



Do you love Christmas but need some new music for your playlist? Here is a traditional English wassail song you may not have heard.

The word "wassail" goes back to medieval times in England and means "to your health." Revelers there still go house to house singing and toasting the residents who are expected to provide mulled wine or cider to add to the frivolity.

Our Yuletide offering this year features New Orleans vocalist Jane Harvey Brown. Folks here are no strangers to a drunken ramble and Jane's sassy, brassy tone never fails to start a party.

"Joy be to you and a jolly wassail!"

Ben Schenck
Panorama Jazz Band
New Orleans, LA

Lyrics:

Wassail and Wassail all over the town
The cup it is white and the ale it is brown
The cup it is made of the good ashen tree
And so is the malt of the best barley

For it's your wassail and it's our wassail...
And it's "joy be to you" and a jolly wassail.

There was an old man and he had an old cow
And how for to keep her he didn't know how

He built up a barn for to keep his cow warm
And a drop or two of cider will do us no harm

No harm, no harm, no harm, no harm...
And a drop or two of cider will do us no harm

Oh where is the maid with the silver headed pin
To open the door and let us come in?
Oh master and missus are sitting by the fire
Pray think upon poor travelers a-travelling in the mire

For it's your wassail and it's our wassail...
And it's "joy be to you" and a jolly wassail.

Credits:

Recorded March 21, 2016 at Listen Up! Studios, New Orleans, LA
Music Traditional / Public Domain arranged by Jane Harvey Brown and Ben Schenck
Jane Harvey Brown - Vocal
Ben Schenck - Clarinet and Tambourine
Aurora Nealand - Alto Saxophone
Charlie Halloran - Trombone
Matt Schreiber - Accordion
Georgi Petrov - Banjo
Steve Glenn - Tuba
Doug Garrison - Drums

Music arranged by Ben Schenck
Recorded, edited and mixed by Michael Seaman at Listen Up!
Studios, New Orleans, LA
Mastered by Lu Rojas at Oak Street Recording, New Orleans, LA
Graphic design by Ben Schenck
Cover photo by Shannon Kennedy