

# Christmas Eve in Trinidad

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*This was a popular song for the Christmas festivities when I taught at Wilkes Green School in Handsworth, Birmingham in the 1960s. Many of the children in class were born of recently arrived Jamaicans immigrants; it didn't seem to matter that the song was based in Trinidad – the calypso rhythm was the attraction.*

*Words and music by: Massie Patterson and Sammy Heyward.*

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music with lyrics underneath. The notes are simple, reflecting the calypso rhythm mentioned in the text. Chords are indicated above the staff: F, C7, F, Bb, F, C7, F, Gm, C7, F, Bb, F, C7, F.

San - ta, what - ya do - in' Christ - mas Eve? \_\_\_ At my house - what are you goin' to leave, \_\_\_

San - ta, how you goin' to make the rein - deer go? \_\_\_ In Port of Spain - San - ta we

don't have snow. Christ - mas Eve? \_\_\_ in Trin - i - dad, \_\_\_ Chil - dren are good - not one is bad. \_\_\_

What a night - for girls and boys, \_\_\_ San - ta will bring - them plen - ty of toys. \_\_\_



Santa, whatya doing Christmas Eve?  
At my house what are you going to leave;  
Santa how you going to make the reindeer go?  
In Port of Spain Santa we don't have snow.

Christmas Eve in Trinidad,  
Children are good not one is bad.  
What a night for girls and boys,  
Santa will bring them plenty of toys.