**HEAVEN CANNOT HOLD HIM  
 (In the Bleak Midwinter)**

This is my favorite Christmas carol, and it goes very nicely with a guitar accompaniment. The words are from a poem by Christina Rossetti published in 1872, and it was set to music in 1906 by the great Scandinavian composer Gustav Holst. You can hear a very creditable version of this carol (in the same key, but slightly different chords) by James Taylor at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qmtO6cebcU>, or at the link below.

**D Bm Em A**

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.

**D Bm G A D**

Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.

**G Bm G A**

Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow.

**D Bm Em A D**

In the bleak midwinter, long long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain.

Heaven and earth shall flee away. When he comes to reign.

In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed.

Lord God Almighty – Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered here.

Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air.

But only his mother in her maiden bliss.

Worshipped the beloved, with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part.

Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.