

## 1913 Massacre

Arlo Guthrie

Take a trip with me in nineteen thirteen  
To Calumet, Michigan in the copper country  
I'll take you to a place called Italian Hall  
And the miners are having their big Christmas ball

I'll take you in a door and up a high stairs  
Singing and dancing is heard ev'rywhere  
I'll let you shake hands with the people you see  
And watch the kids dance 'round the big Christmas tree.

There's talking and laughing and songs in the air  
And the spirit of Christmas is there ev'rywhere  
Before you know it you're friends with us all  
And you're dancing around and around in the hall

You ask about work and you ask about pay  
They'll tell you they make less than a dollar a day  
Working their copper claims, risking their lives  
So it's fun to spend Christmas with children and wives.

A little girl sits down by the Christmas tree lights  
To play the piano so you gotta keep quiet  
To hear all this fun; you would not realize  
That the copper boss thug men are milling outside

The copper boss thugs stuck their heads in the door  
One of them yelled and he screamed, "There's a fire"  
A lady she hollered, "There's no such a thing;  
Keep on with your party, there's no such a thing."

A few people rushed and there's only a few  
"It's just the thugs and the scabs fooling you."  
A man grabbed his daughter and he carried her down  
But the thugs held the door and he could not get out.

And then others followed, about a hundred or more  
But most everybody remained on the floor  
The gun thugs, they laughed at their murderous joke  
And the children were smothered on the stairs by the door.

Such a terrible sight I never did see  
We carried our children back up to their tree  
The scabs outside still laughed at their spree  
And the children that died there was seventy-three

The piano played a slow funeral tune,  
And the town was lit up by a cold Christmas moon  
The parents, they cried and the men, they moaned,  
"See what your greed for money has done?"