

YOU HEARD IT HERE

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First, I must state this song has a lovely, albeit sort of melancholy melody. The lyrics are beautiful with great sentiment. In addition, I have attached a link to a video with a little different approach. Instead of showing the performer, the video is a clip from Charlie Chaplin's 1925 silent film, **The Gold Rush**. It's a scene of a dinner party which ends up with him performing a dance using two small loaves of bread and forks. A scene which was later replicated by Johnny Depp in the 1993 movie, **Benny and Joon**, filmed in our own lovely City of Spokane. And if you watch you will see a very young Julianne Moore as a waitress. I digress.

Peggy Lee's voice is perfectly suited for this song. There are other covers that do not match this. It does not specifically mention wine but does ask us to raise your glass which I will assume is filled with wine. It is a song of thanks and gratitude for those loved ones we cherish in our lives.

"My dear acquaintance, it's so good to know you, for strength of your hand that is loving and giving." I'll take that tribute in the first verse. In the second verse *"a happy new year to all that is living to all that is gentle, kind, and forgiving"* is a sentiment we could all agree on. The repeating phrase *"raise your glass and we'll have a cheer, for all of us who are gathered here,"* is a reminder of the theme of the song, which is thanks for "all of us." The lyrics below speak for themselves.


A little bit about **Peggy Lee**, who regardless of your age, is someone whose name you should be familiar with. She was born Norma Deloris Engstrom in Jamestown, North Dakota (my old home state) in 1920. Her father worked for the railroad, and they bounced around a bit. She started singing at an early age and had her own radio show at a Valley City, ND radio station in 1936 at the age of 16. The following year, a station in the much larger market of Fargo brought her on board. The station manager, Ken Kennedy is the one attributed to changing her name to Peggy Lee. In 1938 she made a foray to California, but it was cut short due to illness, and she returned home. It wasn't until 1940 that she made it back to Palm Springs, where she developed her sultry style of singing.

She later shared: *"I knew I couldn't sing over them, so I decided to sing under them. The more noise they made, the more softly I sang. When they discovered they couldn't hear me, they began to look at me. Then, they began to listen. As I sang, I kept thinking, 'softly with feeling'. The noise dropped to a hum; the hum gave way to silence. I had learned how to reach and hold my audience—softly, with feeling."*

There is a lot more history. Peggy Lee was a songwriter and singer. Probably best known for two of her biggest singles, **Fever** and **Big Spender**. She left an indelible mark in the world of music and is still revered.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwQifnmjagk>

LYRICS

	<p>My dear acquaintance, it's so good to know you For strength of your hand That is loving and giving And a happy new year With love overflowing With joy in our hearts For the blessed new year. Raise your glass and we'll have a cheer For us all who are gathered here And a happy new year to all that is living To all that is gentle, kind, and forgiving Raise your glass and we'll have a cheer My dear acquaintance, a happy new year.</p>	<p>All of those who are hither and yonder With love in our hearts We grow fonder and fonder Hail to those who we hold so dear And hail to those who are gathered here. And a happy new year to all that is living To all that is gentle, young, and forgiving Raise your glass and we'll have a cheer</p> <p>My dear acquaintance, a happy new year Happy new year.</p>
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