

2019 Patrick Fitzgerald Christmas Show at The Bards Town Script

Good evening, and welcome to the Bards Town for an evening of warmth and seasonal joy.

Patrick Fitzgerald has been writing holiday tunes for over 20 years. For the past several years, it has culminated in living room video recordings with a variety of collaborators and shared on social media. These original holiday tunes are all secular and focus on some odd angle on the Christmas, winter, or family part of what we call “The Holiday Season”. They have been composed in a number of different musical genres.

THIS year, Patrick has assembled a cast of friends and family to perform these tunes live right here on this very stage, and we are all excited to see so many friendly faces this evening. There will also be a multimedia element to the show. Since many of you will be hearing these songs for the first time, we will be putting the lyrics up on on this screen in real time with the music. Your program gives the set list of songs for the evening, and it also gives a link where you can go back when you get home and look at previous recordings of the tunes and a look at the lyrics sheets.

So please order some food, raise a glass, sit back, and enjoy a wild ride through the world of holiday cheer as imagined by a storyteller who tends to look at the holidays with his head tilted just enough off center to see a world of different possibilities. There will be no Jingle Bells or Deck the Halls, but rest assured, you will have a whole new batch of tunes to fill your stocking with this year.

(Patrick Addresses the Crowd, then asks Faith to introduce the first song.)

(Before there were reindeer:) Our first song of the night is written from the perspective of Santa Claus's ex-girlfriend. Up at the North Pole, way back in high school, Kris Kringle was her fool, in every way. They would go out sleigh riding together, until her best friend (the future Ms. Claus) stole Santa away from her. Years later, Santa Claus just happens to be delivering presents to HER Christmas Tree, and they have a chance encounter. Please welcome Lucy Fitzgerald to the stage for the song **"Before there were Reindeer."**

(Mango Christmas) This next tune is from an era when people were not connected with cell phones and social media. It is about a couple who randomly met years ago on a snowy Christmas Eve while each was visiting Germany. After spending a lovely holiday together, they decided NOT to run off together, but to arrange another Christmas Eve rendezvous the following year across the world. They have no way to contact each other except for their annual holiday get-together. The relationship continues in this fashion for many years, but this year, a slight misunderstanding may doom the whole affair. Please welcome Amy Fitzgerald to the stage for **Mango Christmas.**

(Peace and Joy) This next song is about two people who encounter each other in a tattoo parlor on Christmas Eve. The woman has just gotten her first tattoo, which has the word "Peace". The man is there to have a tattoo removed: specifically, the one that has the name of his EX named Joy. They encounter a stranger in need outside, and when they help him, he notices that they have Peace and Joy on their respective arms. After the encounter, they rush back inside to make their body art complete. When all is said and done, they each have a matched set. Please welcome Lucy Fitzgerald, Ben Sagman, Richard Sagman, David Morrison, and Ian Mutchnick to the stage to perform **Peace and Joy.**

(Funky Funky Santa) Alright alright people! It's time to get Funky! This is the dance craze that is sweeping the North pole and frankly, the rest of the world. If you don't know how to do the dance, don't worry, the song is actually instructional. You'll just put your boot to the left, put your boot to the right, and shimmy down the chimney. But don't take MY word for it. Put your hands together and welcome Torion Gore to the stage to join the band in teaching us how to do the **Funky Funky Santa.**

(Sycamore Lane) Sometimes life just ain't fair. There are a lot of bullies out there in the world, and sometimes they go to your school. Sometimes they troll you on line. Sometimes they live on your street. In this next song, Four misfits on Sycamore Lane each get picked on in their lives, but for Christmas THIS year, each one receives a superhero costume under their Christmas Tree, and it emboldens them to stand up to their tormentors. With an homage to the late Jim Croce, please enjoy **Sycamore Lane.**

(1:42) They call New Orleans the Crescent City because of the way the Mississippi river cradles the city forming a crescent on the southern edge. Since 1835, the St. Charles Streetcar has also traipsed a crescent shaped path across the city from Audubon Park on the west through the historic Garden District ending at the historic French Quarter. This song is about a man who gets on the St. Charles Street Trolley on Christmas Eve with an engagement ring in his pocket headed to the French Quarter with a plan to propose to his girlfriend at midnight in Jackson Square. He brings his grandpa's pocket watch with him to keep track of the time, because he knows that if his plan falls through, that the last trolley back to his home leaves the French Quarter at 1:42 AM. Please welcome Dan Dilamarter, Jim Mayer, Allison Cross, and Max Pickett to the stage for **1:42.**

(Horns) This next tune certainly wins the prize for most bizarre fan fiction back story. It is sung by Krampus, the mythological Central European Christmas Devil. In this version, he was a woodland creature found by Santa and talked into doing a “one-time stunt” where he would scare children into being good. The stunt worked so well, that Santa continued to use him as a scapegoat from that point on. Krampus wants desperately to be welcomed into polite society as a member of the extended Christmas family, but alas, he is forever villainized by a culture of fear. Whenever he tries to get close to the holiday cheer, his **Horns** always give him away.

(Lights on the Tree) This next tune is about a couple in four distinct phases of life celebrating the holidays. They grow older together and share the holidays together with their growing family through multiple generations. I think I might tear up a bit on this one. Please get out your handkerchief and welcome Jenrose Fitzgerald to the stage for **Lights on the Tree.**

(Little Shepherd Trail) The Little Shepherd Trail is a scenic road that stretches 38 miles along the crest of Pine Mountain in Harlan and Letcher Counties in the Southeast corner of Kentucky. The mountains are beautiful, although some have had their tops removed to get to the coal underneath. This next song is about a family in Appalachia experiencing hardship but learning how to remain hopeful, or as the lyric goes “This mountaintop storybook cold starry night slightly tragic nativity tale”. Please welcome Amy Fitzgerald and Dan Dilamarter to the stage for **Little Shepherd Trail.**

(Three Wise Ones) Although this next song , similar to the last one, allegorically plays on the three wise men of Christmas, the modern age demands a more gender nuanced approach to this imagery. The three wise ones are portrayed as the different human qualities of Awareness, Empathy, and Action. Since it essentially is a religion and gender neutral quest of a person to become more enlightened around the holidays, perhaps the best this tune can hope for is to become sung as a Unitarian Hymn. It could certainly do a lot worse. Please enjoy **“Three Wise Ones.”**

(24) This next song is about a man who grows up the only child of parents who had adopted him. After his parents are gone, he has no family. Years later, he submits a sample to a DNA testing service only to learn that he has 23 other relatives, and he goes to meet them at the holidays. This song was inspired by a friend of Patrick’s whose mother grew up in a small Midwest town, and when she got pregnant as a teen, she was sent off to Chicago “to visit relatives”. After she gave birth and the baby was with the adoption agency, she returned back to her small town. Later in life, she had a large family with a man she married. The adopted baby is that friend of Patrick’s who did DNA testing as a 60 year old man and discovered this long-lost family. Although his birth mother was gone before he made the connection, he has been to holidays, weddings, and funerals with this “new” family ever since. Please welcome David Morrison to the stage for the song **“24”**.

(The Richest Man in the World) This is a Great Lakes sea shanty that attempts to harness the feel of a song written in the 1880s. The story is that of a family who is experiencing their first Christmas without their beloved Uncle Pearl, who was worked on large freight ships in the Great Lakes. Every Christmas, he would come visit bringing them great treasures from faraway lands like Sleeping Bear, Petoskey, and Macinaw. Although it would be easy to categorize it as “The Wreck of the Patrick Fitzgerald”, it really draws more inspiration from Paul Simon’s song “Duncan”. ‘Tis a wealthy man whose haves exceeds his needs and even his wants. Please welcome Don King and Jane Halliday to the stage for **“The Richest Man in the World”**.

(Saranac) If you leave this show with one melody stuck in your head, it will be this one. This song is about a woman who sits out on frozen Lake Saranac in upstate New York ice fishing and waiting for her baby to come join her. They go back to the cabin, snuggle up, and dream about summer when they can return to Lake Saranac and fish from their canoe to the song of the loon. Please welcome Lucy Fitzgerald back to the stage to sing **“Saranac”**.

(Family) . This next tune is not specifically about the Fitzgerald Family and only BARELY about Christmas. The verses of the song all represent someone learning to understand the world better through the advice of his or her mother. Since the songs starts each chorus with the phrase “My mama told me...” this arrangement seems the perfect way to perform it. Please join Patrick, Erin, and Jenrose Fitzgerald in welcoming their Mama, Phyllis Fitzgerald, to the stage to sing the song **“Family”**.

(Slide on Down to Christmas Town) The next tune is a bit on the slippery side. Inspired by the Grinch's epic sleigh ride from the top of Mount Crumpet down to Christmas Town, this song attempts to slip in more "slide" puns per square inch than any other holiday tune. (True Story.) And if you need any further evidence that this tune has "jumped the shark" if you listen closely, you'll hear that one of the verses is about Santa paying high tribute to Evel Knievel. So please, welcome Ian Thomas and Allison Cross to the stage be a Big Rock star and play your slide guitar as you **"Slide on Down to Christmastown."**

(Tumbleweed) This next tune follows four generations of a family founding a fictitious Wyoming town called Tumbleweed through it's mid to late 1900s decline and one man's struggle to remain content amid its disarray. Although it's cowboy yodel draws from classic western tunes, the writing is an homage to Steven Fromholz's brilliant tune Texas Trilogy. This song is called **"Tumbleweed"**. And at this point, we should offer that this tune is rated PG-13. Patrick, would you care to elaborate?

My News to Tell This next song is about the Angel “Rose”. (Gesture to Lucy Fitzgerald) Right before the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, God approached Rose and asked her to spread the good news. Little did they know that the Angel Gabriel overheard their conversation. He got so excited, that he just could not contain himself, and he accidentally let it slip. He “accidentally” blew his trumpets on high proclaiming the birth of the Christ Child? Please! (Pronounced Puh leeze!) Or, to hear Rose tell it, that dirty low-down snake in the grass Gabriel had to hog all the glory for himself. Had to steal Rose’s thunder. Had to step into the limelight that was ordained on high to be designated for Rose. Well, it is over 2,000 years later, and Rose is NOT over it. In this song, she is in a cocktail bar in Buffalo, New York spilling over the side to anyone who will listen. It just goes to show that even “The Greatest Story Ever Told” is not immune to outrageous fan fiction. Please welcome Richard Sagman, David Morrison, and Ian Mutchnick back to the stage. And pretty please with Christmas sugar on top, welcome and adore the Angel Lucy Rose Fitzgerald to the stage for the song **“My News to Tell”**.

(Santa Claus is Gone) This last tune was actually the first Christmas tune Patrick ever wrote. It has a big audience participation part that comes by so often, you can’t possibly miss it. In Trivial Pursuit, they call this an “ALL PLAY”. Please welcome Torion Gore back to the stage and please join the band in singing **“Santa Claus is Gone”**.