



Irving Berlin

# Santa Claus

## A Syncopated Christmas Song

*It is both a rare and privileged opportunity for us to premiere a song by one of the great writers—and they don't come much greater than this songwriter! We have Boston cabaret duo Bradford Conner and Benjamin Sears to thank for unearthing this catchy Christmas offering; they share the story on page 6. The "or else" sentiment of this 1916 carol—whereby only "good" children receive Christmas gifts—predates similar themes found in 1934's "Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town" and 1955's "Nuttin' For Christmas."*

WORDS AND MUSIC BY IRVING BERLIN

Allegro moderato

Musical notation for the piano introduction, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Allegro moderato'. The introduction features a syncopated melody in the right hand and a steady accompaniment in the left hand.

Musical notation for measures 6-10. Measure 6 starts with a forte (*fz*) dynamic. Measure 7 includes a guitar chord diagram for E<sup>b</sup> and a 'till ready' instruction. Measure 8 includes a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 9 includes a guitar chord diagram for B<sup>b</sup>7. Measure 10 ends with a repeat sign.

Musical notation for the first line of lyrics, starting at measure 11. The vocal line is on a treble clef staff, and the piano accompaniment is on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are: "Soon he'll be com-ing down the chim - 'ny with a bag on his back where he". Above the vocal line, guitar chord diagrams for E<sup>b</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>7, E<sup>b</sup>, and B<sup>b</sup>7 are provided for measures 11-14.

16

B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>m B<sup>b</sup>7 B<sup>b</sup>dim B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7

car - ries a pack of I don't have to tell you what; Soon \_\_\_\_\_ ev - 'ry kid - 'll hol - ler

21

E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/F F7 B<sup>b</sup> F7

"Jim - 'ny" \_\_\_\_\_ If mis - ter San - ta Claus, \_\_\_\_\_ for - gets to pause, \_\_\_\_\_ and

25

C7 F7 B<sup>b</sup>7 Chorus: *fr5* A<sup>b</sup> D7

leave them this or that. So you'd bet - ter be good. \_\_\_\_\_ Just like a

*p-f*

29

E<sup>b</sup> Edim<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7 Edim<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup> F<sup>#</sup>dim<sup>7</sup>

good ba-by should, \_\_\_\_\_ or he will fly \_\_\_\_\_ right by \_\_\_\_\_ to an - oth - er neigh - bor -

34

B<sup>b</sup>7 Edim<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7 F<sup>#</sup>dim<sup>7</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>7</sup> F<sup>7</sup>

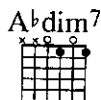
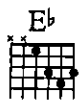
hood. \_\_\_\_\_ He don't give his toys \_\_\_\_\_ to bad lit - tle boys \_\_\_\_\_ or bad lit - tle

40

B<sup>b</sup>7 A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>7</sup>

girls that's un - der - stood. \_\_\_\_\_ So don't act like a fool. \_\_\_\_\_ and don't play

45



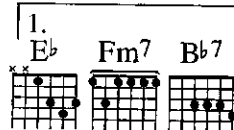
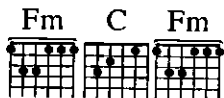
hook - y from school. If you're for - got - ten, you'll know the cause.

50



If you do an - y - thing that's shock - ing, You'll find an emp - ty stock - ing, and you'll

55



say, where is it, you won't get a vis - it from San - ta Claus. So you'd Claus.

*fz*