

HOW TO SILENCE A GROUP OF CAROLERS

★ **Turn out the lights.**

As soon as you hear or see the carolers coming down the street, douse the lights. A dark house may deter them from stopping, since they will think no one is home. Turning out the lights belatedly—after they have arrived at your door—will send a strong message, but carolers are frequently very determined.

★ **Turn up your music.**

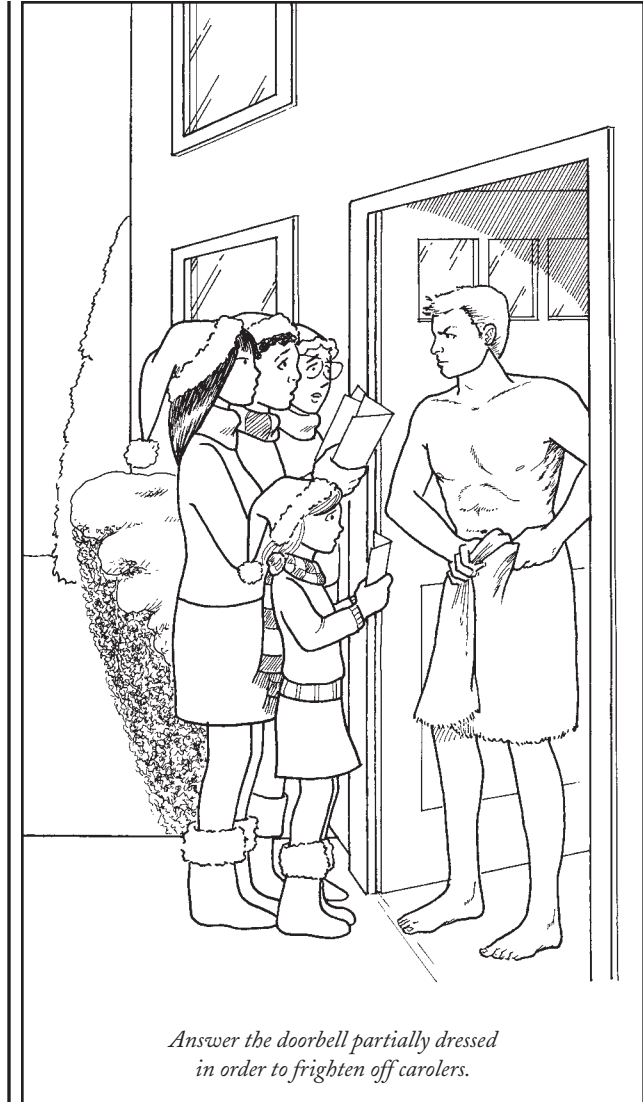
Without opening your door, play CDs at high volume. Speed metal and 1970s rock are likely to be in a different key than the carolers, who will be unable to stay in tune, become discouraged, and depart. If you are listening to Christmas music, shut it off immediately, or they may be encouraged to sing along.

★ **Answer the door in a robe or towel.**

Embarrassed, the carolers may simply leave. Nudity (even partial) may offend them and make them unable to sing. Call to another person inside the house (real or imaginary), “I’ll be right back.”

★ **Answer the door holding a telephone.**

Shout, “I can’t hear you! There are carolers singing!” into the mouthpiece until the carolers move on.



*Answer the doorbell partially dressed
in order to frighten off carolers.*

★ **Bribe them.**

Tell them you would like to make a small donation, and that you enjoy their singing—from a distance.

★ **Request songs they will not know.**

The song repertoire of the caroler is generally quite shallow. Good choices to stump the carolers include “Adam Lay Ybounden,” “Riu, Chiu,” and “The Zither Carol.”

★ **Send them to someone else.**

Smile and point to the house of a stranger or a neighbor you dislike, and say, “My friend over there really loves carols!” A house that is lavishly decorated for the season will prove irresistible to them.

HOW TO SING ALONG WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW THE WORDS

★ **Request “Deck the Halls.”**

Every verse ends with “Fa La La La La, La La La La,” which is easy to remember.

★ **Just join in.**

Carolers are irrepressible: If you are lost (or off-key), they will simply sing louder to drown you out.

★ **Listen for the chorus.**

Most carols have a repeating section, or chorus. Listen for it, and then sing only that part.

★ **Lip-synch.**

Move to the back of the group, then move your mouth soundlessly as they sing.

Be Aware

- Do not attempt to discourage carolers by stating that you are Jewish: You will get “Light the Menorah,” “The Dreidel Song,” “Sunrise, Sunset,” or another menu of ethnic songs.
- Do not tell carolers that you don’t celebrate Christmas: You are likely to hear “Frosty the Snowman,” “Sleigh Ride,” “Jingle Bell Rock,” or a litany of secular holiday songs.
- Do not attempt to avoid carolers by going to the bathroom; they will be waiting when you return.