



## *Little Door to the Sixth of December*

Today we talk about a Christmas song you most likely have listened to: Driving Home for Christmas. Well, not about the song itself but how it came to be.

It was 1978 and Chris Rae (born on March 4, 1951), was banned from driving and the record company wouldn't pay for a rail ticket. But he needed to go from London to Middlesbrough (a 4 hour and 40-minute drive). So, his wife took their old Austin Mini and drove all the way down from Middlesbrough to Abbey Road studios to pick him up.

On their way back home, it started snowing and all they had left were £220.

Due to the traffic on the road M25 they kept getting stuck and when Rae looked across at the other drivers he saw how miserable they all looked. Jokingly, he started singing *"We're driving home for Christmas ..."* and whenever street lights illuminated the car he wrote down the lyrics. Around 3 am they arrived at home where he found a letter from PRS America. His song *"Fool (If You Think It's Over)"* was a hit in the US and he received a cheque for £15,000. From their last £220 they went up to being able to buy a house.



Initially, he didn't want to write a Christmas song, because he thought it would ruin any credibility he had left: *"So initially, the song came out on a B-side. Then a DJ flipped it over and started playing it, so Max suggested we re-record it and add some strings. Max played the distinctive jazzy intro, we did a classic 1950s Christmas carol-type arrangement, and loved it. At first, it was another radio hit – but then it started re-entering the Top 40 every year."* (The Guardian) Nowadays, whenever he is stuck on the M25 – Road to Hell – he'd wind down his window and start singing *"I'm driving home for Christmas"* - to the delight of other drivers.