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Happy New Year, everyone! Thanks for joining me for our first episode of Busy Kids Love Music in 2022. I'm Carly Seifert and I'm the creator of Busy Kids Do Piano, and I'm thrilled to be kicking off the new year with you. Before we get going with our episode, I just wanted to let you know that if learning to play the piano was on your list of New Year's resolutions or goals, my online piano lesson programs are currently open for enrollment through January 10th. You can learn more about my program for kids at [busykidsdopiano.com](https://www.busykidsdopiano.com) and my program for adults at [busymomsdopiano.com](https://www.busymomsdopiano.com), and I'll pop links to my programs in the show notes as well.

Since we are just a few days into the new year, I think it's the perfect time to listen to and learn about a New Year's carol that might be familiar to you...

Auld Lang Syne is a famous tune that has sort of become a world-wide New Year's anthem in many English speaking countries. Auld Lang Syne, when translated from the Scots original language, means "For Old Time's Sake" and was first transcribed by Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1788. (The poem itself was probably written much earlier.) Burns collected Scottish traditional songs, editing them in order to polish them up and preserve them for future generations.

Burns originally set the words of the poem to a different tune than the one we are familiar with, but in 1799, his publishers set the poem to the tune that we know and use today.

In the 19th century the song became part of the Scottish New Year's Celebration. The New Year was an important holiday in Scotland and was widely celebrated. Just before midnight, everyone would stand in a circle holding hands and sing the song. At the beginning of the final verse, when the lyrics say "And there's a hand my trusty

friend”, people would cross their arms across their bodies so that their left hand was holding the hand of the person on their right and the right hand would hold the hand of the person on the left. When the song ends, everyone rushes to the middle while trying to maintain the hand holding.

The Scottish song became popular in North America in 1929 when a bandleader named Guy Lombardo played the song with his band Royal Canadians at the turn of the new year in a series of popular radio broadcasts that took place each New Year’s Eve. Eventually, his band would play the show on television broadcasts as the “ball dropped” in New York City’s Times Square from 1939–1977.

It’s now become a musical fixture as the New Year is rung in and has been translated into over 40 different languages, appeared in famous films such as Elf and Forrest Gump and performed by vocalists, orchestras and artists all over the world.

There is such a variety of renditions of this famous song, and if you head over to my show notes at [busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/61](https://busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/61), you’ll find a curated playlist that I’ve put together with a variety of these different arrangements. I hope that you enjoy this playlist until our next episode of Busy Kids Love Music airs in two weeks. I’m excited for the New Year and look forward to connecting with you so that we can make sure 2022 is filled with lots of wonderful musical adventures. Bye for now!