

88.5 JAZZ FM Helps with Christmas

“Rudolf the red nosed reindeer had a very shiny nose. All of the other reindeer...?” and - something, something, something -

Ever find yourself singing your favorite Christmas songs only to discover you can't remember the rest of the lyrics? The staff at Mercyhurst College's public radio station, 88.5 JAZZ FM - WMCE, know how frustrating that can be, and they have come to our rescue.

88.5 JAZZ FM has launched worldwide the lyrics to more than 100 Christmas songs on the Internet at: <http://www.ErieRadio.com> – just click on the dancing Santa Claus.

Michael Leal, JAZZ FM general manager, his wife, Christie, and daughter, Danielle, originally designed the Christmas Web page as a gift to aid family and friends in their search for lyrics to popular Christmas songs. Now, the Web site reaches people in more than 100 different countries.

Each year, the Web site receives an average of more than 5,000 hits each day in November of people accessing lyrics to famous Christmas songs.

During peak times in December, the Web page is estimated to get more than 10,000 visits per day, Leal said.

The number of people visiting the Web page has been incredible, he said. We first put the lyrics home page up in 1997 and since that time, we have had more than 3.3 million visitors with more than a million visitors in the past four years. Users from Egypt, Kuwait, Colombia, Estonia, Portugal, Thailand, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Canada and the United States have stopped to view the page.

Most of the people who use the site are teachers or groups who plan to go caroling and need to know the words to the traditional holiday songs, Leal added.

Nancy Farmer from Jamestown, Colo., was able to get the words to Christmas songs for her group's caroling event. She wrote the radio station to express her gratitude.

“Just wanted to say thank you, I'm responsible for the lyrics for Christmas caroling tomorrow night, and your list was really great,” Farmer said. “You saved my reputation.”

Pamela Boboc dropped by the site to look for songs for her Girl Scout troop. She also wrote an email in appreciation.

“Your Web site was a lifesaver,” Boboc said. “Our Scout Troop 472 from Lunada Bay, Calif., can now go caroling with confidence. Your site was perfect for me to find the lyrics I need.”

“My 9-year-old daughter confided in me today that she wants to sing Christmas carols, but is embarrassed because she doesn't know the lyrics,” wrote Pam Palis-Kalish of Chehalis, Wash. “With your fantastic resource, we were able to put together a book. Again, thanks for the inspiration and confidence your website contributed to my daughter's self-esteem.”

The Christmas homepage is part of the radio station's “Jazz Christmas Music Festival.”