




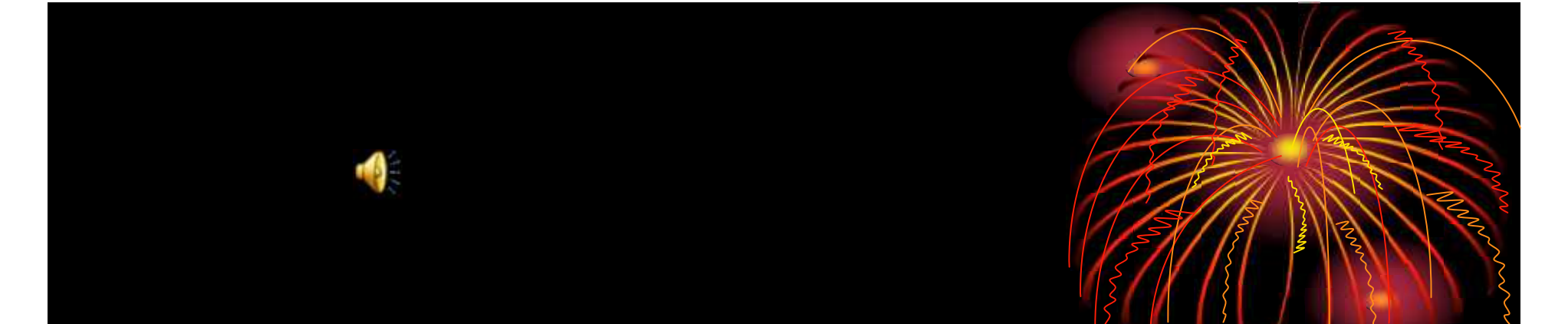
- **Colinda :**

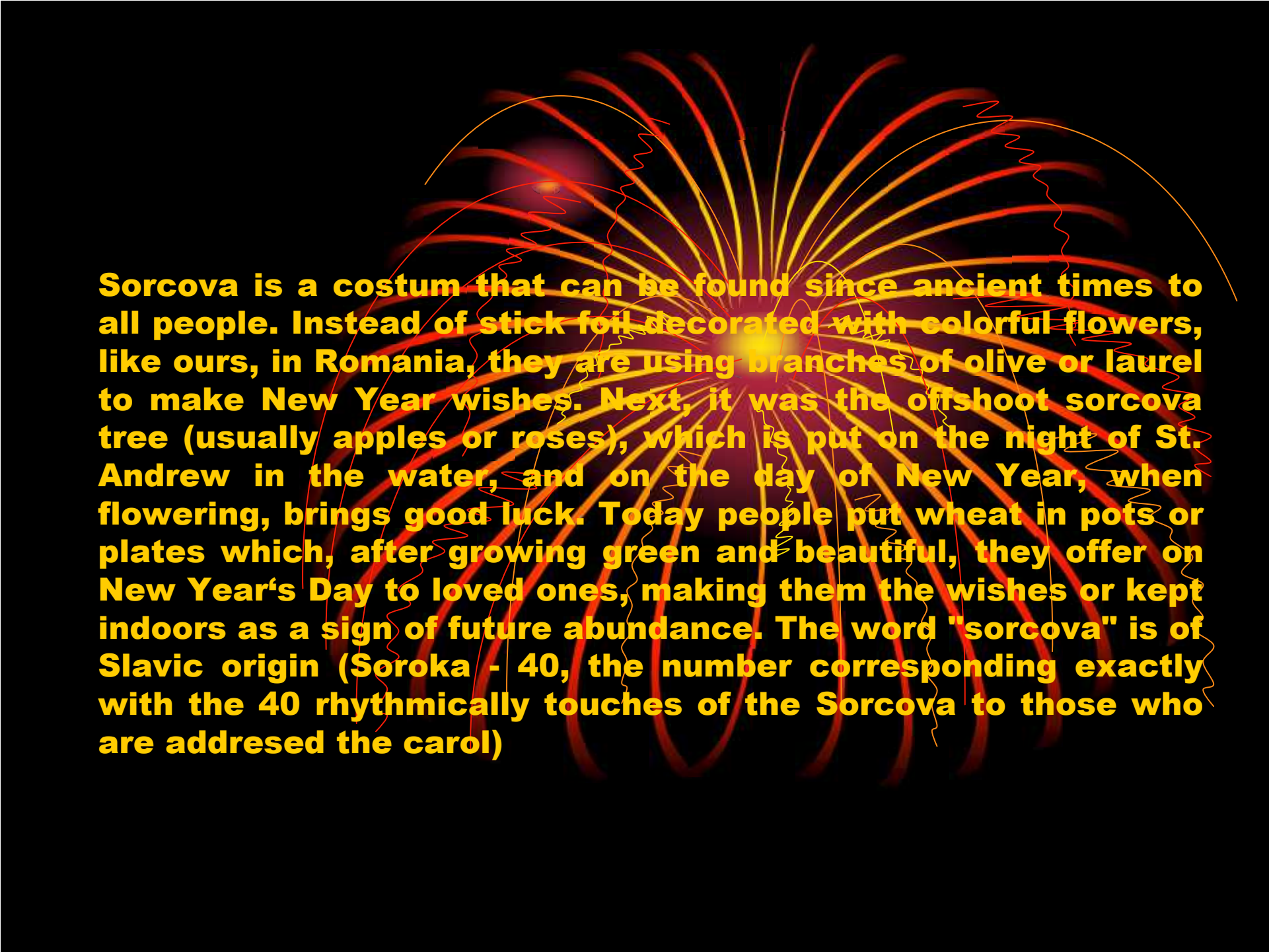
The Christmas carol is a traditional folk song, interpreted by groups of children, teenagers or adults as a means of celebrating Christmas and New Year.

- **Colindul românesc: The Romanian Christmas Song**

These ancient carols that have watched over our childhood, over our parents' and people's childhood made us relive the longing after a new beginning brought by the Nativity of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. This renewal does not come on the way to learning but on the path trodden by our ancestors' footsteps for almost two thousand years, forefathers who used to walk and stroll along from house to house, from one family to another, giving the saving news of Christ's Incarnation.

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- **The Romanian people have kept a deep meaning of the trip to Bethlehem of the three Wise Men (Magi) and of their worship of Christ, turning this into one of the most beautiful customs, that of caroling. Going from house to house in order to tell everybody the great news of Christ being born, turns carol singers into apostles, witnessing the coming true of the promise of sending Mesia into the world so as to save the entire human being. The custom of walking from house to house and of telling by song out loud the nativity of the Holy Child is specific for the way in which the Romanian people celebrate the coming of Christmas. Caroling, even in urban areas continues to be a holiday of the community, of the children and teenagers that “practise” it but also of those who welcome carol singers and reward them with gifts of their tiredness.**

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- **Sorcova is a branch or stick adorned with artificial flowers, carried on New Year's Day by children congratulating people of the occasion. This custom is better known in the region of Muntenia but we can also find it in the rest of the country. It is practiced by children with ages between 3 and 13. There are areas where Sorcova is worn exclusively by boys or by girls. Often children go by two, other times they go on their own, caroling only neighbours or members of the family. Those who are addressed the good wishes are rhythmically touched with the branch while the children say the text. In the past Sorcova was made of natural flowers coming from fertile treed , especially sweet apples trees.**



Sorcova is a costum that can be found since ancient times to all people. Instead of stick foil decorated with colorful flowers, like ours, in Romania, they are using branches of olive or laurel to make New Year wishes. Next, it was the offshoot sorcova tree (usually apples or roses), which is put on the night of St. Andrew in the water, and on the day of New Year, when flowering, brings good luck. Today people put wheat in pots or plates which, after growing green and beautiful, they offer on New Year's Day to loved ones, making them the wishes or kept indoors as a sign of future abundance. The word "sorcova" is of Slavic origin (Soroka - 40, the number corresponding exactly with the 40 rhythmically touches of the Sorcova to those who are addressed the carol)









- **The Goat(Capra) is a folk dance performed on New Year's Day by a masked character with a goat's head on his shoulders.**
- **The goat was for the Romans the animal that could predict bad or good weather.**
- **This tradition (which includes the killing , mourning , burial and resurrection of the goat) was initially a grave ceremony, part of a form of worship. In the frame of agricultural activities, this ritual was meant to bring wealth in the following year, plenty of animals, abundance of the crops. On the background of this good wishing, the host scattered grains over the entire suite. This tradition was generalized on the territory of our country at the end of the XIX (th) century, although being considered a pagan ritual , many of the members of the clergy refused it. Nowadays the ritual is only a pretence for the display of beautiful adornments, carpets and rugs that sometimes have very vivid, harsh colors in order to cheer up the hosts but also a way to present the diversity of good wishing on New Year's Day.**









- **Plugușorul is a small, richly ornamented plough with which young peasants go from house to house to greet people on New Year's Eve. It is an agrarian tradition, with strong roots in the Romanian spirituality. It is a declamatory carol, with theatrical elements which speak about people's working days (when they gather the crops and when they bake the bread). The plough which had sometimes a fir on it, was adorned with coloring paper, ribbons, towels and flowers.**
- **Nowadays, all these are rather symbols in the context of the good wishes addressed to the high officials.**



- **Plugusorul starts with the formula : “Ho! Ho! Ho!”**
Infant formula (“Ho! Ho!”) calls to stop thinking, to prepare as if to check everything before work, but is also a warning the listeners that they can retain the entire content. Infant formulas have something magical, the ballad, having the gift to bring us into the atmosphere. Final formulas usually contain a text of farewell, not without requiring the host to provide gifts . Gradually, old texts like Plugusor, with direct reference to agricultural activities, were invaded and replaced, in part, with comic texts without aesthetic value, the daily reality. Authenticity means adapting, because the folklore must always reflect daily life. The gifts made to the Plugusor’s waits, fruit trees (apples, walnuts, pears) and wheat crops (colacii) were recently replaced by money.











- **Steaua (The Star) is a Christmas custom specific for the Romanian people on Christmas Eve. Those who go with the Star are especially children with ages between 7 and 14. This tradition has a religious meaning being connected to the star that was shown to the three Wise Men in the East. The children go caroling with a big wooden star , adorned with colorful paper and fir branches.**









