

# GUYANA

Christmas is made of this

**Ten Poems**

By Dmitri Allicock



**WHAT MEMORIES ARE MADE OF**

[My dear wife Evadney and late uncle John Fiedtkou-  
Upper Demerara River]

Demerara runs like a dream  
Twinkling in the sun's beam  
Like a precious family kiss  
Memories are made of this

To sit with a relative of old  
And share the stories of gold  
A treasured time to reminisce  
Memories are made of this.

An old time Guyanese Christmas bliss  
Family and friendship that I miss  
A black cake and a pepper pot kiss  
Memories are made of this.



## **PEPPER POT**

### **- Blessings of Christmas-**

Pepper pot, oh sweet pepper pot!  
Some Guyanese like it real hot  
Add some wiri -wiri peppers  
The more, the better

Cassareep of the Pomeroon  
Hum of that Christmas tune  
It is better than all the rest  
And has passed the taste test

Add some clove and spice  
Orange peel, cinnamon are nice  
Cook and let it cure days before  
And soon you will be asking for more

Pepper pot, oh sweet pepper pot!  
Some Guyanese like it real hot  
The blessings of Christmas in my head  
Enjoy it at breakfast with homemade plait bread.



## **MY ENAMEL CUP**

A drink from my enamel cup  
Taste the times that were divine  
Coffee, milo or even some wine  
Delicious ovaltine for your lips  
Come and try a little sip

Bottoms up of my enamel cup  
A taste of hot cocoa or bush tea  
As I remember how it use to be  
So lift that cup and give a cheer  
To a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## **TOYS WE USED TO MAKE**

A twinkle of a little toy car  
And what a wonder you are  
Santa couldn't find his way  
So we made it back in the day

Toys and the games we play  
Even for that Christmas day  
Twinkle, twinkle, all around  
My racing car on the ground

Old time creativity was the best  
Our toys different from the rest  
Amazing childhood days, I say  
As I remember our toys today.



## **A LOVELY DAY FOR CRICKET**

Such a lovely day in the Christmas air  
And memories that we share  
Little Wendy takes her stand  
To the delight of her amazing fans  
Vicky comes in, and bowls in the sun  
Wendy pushes to the offside for one run.



## **CHRISTMAS IS COMING!**

Joyful Christmas Day is almost here  
Christ's birth rejoiced with feelings so dear  
Melodious carols praises the season with delight  
Stardust illuminates with colorful flickering lights

Behold all things are softer and beautiful  
Pepper pot, garlic pork, black cake so tasteful  
Rekindled closeness of family and nostalgic festivity  
Glorified savior of mankind and Sacred Nativity

Beaming children, Father Christmas of happiest times  
Early church services and distant bells chime  
Childhood innocence with spirit of rebirth  
Guyana's best and hopes for peace on this earth

Homes replenished, Christmas tree decorated so well  
Ham and eggs, fresh bread with ecstatic spell  
Whistle and drums of dancing Masquerade strumming  
Mother Sally and Wild Cow are coming

Packed Airplanes, headed home with memories so fine  
Hoping to enjoy preciousness and perhaps some wine  
Sorrel or ginger beer in a glass, cook-up rice and best  
dishes

A jolly season to celebrate with cheers and wishes.



## **KEEPING UP WITH THE CHILDREN**

Hold your child within your arms  
Keep the children safe from harm  
Teach them well and watch them grow  
Enjoying Christmas they'll always know  
Let the children laugh and play  
And love them each and every day.



## **CLEAN NECK CHICKEN**

I am a clean neck and I am proud  
I'll flap my wings and crow loud  
A backyard king but less feathers  
Is best suited for the hot weather  
Not to be confused with red neck  
I've a sharp beak for a nice pecks  
When I run out of chicken's luck  
I am easier for the Christmas pluck.



## **2016 IN REVIEW**

Merry finches sing and waters run  
Passage of time, year almost done  
Curtain closes and memories dwell  
To the year 2016, we bid farewell

We laughed, wept and even feared  
And we remember the Orlando tears  
To the games in Rio, we said goodbye  
And we look to where the horizon lie

Winds of Hurricane Matthew did blow  
And we gave thanks for all that we owe

A year dominated by America's election  
And the historical November's selection

A time of birth and death, we think of them  
The passing of an American hero, John Glenn  
And with happy smiles and wishes at midnight  
We say hello to the New Year in the dazzling light.



## **THE CHOSEN BACKYARD KING**

Throughout the backyard, the word was out  
That the king will be chosen without a doubt  
He was more colorful and bigger than the rest  
And he thought that he was indeed the best

On his favorite paling fence, he was so proud  
Flapping his wings to the light and crowing loud  
He remembered Christmas joy of last year's delight  
A king for both the yard and the house would be right

Each day, the hens in their nest provided eggs  
They were well received and didn't have to beg

The ducks happily quack and the turkeys gobble  
They came and they all went with any squabble

But in another pen, the strangest thing he heard  
That there were some showoffs called meat birds  
Cackling disrespect and said that he was too hard  
And that he would only be the king of the backyard.

Then came Christmas Day in the twinkling light  
The crows of this backyard king was such a sight  
He suddenly realized that all across the amazing earth  
He was truly chosen to announce the Baby Jesus's birth.

***HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!***