



An inclusive winter season musical honouring the holidays of

Diwali Hanukkah Eid-Ul-Fitr Christmas Kwanzaa

By Joan Spares HDSB 2003

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# Winter Magic

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# Introduction

Winter Magic is an inclusive musical touching on some of the traditions and celebrations that occur near the winter holiday period. Some traditions rotate according to the lunar calendar. Please check a multifaith calendar each year for the accurate dates. The traditions included in this musical are:

Diwali – late Oct. or Early Nov.	Hindu Festival of Lights and Sikh Day of Remembrance for Guru Sri Hargobind Ji
Ramadan and Eid-Ul-Fitr – according to the lunar calendar (Autumn for 2003-2008)	Muslim Month of Fasting and Day of Celebration
Hanukkah - December	Jewish holiday commemorating the victory of the Maccabee people
Christmas – December	Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus as the Son of God and Secular holiday of good will and gift giving.
Kwanzaa - December	An African American holiday celebrating African heritage and values

# **Involve Your Parent Community**

Let parents know in advance that you are working on this musical. They may be a valuable source for finding culturally appropriate costumes, set designs, props etc... Remember that no cultural or faith community is homogeneous. There will be individual differences in tradition, custom and level of observance in every faith and cultural group. Allow parents to customize the musical as their family celebrates.

If you find you have a parent of another faith community: Wicca, Bahá'i, Buddhist or First Nations who have not been explicitly included in this play. Invite them to find a way to insert their special days and/or perspective into the play.

# **Musical Selections**

The musical selections listed through the play are just suggestions and can be substituted with other pieces that are appropriate to the faith and cultural holiday or the themes of Unity, Peace, Light, Hope etc...

Winter Magic
Special Festive Time – by Tim O'Brien (included in this package)
Indian Curry
The Lights of Diwali
It's Diwali – poem see pg. 19
Ramadan Song – www.nancymusic.com/Ramadan.htm (included)
Calypso Carol
Hanukkah
Dreidel Song Kwanzaa – www.nancymusic.com/Kwanzaa.htm (included)
Winter Dance – www.nancymusic.com/Winterdanceplay.htm (included)
Celebrate with Me
We All Sing With the Same Voice by J.Philip Miller and Sheppard M. Greene
ISBN: 0-06-027475-1

I Am But A Small Voice Child of the Universe Children of the World Hymn to Freedom

Multiple copies of Choral Music are available in the Media Library. Contact Chantelle Sergeant at ext. 3345 at the JWS Centre.

Chants and poems may also be substituted and students can create Ostinatos and/or melodies to accompany them. A wonderful source is "Rhyme Time Around The Year" IBSN: 0 19 276226 5



# **Costumes and Props**

If there is a child from a particular culture, it may be meaningful for them to represent their community in this musical. If it is difficult to match the roles to the actual ethnicities in your school community then please assign the roles remind the students that it is important to play another culture and faith group with respect and dignity.

#### Hindu Diwali

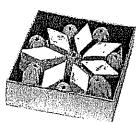
Diyas, Lakshmi, Sweets

Children can wear Shalwar Kamize and /or Sari and/or "Canadian clothes" as Canadian children from culturally diverse backgrounds



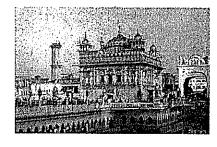
also wear sweaters and pants or western style dresses at their holidays too.) Other decorations could include: lights and garlands





## Sikh Diwali -

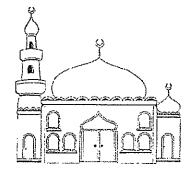
Temple of Amritsar, Sikh symbol of (Khanda)





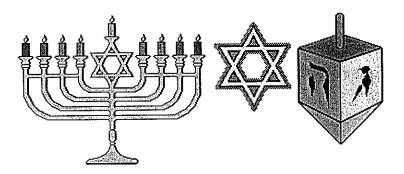
#### Ramadan and Eid -

Quran (or a book with a cover that says Quran), Mosque picture prayer rugs, prayer beads, dates (the fruit), sweets, balloons, streamers, "Happy Eid" sign, paper lanterns. Students can wear any style of cultural dress and/or Canadian dress as Muslims come from all over the world.

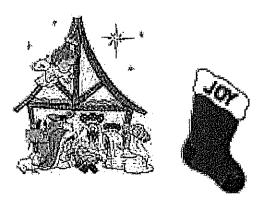




Hanukkah – Menorah, Star of David, Latkes, Driedel, Hanukkah Geld (coins).



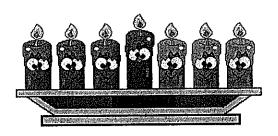
Christmas - usual Christmas symbols both faith based and/or secular (important to include both) Star of Bethlehem, Christmas Tree, Presents, Stockings, Santa Claus Picture etc..



### Kwanzaa

Kinara (candles), Kente Cloth, Africa Map, Corn, Unity Cup(mkeka made from wood), presents





# Glossary and Pronunciation Guide

Name	Pronunciation	Meaning	
Manisha	MAN-EE-SHA		
Sachin	SAH-CHIN		
Diwali	DEE-WAH-LEE	Hindu festival of light and	
David Charles	DILAN DEE CHOWD	Sikh day of remembrance.	
Bandi Chor Divas	BHAN-DEE CHOWR DEE-VAS	Sikh day of remembrance.	
Guru Sri-Hargobind Ji	GOO-ROO SREE HAR-	Name of Cilch Cainite al	
Guru Sr-Margovillu Ji	GO-BIND-JEE	Name of Sikh Spiritual Leader	
Diyas	DEE-YAZ	Clay lamps lit on Diwali	
Lakshmi	LUCK-SH-MEE	Hindu Goddess of Fortune	
Amritsar	AM-RIT-SAR	City in India where Sikhs	
22222 10002	TANK ICH DIM	have their Golden	
		Gurudwara	
Baryani	BUR-YAN-EE	Indian Rice Dish	
Gulab Jamans	GUL-AB JA-MENS	Indian Sweet balls in syrup	
As salaam wa-lay-kum	AS-SUL-AM WAH-LAY-	Arab greeting of peace	
	CUM	3	
Eid Mubarak	EED MOO-BAR-AK	Arabic "Happy Eid"	
Ramadan	RUH-MUH-DAWN	Month of Fasting	
Reema	REE-MUH		
Amer	AW-MER		
Baklava	BAWK-LAW-VA	Middle Eastern sweet pastry	
		with nut and honey filling	
Eid-Ul-Fitr	EED-UL-FIT-ER	The celebration of the feast	
		after the fast of Ramadan	
Muslim	MUH-SLIM	People who follow Islam	
Quran	KUR-AHN	Islamic Holy Book	
Menorah	MEN-OR-AH	Candle holder for	
		Hanukkah	
Hanukkah	HA-NAH-KA	Jewish holiday	
		remembering the victory of	
		the Maccabee people.	
Dreidel	DREY-DEL	Jewish game played on	
Yadhaa	I AT KENG	Hanukkah	
Latkes	LAT-KEYS	Potato Pancakes	
Sufganiot	SUF-GAN-EE-OT	Donut like sweet	
Kwanzaa	KWAN-ZAH	African American holiday	
		celebrating African culture	
		and values	

Rasheed	RUH-SHEED	
Kinara	KIN-AR-AH	Candle Holder for Kwanzaa
		candles
Habari Gani	HA-BAR-EE GAN-EE	Swahili "What Day is it?"
Bahá'i	вин-ні	A faith community
Baha'u'llah	BUH-HI-OO-LAH	The Bahá'i Prophet
Buddhist	BOO-DIST	A follower of Buddhism

#### Winter Magic

Our play begins outside the Greene's back porch.

Peter and Jan (cousins) are putting on cross-country skis.

Jan: Whoa... where DID you find these things? They're ancient!

Peter: Pretty old, eh? I found them in the shed, in behind the old sleigh. But they should work pretty well. I've waxed them just like Uncle Dave said. I guess we'll find out.

Jan: Are you sure you know how to get to Gram's and Grandpa's house from here? I mean, through the woods? It looks different from in the summer! I'd hate to miss out on Gram's special Christmas tarts! I've waited all year for one of those!

Peter: Relax, we'll be fine. But don't let Uncle Pete and Aunt Karen hear you talking like that (pauses and looks over his shoulder)... or they might not let us go. Come on, move along. Let's go!

They set out, Jan following Peter.

## Winter Magic OR Special Festive Time

Music becomes frantic and stormy. The "winter winds" begin to swirl about the two children. (As this is going on, the set changes to Diwali.) The children are unable to see each other and call out...

Jan: Peter, where are you? I can't see you!

Peter: I'm still here, Jan... keep following my voice!

The music ends and the "winter winds" leave. The two children look around, dazed and unsure.

Jan: Where are we? I don't recognize this part of town...

Peter: I... I'm not sure. Look at the lights in the windows of that house. It looks like there's a party. Let's knock on the door and ask if we can use the phone.

Jan: Okay... I'm with you...

The two "knock" on a door wait until a young girl answers it.

Manisha: Hello, are you here for the celebration?

Peter: Uh... no... what ..?

Jan (interrupting): Could we please use your phone?

Manisha: Sure! Come in and I'll get it for you. (As she's about to turn and go...) Hey,

my name's Manisha! What are yours?

Jan and Peter (together): Jan/Peter!
She leaves and another child (Sachin) approaches.

Sachin: Hi there! I'm Sachin. Are you here for the Diwali celebration?

Peter: The Diwali celebration? I remember learning something about that in school a couple of years ago. Hey! The lights in the windows, those are Diyas, aren't they?

Ian: What is Diwali all about?

Meanwhile, Manisha arrives with the phone and hands it to Jan.

Sachin: It's a Hindu festival and a Sikh day of importance too! Hindu families celebrate the Return of Prince Rama. Sikh families call this day "Bandi Chor Divas" and remember the day that Guru Sri Hargobind Ji was set free.

Manisha: The word "Diwali" is a Hindi word and it means row of lights or lamps like the Diyas in the window.

Sachin: Or sometimes on balconies... or porches... LOTS of lights!

Manisha: Hindus honour Lakshmi, who is the Hindu goddess of wealth. We pray to Lakshmi that she will bring prosperity to our homes. That's why we have the Diyas...

Sachin: ...and Sikhs also light diyas in remembrance of their Guru. In India there is a city called Amritsar that is totally lit up on this evening. It's really beautiful. There are other stories that explain Diwali, as well...

Peter: Cool... there's food, too, I see! I love holidays 'cause I love to eat!

Manisha: Me, too! Especially my dad's vegetable Baryani. With rice and vegetables.

Jan: I do, too... the hotter, the better, my dad says.

Sachin: My favourite treat is Gulab Jamans (can use timbits for prop in bowl with syrup if real Gulah Jamans are hard to find in your area). They are soooo good! Here, try one. (He hands the tray to Jan and Peter.)

Jan: (taking a bite) Mmmm... good!

Jan moves to a corner of the stage and turns away, dialing the phone. She waits for a minute, then shakes her head slightly...

Peter: It's like a donut... but BETTER! (turns his head as he hears the sound of music)... Who's that?

Sachin: My mom taught some of the kids a couple of songs... just listen.

Everyone stands still and listens.

## The Lights of Diwali or Indian Curry or It's Diwali

As the music ends, Peter turns to Jan.

Peter: We have to go. Did you get an answer at Grandpa's house... or Uncle Pete's.

Jan: No luck... I didn't there was any point in leaving a message.

Peter: No, they've probably already left. Y'know, Jan... I think I can find the way. Come on... let's try it.

Jan: I'm with you. (To Manish and Sachin) Happy Diwali! And thanks for everything. We've gotta go!

## Winter Magic OR Special Festive Time

The two put their skis back on and begin to "ski" as the music begins. (As this is going on, the set changes to Ramadan.) Several "trees" begin to move in and out and around the two children, making them turn and move in other directions.

The music ends and the children stop and look at each other.

Peter: Man, THAT was strange. Those trees, like, totally spooked me. I swear they were moving!

Jan: (raising her hands, palms upwards) I feel like I'm in Oz, or something. It's like Dorothy and the tornado!

Peter: (looking puzzled) Tornado? Dorothy who??

At this point in time, a couple of children rush by...

Reema: As salaam wa-lay-kum. Eid Mubarak! Ramadan is over! Are you coming to the Eid party???

Amer: I can't wait... (to the two skiers) Come on in!!

Jan and Peter find themselves swept into the house with Reema, Amer and several other children. Reema and the other children go off together and "chat", obviously admiring each other's new clothes. Amer heads to a table where there are trays of food laid out.

Scene Three (home of family celebrating Ramadan)

Peter (With Jan close behind, approaches Amer who is busy checking out a plate of food): Umm... could we possibly use the phone? My name is Peter, by the way. This is my cousin Jan (steps aside so that Jan waves at Amer).

Amer: Nice to meet you! I'm Amer. Would you like something to eat before you phone? How about a cookie? Or do you baklava? My aunt brought this huge tray of baklava!

Jan: (looking around Peter): What kind of party is this? It's not Diwali is it? And I don't think it's a Christmas party...

Amer: Well, I think Christmas is a few weeks away, isn't it? (Jan and Peter look at each other with puzzled looks). We're celebrating the end of Ramadan... it's Eid! Reema! Come over here!

Reema: Hey... what's up?

Amer: Peter, Jan, this is my sister Reema. Reema, I was telling them how we are celebrating Eid-Ul-Fitr, the end of Ramadan.

Reema (to Jan and Peter): Have you never heard of Ramadan, then?

Jan shakes her head silently...

Peter: I think I have... but I can't remember too much...

Reema: Well, our family is Muslim and we have a month of fasting every year called Ramadan.

Jan: You don't eat for a WHOLE month?! I couldn't...

Reema (laughing): Actually only adults have to fast everyday, but children may fast occasionally or for half a day. Even when we fast, we are allowed to eat! We just can't eat or drink anything from sunrise to sunset. We eat after the sun goes down! And we're

lucky! This time of the year, the sun goes down early so we don't have to wait too long! It's a much longer day when we have Ramadan in the summer!!!

Jan: Why do Muslims fast anyway?

Reema: This is the month when the Holy Quran, which is a sacred book, was given to the Prophet Muhammed and we honour this by fasting.

The children freeze.

#### Ramadan Song (www.nancymusic.com/ramadan.html)

Amer: And my mom says we should try to get along with everyone during Ramadan so Reema and I aren't 'sposed to fight.

Reema: And Ramadan helps us remember all the people in the world who go hungry. We understand better how they feel.

Amer: After Ramadan we go to the mosque and pray and then have a GREAT Eid party... with lots of food! We'll probably even get some Eid money from our grandparents.

Reema: AND I got a new dress for Eid! (does a little model stand to show it off)

Jan: Very nice! I bought this new sweater for our Christmas Eve celebration at our grandparents' house tonight...

(Reema and Amer look at each other, a little confused...)

Reema: You have a Christmas Eve celebration tonight? That's kinda early isn't it?

Jan: Well, nooo... I mean...

Peter (interrupting): You know, Reema, Amer, we have to get going! Our folks are going to wonder what's happened to us! Eid Mubarak! Thanks for everything

All wave good-bye as Jan and Peter head out and start to clean off their skis.

Peter: Jan, something strange is going on. I get the feeling that Reema and Amer think it's only the beginning of December. And I thought Diwali was around the end of October!

Jan: You're right! (a little of the Winter Magic music softly plays and stops. The two children stop and look around) There's something in the air... like... magic. (She stops

cleaning off her ski and then looks at it with wonder on her face.) Peter...

Peter (just brushing off a ski): What?

Jan: The skis... it's the skis! I bet it is!

Peter looks at Jan, first in total confusion because he doesn't know what in the world she's talking about... and then becomes wide-eyed as he, too, begins to believe.) Jan! The skis! They're ... they're taking us to all these places, all these celebrations... in different times and on different dates!! They ARE magic, Jan...

Jan: I know, Peter! Let's test them! Let's just hike along for a while and carry the skis. If nothing happens, we'll put them on again. And if something happens THEN, well, we'll know! Oh, Peter! Magic skis! Just imagine!

The two begin to walk along, carrying the skis as the music begins.

## Winter Magic OR Special Festive Time

The music ends...

Jan: Nothing, Peter... nothing happened at all.

Peter: So, let's try skiing now. Are you with me?

Jan: You bet!

The two put on their skis and a little of the "Winter Magic" music softly starts up again. No sooner do they start to ski than both the "winter winds" and the "trees" move in and around them. The music becomes louder and more confusing. (As this is going on, the set changes to Hanukkah.)

Jan: Peter! Peter! Can you hear me? I can't see you anymore?

Peter: I hear you, Jan! Just keep on skiing... keep going straight. I'm pretty sure this will end soon!

The music ends and the two find themselves in front of a window with a menorah on the ledge.

Peter: You were right, Jan! They ARE magic!

Jan: I know... I can't believe it... this is like the most amazing thing that has ever happened to me!

The two stare at each other for a few seconds and then come to realize they hear music.

#### Hanukkah

song is sung here or later.

Scene Four (Hanukkah)

Jan: Hanukkah! They're celebrating Hanukkah! Let's go!

Peter( as they approach the "open" door): This is just SO cool...

The two walk into the house and look around. A boy approaches them...

Peter: Ben! Do you remember me? Peter... from martial arts class?!

Ben: Sure! How are ya doing, Peter! Welcome to our Hanukkah party! Who's the friend?

Jan: Hi, Ben! I'm Jan, Peter's cousin. I'm up from Burlington for the holidays.

They are joined by another couple of children.

Ben: Peter, Jan, meet my sister Rachel and my brother Jacob.

Rachel: Pleased to meet you! Do you celebrate Hanukkah, too?

Peter: Actually, Rachel, we've just gotten a little sidetracked. We're supposed to be skiing to our grandparents' house. It's a long story. By the way, what's today's date, Ben?

Ben (looking puzzled): Oh, it's the seventh. Why?

Peter (looking pointedly at Jan, eyebrows raised, says in a stage whisper): See! We were right – we've gone back to the first part of December!

Jan (a little nod at Peter): Ben, I know a little bit about Hanukkah. I know that the candle holder is a menorah and that there's a game with a top called a dreidl. But I can't remember why you celebrate Hanukkah.

Ben: Hanukah is also called the Festival of Lights. It's a festival that celebrates a miracle that happened over 2000 years ago.

Rachel: It also reminds us of the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrians. (She turns and goes over to a table with food on it.)

Ben: But the miracle is this: There was only one jar of oil found to keep the lamps lit - only enough for one day. But! The oil actually burned for eight days not just one. That's why we there are eight days of Hanukkah.

#### Hanukkah

song is sung here or before.

Jacob: Each day we light another candle on the menorah. I got to light it today!

Rachel (who has returned with a tray): We have special food that we eat at Hanukkah, too, like potato latkes and sufganiot, like jelly doughnuts. Would you like to try something?

Peter: Sure! (takes it off the tray)

Jan: Thank you! We've had so much to eat tonight. Peter, you won't be able to fit in Grandma's tarts!

Peter (laughing): Don't bet on it, Jan! Ben, it's been great! Happy Hanukkah! Thanks a lot. I think we'll head out.

The two head down the stairs as the others wave good-bye.

Jan: What now, Peter? I mean, do we put the skis back on or what?

Peter: Well, Ben said it was the seventh so we still have at least two weeks before Christmas. We HAVE to put the skis on in order to get back to our own time!

Jan: You know, Peter. I really don't mind! I'm really learning a LOT tonight! And it's fun!

Peter (beginning to put on skis): Do you think there are anymore holidays to celebrate?

Jan (putting them on as well): Who knows! Let's see!

#### Winter Magic OR

#### **Special Festive Time**

Once again, the children set out to the song. The set changes to Kwanzaa. As the music ends...

Peter (stopping): Hey! I recognize this street! If we turn right at the end and follow the creek, we'll see Gram's and Grandpa's house! Al – RIGHT!

Jan (looking around): I think you're right... Peter... what's going on over there? (points to where the Kwanzaa celebrations are set up)

Peter (shrugging): Let's go take a look!

The two approach a couple of children (sitting on the edge of the stage)... behind on the stage, 3 or 4 more are "decorating".

Jan: Hi there! What's up?!

Rasheed: Hi! My name's Rasheed, this is Maureen. We're getting ready for Kwanzaa!

Jan: I'm Jan. He's Peter. We were on our way to our grandparents' house but some thing happened and... (looks at Peter)

Peter: Yeah... something happened and we... uh... kinda got lost. Anyway, we know where we are now. But, hey! Tell us about Kwanzaa!

Maureen: Kwanzaa is fairly new here in Canada. It's based on the harvest festivals in Africa that celebrated the first crops.

Rasheed: It will last for seven days. We, the kids, usually get little presents on each of the seven days. (pointing) The Kinara is a candle-holder which holds seven candles. Each day we light a candle and think about one of the seven principles. We are asked each day in Swahili "Habari Gani?" "What day is it?" and we answer, Today is dedicated to creativity!

Maureen: And we have a special unity cup. Each member of our family drinks from the unity cup, remembering our ancesters and the struggles that they went through. We remember the past and think ahead to the future.

Rasheed: At the end of Kwanzaa, we have a feast with food and music and dance! We're just getting ready for that now! Why don't you come back for it?

Jan: We'd love to! Kwanzaa IS a very special time, isn't it?

#### Kwanzaa

Peter: I wish we could stay longer and visit but we're expected at our grandparents'. We really have to go. Happy Kwanzaa. It was great meeting you!

Jan and Peter say their good-byes to their new friends and begin to put on the skis.

Peter (stopping): You know, Jan, I think we can walk the rest of the way...

Jan: I agree. Look! It's snowing!

They begin to walk and they hear the soft music of "Winter Magic" (background). A star lights up on the far wall as they walk along.

Jan: I know so much more now. About Diwali and Ramadan... and Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. (pointing to the star) Peter, that reminds me of the star of Bethlehem. And that's what Christmas is about, isn't it? Christian families believe that the baby Jesus was born in a manger... it was a miracle.

# Calypso Carol (Intermediate Choir)

Peter: Jan, I can't believe we saw so many traditions and celebrations in one night. Yes and I learned in school that there are other holidays too like the Bahai's celebrate the birth of Baha'ullah in December and Chinese people have traditional beliefs about the Winter Solstice on December 21<sup>st</sup>. We are so lucky that we can know about the world and its people. EVERYONE has special days to celebrate all through the year!

Jan: Here in Canada, we can be each other's guests to enjoy them all!

#### Winter Magic

They continue to walk as it is sung. The set changes to a Christmas tree and a rocking chair.

Scene Five (Grandmother's house!)

Peter and Jan enter the house, stomping off snow at the same time.

Peter: Hi Grandma, Grandpa! Sorry we're late...

Jan (interrupting): Yes, something happened and... we're sorry.. we...

Aunt Karen: Why, kids! You're not late at all! What are you talking about?? We just got here! We've heard from your mom, Jan, and she should be here in an hour or so. The plane was a little delayed because of the snow.

Jan: ... right (looking over at Peter with a look that says, don't ask me what's going on!). Any hot chocolate???

Grandpa: There certainly is! I'll get you both a couple of mugs and you can settle down by the fire. Grandma was just about to tell Katerina and David about how we used to celebrate Christmas when we were little...

Jan: Merry Christmas, Peter.

Peter: Happy Holidays, Jan!

Jan: You're right, Peter!

Turning to the audience...

Jan and Peter (together): Whatever your family's tradition and celebration is this season may you have a blessed and joyful holiday.

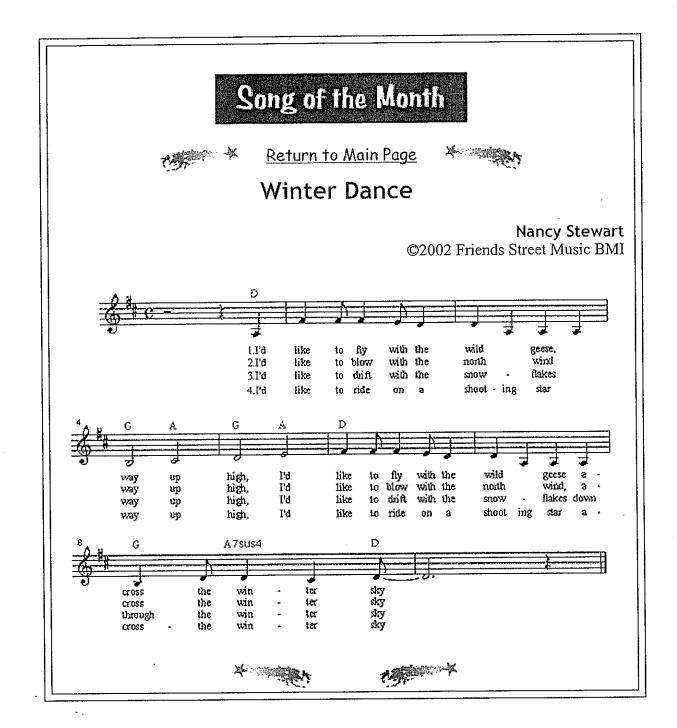
Celebrate With Me

It's Diwali
By Liz Ryerson
(can be chanted or sung to tune of
London Bridge)

Diya lamps are burning bright Burning bright, burning bright Diya lamps are burning bright It's Diwali.

See them lighting up the night Up the night, up the night See them lighting up the night It's Diwali.







**Special Festive Time** 







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