

Christmas in July - massed summer carolling

How to join in:

1. Download the backing track, and listen to the original. (All on website) There is also a score and parts for a variety of instruments. Get to these by pressing on *Get A Score* on the website page. Just pick a part which suits your instrument or email if you need any extra help. You can also access the lyrics this way.
2. If you're singing, feel free to sing any octave and add harmonies. Our version is very similar to the original Sufjan version, but we have extended the ending, allowing for some more creative playing. Please feel free.
3. To record your submission you will need **TWO** devices: one to play the guide track (plug headphones into this one) and one to do the actual recording on.
4. The easiest way to do this is to use a computer to play the backing track, and have a smartphone to record you, just using the camera phone/video app. Ideally you want to set it up on something so you're not having to hold it.
5. Press record on your recording device, then press play on the backing track. You will hear a concert A and then 2 bars of 5/4 as a count in, and then the song starts. Sing or play along! If you are not playing on the very first bar then please say 'Go' or give a clap on the first beat of the song. This will make it easier for us to join them all up, Leave a nice gap at the end, we'll edit all of that out.
6. Record your video landscape (rather than portrait). If possible, please use the front-facing (not selfie) camera.
7. Get creative with your video - 'Christmas in July' is the theme! Just bear in mind if you're outside on a breezy day your phone will pick up a lot of noise from the wind!
8. If you wanted, you could send us another video about one of the lyrics (*your kite on the beach, winter coat etc.*) You could also send us photos from any of the places mentioned in the song.
9. If you want to sing along but don't want your face in the final video then either just send an audio recording or cover your camera lens when you're recording.
10. Please email your video/audio to sufjansongsforchristmas@gmail.com with VIDEO/AUDIO in the Subject line by 10th June. This will give us time to edit and mix it all together for the 10th July event. If the file is too big to email try uploading via WeTransfer.com.