and spin

Sing: Dreidel Song See <http://www.clayz.com/dreidel.html> for the words and music.

F is for Frosty, the snowman, a friend to all.

Sing: "Frosty the Snowman"

G is for the gifts that we receive and give to family and friends.

H is for Hanukkah the "Festival of Lights"

I is for ice that we slip and slide on.

J is for the jingle bells that ring in the holidays.

Sing: "Jingle Bells"

K is for kindness we spread especially throughout the holiday cheer.

L is for the love that we give to one another.

M is for the menorah that's lit for eight days.

N is for the night when Santa comes down the chimney!

O is for the ornaments used to decorate the Christmas trees.

P is for peace that is felt throughout the world.

Q is for warm quilts on frosty nights.

R is for Rudolph, the most famous reindeer of all!

Sing: Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer

S is for Santa, the man with all the toys.

T is for the toys

U is for under the mistletoe.

V is for that very special day when we visit family and friends.

W is for the white winter we all like to see.

Sing: WINTER WONDERLAND

X is for the extra special holiday season and extra good girls and boys.

Y is for the Year 2001 - a new year!

Z is for zippers on warm winter coats.



"We hold our concert in the school gym. Every class was given a section of wall to decorate with their Christmas art, and this made the gym look very festive."

Reindeer Rap

We fly through the night, like we know that we should,
To bring you presents and make Santa look good.
We want you to know that we just don't get it,
We do all the work, while Santa gets the credit.

Chorus: Without us ... Santa's can't come ...(three times)

There's Dasher, and Dancer, and Prancer, and Vixen,
Comet, and Cupid, and Donner, and Blitzen.
We even have a stand-by who everyone knows,
My name is Rudolph, with the bright red nose.

Chorus: Without us ... Santa's can't come ...(three times)

Do you know what it's like, pullin' the Claus?
Every year he gets bigger and bigger.
You really would think
He might watch his figure.
Now don't get us wrong, he's a really nice guy
And we all do enjoy flying through the sky.
It's just that we want the praise we deserve
And ignoring us really takes a lot of nerve.
So this Christmas Eve when you close your eyes tight,
Please remember we've been flying all night.
It isn't easy on this special date,
We work so hard makin' Santa look great!

Chorus: Without us ... Santa's can't come ...(three times)
... BUT WITH US ... Santa's SOMETHIN'!



Frosty the Snowman

"We performed this last year for the PTA. We had a Frosty stand in the middle of the floor while six other kids pretended to build him while the music played in the background. They placed his black hat on and he began to dance around. Then they marched around a big area and we had a traffic cop hold up a stop sign and yell out stop. They all stopped. The kids pretty much did just what the words said. A mother made us an awesome custom. Frosty melted at the end of the story and just folded up. The kids wore scarves and hats and shed them when the song said it something about the sun being hot that day. They all waved good by when it said they waved good bye. It was a huge success. We used eight kids. One Frosty, one traffic cop and six kids dancing around and building and acting out the song. Our Frosty just wore a white choir robe and we fastened a hoola hoop in the bottom of the gown. We used velcro and put on black buttons."

The following can be done with each child (or pair of children) taking a verse.

It's that special time of year again
When everyone's filled with cheer,
We're so excited we can hardly wait
For the Holidays are almost here.

I is for icicles
We hang on the tree
And I is for icicles
Outside, you see.

R is for Reindeer Rudolph
With his nose all aglow
He shows Santa and his team
Which is the way to go.

This is our holiday alphabet
It's made for you to enjoy
We hope that you will listen to
The poem of each girl and boy.

J is for jumping
Jumping with joy!
When the holidays come
For each girl and boy.

S is for jolly fat Santa
Filling stockings in a red suit,
And St. Nicholas from Holland
Filling shoes with candy and fruit.

A is for Australia, where Santa Claus
Comes jingling all the way,
Pulled by six white kangaroos
On a scorching summer day.

K is for the kitchen
And each Dad and Mom
Is cooking up treats
For the holiday fun!

T is for the Christmas tree
Covered with bright lights
Decorated with ornaments
It shines through the nights.

B is for bells in every size and shape
How we love to hear their sound
They are on packages and in windows
They are all around.

L is for Las Posadas
And the children of Mexico
They wish you Feliz Navidad
As down the streets they go.

U is for us
Very good will we be!
We will be very patient
Just you wait and see!

C is for bright candy canes
Which we hang on the tree
There are always plenty of them
For all my friends and me.

M is for the music
We love each holiday song
Listen to us sing each one
And then please sing along!

V is for visiting
Friends old and new
May your vacation be happy
and lots of fun, too.

D is for a dreidel
Watch it as it spins
Around and around it goes
I wonder who wins.

N is for the New Year
Won't we have fun!
What year will it be?
Two thousand and one!

W is for wreath
That we put on our door,
To wish all our friends
Merry Christmas and more!

E is for everyone at Christmas
Who joins in the cheer
Of giving to each other
At the best time of the year.

O is for "oh!"
That is what I will say
When I open my gifts
On this holiday.

X is for kisses
I put on each card
I also put 'O's
To hug very hard.

F is for Frosty
A fairy tale they say
But the children know how
He came to life one day.

P is for presents. What do you
see?
That present's for you, and this is
for me.
Don't rattle, don't shake, don't
peek inside
You mustn't know what this
present will be.

Y is for the yule log
That's burned in an English home
To remind you of Yuletide
pleasures
No matter where you roam.

G is for games and goodies
Wonders of every kind
As you open each gift,
Look at the treasures you'll find.

Q is for the quiet snow
Falling in the night.
When we wake up on Christmas
Day
Everything is white!

Z is for a zillion wishes
A million zillion wishes for you!
Thanks for coming -
Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah
And Happy New Year too!

H is for Hanukkah,
The candles we'll light
We'll play with a dreidel
On each Hanukkah night.

Christmas in Australia



For a Christmas concert, you could have the children sing these songs in bathing suits or shorts and sleeveless tops. Decorate the set with summer outdoor balls, surfboards, etc.

Christmas comes to Australia in the hottest part of the year and poor old Santa usually arrives in some sort of utility truck or a fire engine, sweating profusely beneath the many layers of red and white. In the outback Santa arrives by helicopter. This is a very special event for these children who may only receive visitors or indeed see any one of their own age once or twice a year. Santa is thought to sometimes trade his reindeer in for 'six white boomers' (kangaroos) and his winter snow suit for singlet and sandals when he visits Australia.

Aussie Jingle Bells

Dashing through the bush
In a rusty Holden Ute
Kicking up the dust
Esky (a food cooler) in the boot (the trunk)
Kelpie (cattle dog) by my side
Singing Christmas songs
It's summer time and I am in my singlet,
shorts and thongs!

Chorus

Oh, Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells
Jingle all the way
Christmas in Australia
On a scorching summer's day
Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells
Christmas time is beaut
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a rusty Holden Ute!

Engine's getting hot
Dodge the Kangaroos
Swaggie climbs aboard
He is welcome too
All the fam-i-ly is there
Sitting by the pool
Christmas day, the Aussie way
By the barbeque!

Come the afternoon
Grandpa has a doze
The kids and uncle Bruce
are swimming in their clothes
The time comes round to go
We take a family snap (photo)
Then pack the car and all shoot through (go home)
Before the washing up!

Six White Boomers

Early on one Christmas Day, a Joey Kanga-roo
Was far from home and lost in a great big zoo
Mummy, where's my mummy, they've taken her a-way
We'll help you find your mummy son, hop up on the sleigh.
Up beside the bag of toys, little Joey hopped
But they hadn't gone far when Santa stopped
Un-harnessed all the reindeer and Joey wondered why
Then he heard a far off booming in the sky.

Chorus

Six white boomers, snow white boomers
Racing Santa Claus through the blazing sun
Six white boomers, snow white boomers
.. On his Aus-tra-lian run.

Go to <http://www.durge.org/~rich/rolf/boomers.html>

Kookaburra sitting on my Christmas tree
Eating all the candy canes 1,2,3.
Stop Kookaburra! Stop Kookaburra!
Go back to your old gum tree!
Kangaroo hops around the Christmas tree
Knocking off the ornaments 1,2,3.
Stop kangaroo! Stop kangaroo.
Go outside where you supposed to be.
Koala sitting in my Christmas tree.
Sitting just as quiet as he can be.
Stay Koala bear! Stay Koala Bear!
You're welcome in my Christmas tree.

