



# BIG BAND NEWSLETTER



VOL 1 ISSUE NUMBER 2

DECEMBER—JANUARY

**The Ol Memory Maker  
Charlie St George  
Tune in every  
Sunday  
Afternoon  
12 Noon - 6pm  
Texas Time to  
Big Bandstand  
Sunday on  
the Internet at  
www.knct.org**

**The Big Band  
Sounds are alive  
and well on  
Simply Beautiful  
91.3 KNCT FM**



Berlin at his piano, note his hands on the black keys only

**WHITE CHRISTMAS**

## A Big Band Christmas Story...

There's only one Christmas song to reach the heights of hit parade popularity...to be played over and over again by almost all of the big bands... and that is White Christmas.

*He didn't think it was any good.*

After all, he was a Jewish-American composer the son of immigrants who's youthful holidays were remembered more for his poverty than for anything else. But he was charged with writing songs about every major holiday for a

film titled "Holiday Inn", starring Fred Astaire and Bing Crosby. And Christmas for him was simply a challenge.

*The composer was Irving Berlin.*

He was so nervous about the song, he had a special piano...one that had frets on it so Berlin could get out of the key signature of F sharp.... that was where Berlin pounded out the melodies for his songs...on the black keys of the piano. The white keys held his burning cigarettes.

Bing Crosby recalled Irving

Berlin pacing the floor and wringing his hands...so nervous was he of the song. So when Bing Crosby assured Berlin that "White Christmas" was a winner, he knew then what others would shortly feel as America marched off to World War II. Christmas is full of feeling for home and family and love. "White Christmas" captured that feeling perfectly and it has lived on in the hearts of the young and old alike. It will always be at the top of the charts during the Christmas season.



## Guy Lombardo...Ringin In The New Year

In 1923, they crossed the U.S.-Canadian border into Ohio and began to perform at clubs in the Cleveland area. In March, 1924, they journeyed to Richmond, Indiana, to make their first recordings. The following year they named their band "The Royal Canadians." Capitalizing on their new momentum, they gave a ballroom performance in 1927 that was broadcast by a Chicago radio station to the delight of listeners. In 1928, they adopted their famous promotional slogan, "the sweetest music this side of heaven."

Although Guy had always led the band as well as played in it, he now put aside his violin and became its out-front conductor and performance emcee. From then on he cultivated the bandstand "personality" that would help make him a celebrity. In 1929, the band began an engagement in New York City that led to another hit radio broadcast, time on New Year's Eve. It started a tradition that would last for nearly 50 years and forever link Guy Lombardo with Auld Lang Syne and Times

In his heyday, musician Lombardo created a Big Band sound that was characterized by an exaggerated saxophone vibrato, clipped brass phrases, and a unique vocal styling that was the band leader's own. To generations of Americans, the New Year's Eve radio broadcasts by Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians playing "Auld Lang Syne" was an annual tradition ringing in the new year. Here is Guy wishing you all a Happy New Year! (From Internet Sources.)



**GUY LOMBARDO**

