









# Old Carolers' Square – Solution

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As the flavor text mentions, this puzzle presents a series of sheets of paper. Each one contains several lines of sequences of emoji. Clued by "Carolers" in the puzzle title, each sheet contains lyrics from well-known Christmas songs but expressed as emoji. The emojis are mostly direct translations (e.g., "bird" to "bird" 🐦) or match semantically ("our", "i", "we" to "selfie" 🤳). A few involve homonyms where there's a fun bit of stretching (e.g., "tender" to "dollar banknote" 💵 as in "legal tender").

The flavor text also mentions "something about each one that's not quite right", clueing the fact that each sheet has one emoji that does not match the real lyric. After identifying the not-quite-right emoji by its canonical name and the correct word from the lyrics, one may notice that each pair of words have identical lengths. Moreover, each pair of words also shares exactly one shared letter in the same position. These are so-called "eigenletters" and extracting them yields the final answer, **STREISAND**.

EMOJIS	SONG	LYRICS	EXTRACTION
   	Sleigh Ride	<p>Our cheeks are nice and rosy and comfy and cozy are we</p> <p>We're snuggled up together like two birds of a feather would be</p> <p><b>Let's</b> take the road before us and sing a chorus or two</p> <p>Come on, it's lovely weather for a sleigh ride together with you</p>	<p>KISS 🗨️</p> <p>LETS</p> <p>S</p>
   	Let It Snow	<p>When we finally kiss <b>goodnight</b></p> <p>How I'll hate going out in the storm</p> <p>But if you really hold me tight</p>	<p>ASTRONAUT 🧑</p> <p>GOODNIGHT</p> <p>T</p>

		All the way home I'll be warm	
	Last Christmas	<p>Last Christmas, I gave you my heart</p> <p>But the very next day, you gave it away</p> <p>This <b>year</b>, to save me from tears</p> <p>I'll give it to someone special</p>	DOOR YEAR R
	All I Want for Christmas is You	<p>I just want you for my own</p> <p><b>More</b> than you could ever know</p> <p>Make my wish come true</p> <p>All I want for Christmas is you</p>	KITE MORE E
	Silent Night	<p>Silent night, holy night</p> <p>All is calm, all is bright</p> <p>Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child</p> <p>Holy Infant so tender and <b>mild</b></p> <p>Sleep in heavenly peace</p> <p>Sleep in heavenly peace</p>	FISH MILD I
	Santa Baby	<p>Santa baby, just slip a <b>Sable</b> under the tree for me</p> <p>Been an awful good girl</p> <p>Santa baby, so hurry down the chimney tonight</p>	SOCKS SABLE S

	<p>Jingle Bell Rock</p>	<p>Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock</p> <p>Jingle bells chime in jingle bell time</p> <p>Dancin' and <b>prancin'</b> in Jingle Bell Square</p> <p>In the frosty air</p>	<p>FEATHER PRANCIN A</p>
	<p>Silver Bells</p>	<p>Children laughing, people passing, meeting smile after smile</p> <p>And on every street <b>corner</b> you hear</p> <p>Silver bells, silver bells</p> <p>It's Christmas time in the city</p>	<p>WRENCH CORNER N</p>
	<p>Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer</p>	<p>Then one foggy Christmas Eve</p> <p>Santa came to say</p> <p><b>"Rudolph</b>, with your nose so bright</p> <p>Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"</p>	<p>WEDDING RUDOLPH D</p>

## Author's notes

The idea for this puzzle's mechanic came from the occasional work pastime of responding to Slack messages with some kind of emoji representation. Christmas songs were an obvious general subject for a Christmas-themed hunt, and song lyrics seemed like a good fit for something that would be interesting for the solver to identify from emojis. Writing translations for songs using emojis ended up being a really fun thing to try to do, and I wrote emoji lyrics for a bunch more songs than we actually needed.

When translating the songs, there were always one or two words that were especially hard to choose a good emoji for. Having those words be involved in extraction was then a natural solution for not having to figure them out. The initial version of the puzzle simply had blanks in those spaces, asked the solver to identify the missing words, and then explicitly indicated which letters to extract. That version of the puzzle ended up feeling a little bit too light on substance. Zach Barnett, who test-solved the first version, had the great suggestion of substituting in other emoji so that we could use eigenletters for the final extraction. Something I especially liked about this extraction mechanic is that it forces the solver to appreciate all of my emoji work, not just the minimal amount to identify a song!