Christmas Music Trivia

Choose one answer per question. Circle A, B, C, or D.

1. Which singer introduced ‘All I Want for Christmas Is You’ on her 1994 album Merry Christmas?
   A. Mariah Carey
   B. Whitney Houston
   C. Celine Dion
   D. Gloria Estefan

2. For which film did Irving Berlin’s ‘White Christmas’ win the Academy Award for song?
   A. Blue Skies
   B. Going My Way
   C. Holiday Inn
   D. White Christmas

3. Who composed the music for the original 1892 ballet The Nutcracker?
   A. Sergei Prokofiev
   B. Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
   C. Igor Stravinsky
   D. Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

4. Which jazz pianist wrote and performed music for the 1965 TV special A Charlie Brown Christmas?
   A. Herbie Hancock
   B. Dave Brubeck
   C. Oscar Peterson
   D. Vince Guaraldi

5. Who sang ‘Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas’ in the 1944 film Meet Me in St. Louis?
   A. Deanna Durbin
   B. Judy Garland
   C. Dinah Shore
   D. Alice Faye

6. What title would you look for on the early sheet music for James Pierpont’s song now called ‘Jingle Bells’?

A. The One Horse Open Sleigh
B. The Little Silver Bells
C. A Winter Ride Home
D. A Sleigh for Two

7. How old was Brenda Lee when her single ‘Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree’ first came out?

A. 22
B. 16
C. 19
D. 13

8. Which composer is credited for ‘O Holy Night’ in the Library of Congress music collection that lists it as ‘Cantique de Noël’?

A. Camille Saint-Saëns
B. Charles Gounod
C. Adolphe Adam
D. Georges Bizet

9. Which singer’s Rock & Roll Hall of Fame entry lists ‘Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)’ among her lead vocals?

A. Darlene Love
B. Ronnie Spector
C. La La Brooks
D. Mary Wilson

10. In which city did Mykola Leontovych’s ‘Shchedryk,’ the work behind ‘Carol of the Bells,’ receive its North American premiere in 1922?

A. Philadelphia
B. Toronto
C. Boston
D. New York

11. Which museum caption gives the month and city of the first performance of Handel’s Messiah?

A. April 1742 in London
B. December 1742 in Dublin
C. April 1742 in Dublin
D. December 1742 in London

12. Which note fits NASA’s December 18, 1965, entry for ‘I’ll Be Home for Christmas’ during Gemini VII?

A. Sent by the crew shortly before the maneuver to return to Earth.
B. Sent to the crew shortly before the maneuver to return to Earth.
C. Sent to the crew shortly before the spacecraft launched.
D. Sent by the crew shortly after the spacecraft landed.

13. Which recording of ‘The Christmas Song’ matches the Library of Congress description of Nat King Cole singing in stereo with Ralph Carmichael conducting?

A. The August 1946 version with added strings
B. The 1953 full-orchestra version
C. The June 1946 trio version
D. The 1961 full-orchestra version

14. Which performance plan fits the Leipzig Bach Archive’s account of the first performances of Bach’s Christmas Oratorio in 1734–35?

A. Six parts performed across six Sundays and feast days in Leipzig.
B. Six parts performed together on one evening in Leipzig.
C. Six parts performed across six Sundays and feast days in Dresden.
D. Six parts performed together on one evening in Dresden.

15. A fictional program says Mitchell Parish created the original music for ‘Sleigh Ride’ and Leroy Anderson added words in 1950. Which correction fits ASCAP’s account?

A. Parish wrote the words first, and Anderson set them to music in 1950.
B. Parish composed the instrumental piece, and Anderson added words in 1950.
C. Anderson composed the instrumental piece, and Parish added words in 1950.
D. Anderson wrote the words first, and Parish set them to music in 1950.