

For Auld Times Sake

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Auld Lang Syne is an ancient Scottish Folk Song celebrating friendships and old times that Robert Burns put down on paper in 1788 and placed in the Scots Musical Museum. It translates to, "for old times' sake."

The sum of our experiences is what makes up the olden days, and the best of them we call the good old days. And there is nothing like music to bring back them back whenever we want to recall them.

In our seniors' community, we have active residents whose ages vary by five decades, beginning at the minimum fifty-five and ending with a few in their hundreds. The young whippersnappers who barely qualify by age to live here likely mark the good old days of their teen years with memories of Whitney Houston, the Police, MC Hammer, Olivia Newton John, Lionel Richie and others.

Folks born a little earlier may identify more with The Doors, Barry Manilow, Diana Ross, the Bee Gees, ELO, the Carpenters, Elton John, Aretha Franklin, Blondie, and Grand Funk Railroad. The crowd born in the fifties found in their teens the Beatles and Bob Dylan, the Rolling Stones, Moody Blues, Jimi Hendrix, Neil Sedaka, the Temptations, and the Mamas and the Papas. James Brown could wake up any crowd.

Those born in the forties made it to their teen years in the fifties only to get all shook up by Elvis, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, Fats Domino, and the Everly Brothers. We liked Doris Day, Nat King Cole, Sam Cooke, Ritchie Valens, Ray Charles, and Harry Belafonte. Bill Haley rocked us around the clock, and Fess Parker sung the ballad of Davey Crockett.

And if you were born in the twenties and thirties, you grew up dancing to Glenn Miller and Artie Shaw, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Count Basie, and Duke Ellington. Bing Crosby, Rudy Vallee and Frank Sinatra crooned, and you sang along with Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, and the Andrews Sisters.

Those are just some of the many who have sung the songs of our good old days. When it comes to celebrating New Year's, however, none could ever beat Guy Lombardo and His Royal Canadians. They were a popular dance group from the forties that might now be forgotten, but for the song that has made their musical aggregation timeless and immortal. The Lombardo orchestra, in the inimitable way swing music once swung, is the one that has welcomed at the midnight hour every New Year's Day over the decades of our lives with the recording of his sentimental version of *Auld Lang Syne*, the anthem for all ages reliving their good old days.

Come New Year's Day, and all of them for years to come, sing along. Let's hear your voice, and may those of people from our community and the world join in. *Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind.... We'll take a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne.*