

## L'ORIGINE DELLA MUSICA DI NATALE



with lyrics telling children that he is real do not change that fact. Furthermore, such music ascribes to Santa the all-knowing quality that only Jehovah God possesses. Should God-fearing parents teach their children to believe and sing such things? Should they pretend to their children that the pagan Santa Claus is linked to the Christianity of the Bible?

Wise parents do not bribe their children to be good. Yet Christmas music leads children to believe that if they behave an imaginary Santa Claus will leave them toys. The bribery is there—subtle, but unmistakable. You can appreciate that such ideas can damage the moral fiber of children in their formative years. Jehovah declares that “foolishness is tied up with the heart of a boy; the rod of discipline [not bribery with Christmas toys] is what will remove it far from him.” (Proverbs 22:15) The conclusion should be clear—Christmas songs about Santa Claus are a gross deception. They can only undermine respect for true Bible principles.

Idealistic, starry-eyed little children need to feed on the “bread” of God’s truth. Their inquisitive minds cannot be satisfied with ‘stones’ of falsehood.—Matthew 7:9.

### Who Is Behind It?

We all need to face up to the fact that Christmas and its music are not from Je-

hovah, the God of truth. Then what is their source? Reason should suggest that they are from someone whose sole aim now is to mislead as many people as possible. The Bible tells us that this is the goal of Satan the Devil. So you can appreciate why Christmas and its trappings can be perfect tools for his efforts. They tickle the senses while blinding the mind to Bible-based truth. (2 Corinthians 4:4) Satan knows the powerful effect music has on humans. In diverse churches and temples around the earth he cunningly camouflages his God-dishonoring teachings and customs with sweet melodies and lovely lyrics. So why should it be different with Christmas music?

Quite apropos here are Tertullian’s observations on pagan entertainment. This second-century professed Christian wrote:

“Grant that you have there things that are pleasant, things both agreeable and innocent in themselves; even some things that are excellent. Nobody dilutes poison with gall [something both distasteful and poisonous] . . . The accursed thing is put into condiments well seasoned and of sweetest taste. So, too, the devil puts into the deadly draught which he prepares, things of God most pleasant and most acceptable. Everything there, then, that is either brave, noble, loud-sounding, melodious, or exquisite in taste, hold it but as the honey drop of a poisoned cake.”—The Shows (*De Spectaculis*), chapter 27.

Yes, Satan the Devil can ingeniously make Christmas music appear to be of God and the singing of it a Christian duty that honors Him and his Son. In reality, it does just the opposite.—2 Corinthians 11:14.

Those seeking to gain Jehovah God’s favor that leads to eternal life will not let themselves be deluded by the deceptive power and beauty of Christmas music. They will shun it as “the honey drop of a poisoned cake.”

THE WATCHTOWER—DECEMBER 15, 1983 7

“Noi dobbiamo riconoscere che il Natale e le sue musiche non vengono da Geova, il Dio della verità. Quindi, qual è la loro origine? La ragione dovrebbe far pensare che provengono da coloro che hanno l’unico scopo di Satana il Diavolo. . . . Sì, Satana il Diavolo può far sembrare in modo ingegnoso che le musiche di Natale vengono da Dio e il loro canto un dovere cristiano che onora Lui e suo Figlio. In realtà, egli si prefigge esattamente il contrario. — 2 Cor. 11:14.

Quelli che cercano di meritarsi la benevolenza di Geova Dio che conduce alla vita eterna non si fanno illudere dalla potenza e dalla bellezza della musica di Natale. Essi la eviteranno come “una goccia di miele su una torta avvelenata.”