



AULD LANG SYNE

*The story behind
the song*

A background of musical notation, including staves, notes, and clefs, rendered in a light gray color against the black background. The notation is partially obscured by the text.

HAPPY NEW YEAR: C H E^E R S !

We all know the tune, but do really know its history? We're all guilty of humming along each New Year, not knowing some (or all) of the lyrics :) Well, let this book be your guide to the story of "Auld Lang Syne." Check out the link below to share a digital version with friends + family! 

[DELINDESIGN.COM/2020](https://delindesign.com/2020)

AULD

OLD

LANG

LONG

SYNE

SINCE

FOR

OLD

TIMES'

SAKE

Originally written by Robert Burns in 1788, the piece is identified as a Scots language poem and song. "For auld lang syne," as it appears in the first line of the chorus, might be loosely translated as "for the sake of old times."¹

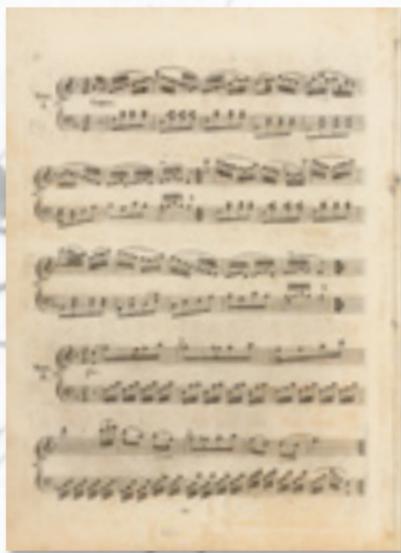


Robert Burns helped preserve Scottish culture by traveling the country to collect traditional poetry and songs. "Auld Lang Syne" was one of these songs. He wrote down the original lyrics after hearing an old man singing it—an "Old song about the olden times."²

Robert Burns



Auld Lang Syne



Composed by

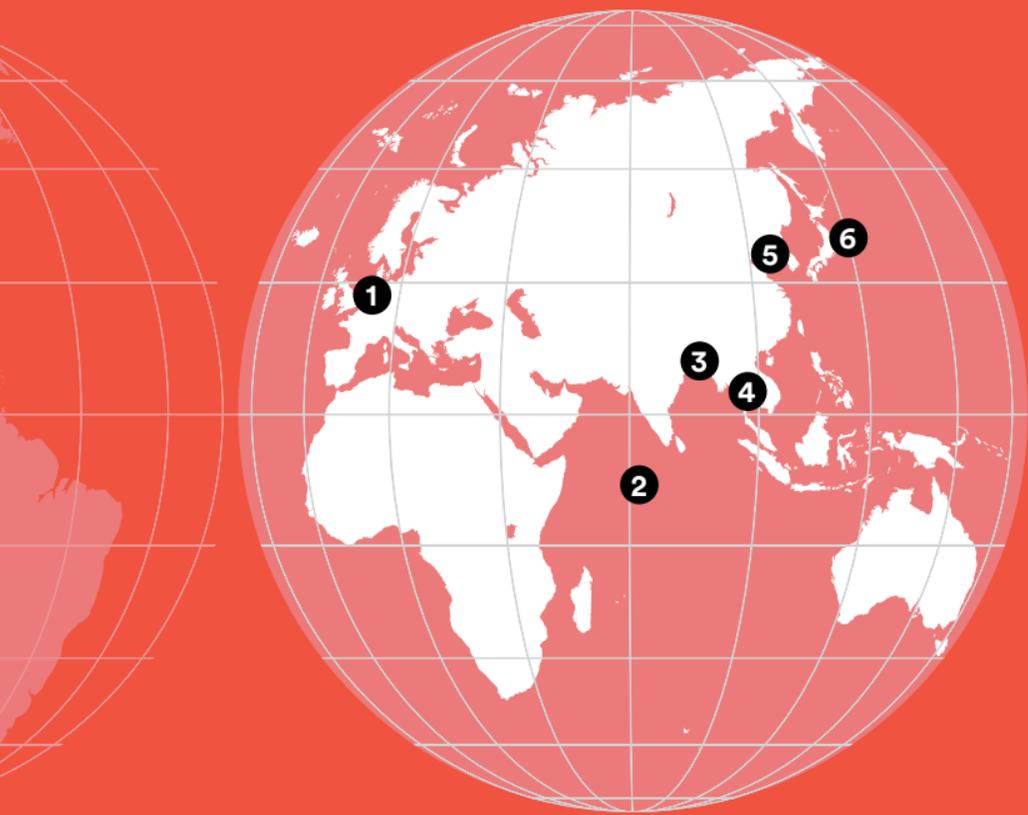
— D^R. ROSS. —

What's in a song?

"Auld Lang Syne" has been published in countless songbooks over the centuries.

The melody is simple and easy to adapt to other musical styles.

Its genres range from soul (Patti Labelle), to bluegrass (Andrew Bird), or to rock & roll (Jimi Hendrix).²



Around the world

- 1** In the Netherlands, the melody is best known as the Dutch football song "Wij houden van Oranje" ("We Love Orange").¹
- 2** Before 1972, it was the tune for "Qaumii Salaam," the national anthem of the Maldives (with the current words).¹
- 3** In West Bengal and Bangladesh, the melody was the direct inspiration for the popular Bengali folk song "Purano Sei Diner Kotha" ("Memories of the Good Old Days").¹
- 4** In Thailand, the song "Samakkhi Chumnum" ("Together in Unity") is set to the familiar melody—a patriotic song about the king and national unity.¹
- 5** From 1919 to 1945, it served as the national anthem of the Korean exile government, and from 1945 to 1948, it was the melody of South Korea's national anthem.¹
- 6** In Japan, people usually associate the melody with "Hotaru no Hikari," a song played at many school graduation ceremonies.¹



Meet Mr. New Year's Eve! Guy Lombardo and his orchestra (The Royal Canadians) began a popular New Year's Eve radio program in 1928. Americans tuned in to the New Year's Eve countdown for decades. Lombardo's original 1953 version is played in Times Square every New Year's immediately following the dropping of the ball.²

NEW YEAR'S EVE with GUY LOMBARDO and His Royal Canadians

Including THE MUSIC GOES 'ROUND AND AROUND • WILD LANG SYRE • THE BAND PLAYED ON • SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES • BYE BYE BYES • HAIL, HAIL, THE GANG'S ALL HERE





IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1946)

*"To my big
brother
George,
the richest
man in
town..."*

"Auld Lang Syne" became embedded in American pop culture thanks to its inclusion in the heart-warming finale of director Frank Capra's Christmas classic *It's a Wonderful Life*. In the scene, the citizens of Bedford Falls serenade down-on-his-luck George Bailey (James Stewart).³



MR. DEEDS GOES TO TOWN (1936)



MR. SMITH GOES TO WASH. (1939)



OCEAN'S 11 (1960)



THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE (1972)



WHEN HARRY MET SALLY (1989)



ELF (2003)



The strong and obvious associations of the song and its melody have made it a common staple for film soundtracks, from the very early days of "talking pictures" to the present. A large number of films and television series' episodes have used it for background music—see our notable staff picks.¹

In the movies



DICK CLARK (1973–2004, 2006–2012)



REGIS PHILBIN (2005)



RYAN SEACREST (2006–PRESENT)

When Dick Clark's *New Year's Rockin' Eve* started in 1973, Clark paid homage to Guy Lombardo by playing "Auld Lang Syne." This tradition has continued from host to host. After midnight, when the ball drops, you will hear the original 1953 version from the Royal Canadians.²



REFERENCES

- 1 "Auld Lang Syne." Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 22 July 2004. Web. 25 Nov. 2019, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auld_Lang_Syne.
- 2 "The New Year's Eve Song, Explained." Edited by Vox, *YouTube*, YouTube, 31 Dec. 2018, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xWxyxsVAsQ.
- 3 Garrett, Amanda. "Christmas Songs: Auld Lang Syne." Old Hollywood Films, Blogger, 22 Dec. 2014, <http://www.oldschoolwoodfilms.com/2014/12/christmas-songs-auld-lang-syne.html>.

Just think: a song written over 200 years ago celebrating friends and reflection is still sung today. As we enter a new decade, Delin Design strives to uphold that same longevity with 20/20 vision towards the future. Wishing happy holidays to you and yours—cheers! 

2020

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