Holiday Music Comparison

Core French 8

**Vive le vent**

**By Francis Blanche (US, 1948)**

**REFRAIN**  
Vive le vent  
Vive le vent  
Vive le vent d’hiver  
Qui s’en va sifflant soufflant  
Dans les grands sapins verts, Oh !  
Vive le temps  
Vive le temps  
Vive le temps d’hiver  
Boule de neige et jour de l’an  
Et bonne année grand-mère

Sur le long chemin  
Tout blanc de neige blanche  
Un vieux monsieur s’avance  
Avec sa canne dans la main  
Et tout là-haut le vent  
Qui siffle dans les branches  
Lui souffle la romance  
Qu’il chantait petit enfant

**REFRAIN**

**BRIDGE**

Joyeux joyeux Noël  
Aux mille bougies  
Qu’enchantent vers le ciel  
Les cloches de la nuit. Oh !

Vive le vent  
Vive le vent  
Vive le vent d’hiver  
Qui rapporte aux vieux enfants  
Leurs souvenirs d’hier.

Et le vieux monsieur  
Descend vers le village  
C’est l’heure où tout est sage  
Et l’ombre danse au coin du feu.  
Mais dans chaque maison  
Il flotte un air de fête  
Partout la table est prête  
Et l’on entend la même chanson. Oh !

**REFRAIN + BRIDGE**

Boule de neige et jour de l’an  
Et bonne année grand-mère.

**Translation from French**

**REFRAIN**

Long live the wind,

Long live the wind,  
Long live the winter wind,  
Which goes whistling, blowing  
In the big green Christmas trees, oh!

Long live the weather,

Long live the weather,  
Long live the winter weather,  
Snowballs and new year's day  
and happy new year Grandma!

Along the long path  
All white from the white snow  
An old man advances  
With his cane in his hand.  
And all above the wind  
Which whistles in the branches  
Blows on him the romance  
That he sang as a young child, oh!

**REFRAIN**

**BRDIGE**

Merry, Merry Christmas  
To the thousand candles  
Which delight toward heaven  
The night's bells.  
Long live the wind,

Long live the wind  
Long live the winter wind  
Which brings to old kids  
Their memories of yesterday, oh!

And the old man  
Goes down toward the village,  
It's the time when everyone is good  
And the shadow dances near the fire.  
But in each house  
There's a festive air  
Everywhere the table is ready  
And you hear the same song, oh!

REFRAIN + BRIDGE

Snowballs and new year's day  
and happy new year Grandma!

**Jingle Bells**

**James Lord Pierpont (France, 1857)**

Dashing through the snow  
On a one horse open sleigh  
O'er the fields we go,  
Laughing all the way  
Bells on bob tail ring,  
Making spirits bright  
What fun it is to ride and sing  
A sleighing song tonight

**REFRAIN**

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells  
Jingle all the way  
Oh, what fun it is to ride  
In a one horse open sleigh  
Jingle bells, jingle bells  
Jingle all the way  
Oh, what fun it is to ride  
In a one horse open sleigh

A day or two ago,  
I thought I'd take a ride,  
And soon Miss Fanny Bright  
Was seated by my side;  
The horse was lean and lank  
Misfortune seemed his lot  
We got into a drifted bank,  
And then we got upsot.

**REFRAIN**  
  
Now the ground is white  
Go it while you're young  
Take the girls tonight  
And sing this sleighing song  
Just get a bob tailed bay  
Two-forty as his speed  
Hitch him to an open sleigh  
And crack! you'll take the lead  
  
**REFRAIN**

**COMPARING SONG VERSIONS**

1. Describe what the English version is about in your own words
2. Describe what the French version is about in your own words
3. What are two ways that the French and English versions of this song are the same?
4. What are two ways that the French and English versions of this song are different?
5. Do you think direct translations are often used when songs are adapted from one language to another? Explain.