

CHRISTMAS IS YOU – TIM REYNOLDS  
A CHILD WAITS – MARY MELNICK  
OUR CHRISTMAS DANCE – MICHAEL RHONE  
I REMEMBER YOUR HEART - MOLLY THORNTON CARTER  
SNOWFALL - TED KOPULOS  
ACROSS THE WAY – BARBARA REYNOLDS  
IF NOT FOR YOU – MARY MELNICK  
JINGLE IN MY PANTS – KERMIT THE FROG & FOZZIE BEAR  
HOW MUCH DID YOU SPEND ON ME  
THIS CHRISTMAS? – KRISTIN BROWNSTONE  
WHO ATE THE MILK AND COOKIES (IF SANTA  
AIN'T BEEN HERE YET?) – KAREN DEHART  
ODE TO NEW YEAR'S – TED KOPULOS

———— INSTRUMENTAL TRACKS ————

CHRISTMAS IS YOU  
A CHILD WAITS  
OUR CHRISTMAS DANCE  
JINGLE IN MY PANTS

All compositions produced and arranged by Ted Kopulos,  
except "Across the Way" Original piano/vocal version produced by Houman Boussina.  
Piano interpretation by Brad Handsby • Remix version produced by Ted Kopulos

Recorded (in part) December 1, 2007 at the Theatre on San Pedro Square • San Jose, CA

## DECEMBRANCE

MEMORIES, WISHES, AND SMILES  
FOR THE TWELFTH MONTH

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY  
TED KOPULOS



This collection of original seasonal songs is a fairly big surprise to me. Of all the kinds of songs I've written over three decades, I've rarely ever tried to write original holiday music and lyrics.

Then, in November 2006, I suddenly *started* composing them, and I couldn't stop. It was too late last year for me to finish enough songs for an album, and even more importantly to collect the wonderful vocalists you're about to hear on this CD. (I hadn't even *met* two of them yet!)

So over this past year, I wrote a few more songs and put together this somewhat eclectic mixture of romantic, light-hearted, nostalgic, traditional and humorous songs for December.

Despite being self-produced, there are a zillion people to thank in the making of this CD.

My wonderful singers and musicians: Kristin Brownstone, Molly Thornton Carter, Karen DeHart, Brad Handshy, Mary Melnick, Barbara Reynolds, Tim Reynolds, and Michael Rhone, who always graciously plunge right in each time I bring them a new song.

My great friend for decades, Gary DeMattei, who unfailingly and generously supplies me with a lovely space to do my musical revues, read-thrus, recordings, and anything I can come up with.

My sisters, Susan, Diana and Patty, who have supplied me with decades of wonderful memories, not just at Christmastime, and continue to love their odd little brother who, for better or worse, decided to stay in the arts. And my extended family: Allen, Jim, Sean, Beth, Tod, Warren and Tim, the best audience anyone could ever have on *any* holiday.

And to the two people who made every Christmas (and every day) so special, and enriched all of our lives, I lovingly dedicate this album. My parents, Pete and Elizabeth. May this CD give you even a small amount of the happiness, music, and memories they gave to us.



One more year goes by  
And gives itself to midnight.  
Greet the new year well and full of cheer.

Funny how it goes,  
Another year just happens.  
Meet the new year well, when it is here.

Time goes by so quickly.  
Moments are like gold.  
So make each one a memory,  
A memory to hold.

Looking back tonight  
And looking toward the future  
Keep your dreams alive and they'll come true.

Take a look at life  
Remember what you cherish  
And hold it dear, within your heart,  
And give the year a happy start,  
And make the new year  
One that's bright for you.

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Produced using  
iMac G5,  
Proteus 1,  
GarageBand,  
Adobe InDesign and  
Finale PrintMusic.

Or maybe it's my older sister  
She eats everything in sight.  
But she's out on a date  
Won't be home till it's late  
And I put 'em out after she left for the night!

So ...

Who ate the milk and cookies  
If Santa ain't hit our block?  
He's gonna just say "nix"  
Without his Oreo fix,  
And he might get mad  
And leave a coal in my sock!

So who ate the milk and cookies  
That I left out right here?  
Yeah, who ate the milk and cookies  
It's gonna cost me dear!

That leaves Mommy, but it couldn't be her  
She was baking them all day steady.  
Or maybe it's Dad,  
But he already had  
A dozen or two already.

But if it's none of them  
Then who could it be  
There's no one else who's in the house --  
Well, no one else but -- *me!*

*Oh, no!*

I ate the milk and cookies  
I did it after supertime  
I meant to put some back  
But Daddy said, "Hit the sack!"  
And I fell asleep after doing the crime!

So I'll get some milk and cookies  
Then scamper back up to bed,  
And he'll get his milk or cookies  
The jolly man who's all in red!  
(I'm sorry, Santa!)  
The man who's all in red!  
(Say hi to Rudolph!)  
The man who's all in red!  
The milk and cookies!

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### **ODE TO NEW YEAR'S (2:41)**

Vocal by Ted Kopulos  
Music and Lyrics by Ted Kopulos

When the clock strikes Twelve tonight,  
And the old year takes its flight,  
And your friends and the ones around you  
Surround you, you'll see ...

As you bid the past goodbye,  
Feeling how the time can fly,  
Forget all the bad.  
Think of good times you've had,  
And the ones that soon will be.

### **CHRISTMAS IS YOU (2:58)**

Music and Lyrics by Ted Kopulos  
Vocal by Tim Reynolds

The sound of music everywhere  
Young faces smiling as they laugh and sing  
The scent of goodies fills the air  
Christmas is near.  
Christmas is due.

The candles flicker in your eyes.  
The light inside you tells me everything.  
So it should come as no surprise,  
Christmas is love,  
Christmas is you.

Shiny things and angel wings  
Light our tree, it's true.  
Hearts aglow, but you should know  
That the glow is you.

Each year I see it more and more,  
The Christmas spirit that's a part of you,  
The love that beats within the heart of you.  
Christmas is you.

Santa's sleigh is on its way  
With reindeer who can fly.  
And best of all, I believe it all  
And you're the reason why.

Each year I see it more and more,  
The Christmas spirit that's a part of you,  
The love that beats within the heart of you.

Christmas is you.  
Christmas is you.  
Christmas is you.

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### **A CHILD WAITS (2:58)**

Vocal by Mary Melnick  
Music and Lyrics by Ted Kopulos

For sounds of gentle bells  
Through a moonlit, silent sky.  
For sounds of distant laughter  
From a jolly kind of guy.  
For signs that Santa's heading toward his gates,  
A child waits.

Neath blankets soft and warm  
Near a fire growing dim  
By a door just barely open  
Just to sneak a peek at "him".  
Surrendering to slumber as it creeps,  
A child sleeps.

For one single night  
Each single year  
The child within us all remembers when.  
The magic light  
That we once knew  
Glow and grows again.

Of a decorated tree  
And a lightly scented wreath.

And of very special presents  
That will soon be found beneath.  
Of the end to waiting for so long it seems,  
A child dreams.

To a wonderland of wonder  
On a snowy, cozy morn,  
Remembering the reason  
And recalling who was born.  
To the special day  
That love around him makes,  
A child wakes.

And for that instant Time stands still,  
Just as if it always will,  
A child smiles.

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### **OUR CHRISTMAS DANCE (3:31)**

Vocal by Michael Rhone  
Music and Lyrics by Ted Kopulos

Christmas apart.  
Didn't want it to happen this year.  
Though you're in my heart,  
I wish you were here.

Missing your eyes  
And the way they sparkle and shine.  
What I wouldn't give  
To have them gaze into mine.

So save a Christmas dance for me  
I want to hold you in my arms  
And slowly dance around the Christmas tree  
It's the only place I want to be.

Wanting you near  
As we sway to the music and light.  
The feel of your arms,  
I want it tonight.

Missing your lips  
As we kiss underneath mistletoe.  
What I wouldn't give  
To make that magic, and so ...

Just save a Christmas dance for me  
I want to hold you in my arms  
And slowly dance around the Christmas tree  
It's the only place I want to be.

So here's my gift for you, my darling,  
Here's all you have to do  
Just open the door,  
And open your arms.  
I'm waiting there for you!

To share our Christmas Dance with you  
There's nowhere else I'll ever be.  
We'll fill each Christmas Eve  
With joy and cheer  
And have our Christmas Dance  
Together every year.

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Buying things some just dream of,  
Spending without care.  
So there's a little secret, love,  
That I want you to share.

How much did you spend on me  
This Christmas?  
I hope you bought me something really nice.  
Forget the snow and mistletoe!  
I want to know the price.

How much did I set you back this Christmas?  
I'm expecting something really big  
You've planned,  
So how much did you spend on me  
This Christmas?  
It better be at least a grand!

How much did you spend on me  
This Christmas?  
How many dollars did you blow on me?  
It's worth the fuss  
To keep us "us",  
So "generous" is key.

How big did you come across this Christmas?  
My lavish taste is something that you've known  
So if you didn't spend enough,  
Things may get a little "rough".  
You'll be spending New Year's all alone.

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### **WHO ATE THE MILK AND COOKIES (IF SANTA AIN'T BEEN HERE YET?) (3:12)**

Vocal by Karen DeHart  
Music and Lyrics by Ted Kopulos

When I woke up last Christmas Eve,  
And tiptoed down the stair,  
I looked to see what Santa left,  
But he hadn't yet been there.

I started back up to my room  
When I looked back and *whoa!*  
Something was gone  
From the plate it was on,  
So now I have to know, oh ...

Who ate the milk and cookies  
If Santa ain't been here yet?  
I know I put some out  
It's all I worried about  
It's the one big thing I could never forget,

So, who ate the milk and cookies  
I gotta find out real quick  
So who ate the milk and cookies  
That were meant for Old Saint Nick?

Maybe it's my baby brother  
He tore up the Christmas wreath!  
And he sucks on his bib!  
But he's stuck in his crib  
And he doesn't have any teeth!

I've got a jingle in my pants  
And it jangles when I dance  
It's a most elusive little Christmas bell.

I gotta find old Santa Claus  
To take it out of there because  
It's uncomf table as H-E- double L!

The gloves were just too big to try  
To grab the bell down there.  
That little sucker stuck down in  
My Santa underwear.

It lodged beneath my padding  
Just below my Santa belt.  
It really was the weirdest thing  
That I have ever felt.

Ohhhhhh ...

I've got a jingle in my pants  
And it jangles when I dance  
It's a most elusive little Christmas bell.

I gotta find old Santa Claus  
To take it out of there because  
It's uncomf table as H-E- double L!

Now when I stood and shook a leg  
It was the strangest thing.  
With every step I'd take, you'd hear  
That little buggar ring!

That little ball of metal made

A sound when ere I'd pass.  
I played a verse of "Jingle Bells"  
Each time I shook my ---

Ohhhhhh ...

I've got a jingle in my pants  
And it jangles when I dance  
It's a most elusive little Christmas bell.

I gotta find old Santa Claus  
To take it out of there because  
It's uncomf table as H-E- double L!  
(You know what *that* spells!)  
Uncomf table as H-E- double L!  
(I think I'm chaffing!)

Uncomf table as H-E- double L!  
Get the bell!

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### HOW MUCH DID YOU SPEND ON ME THIS CHRISTMAS? (2:29)

Vocal by Kristin Brownstone  
Music and Lyrics by Ted Kopulos

The holidays are almost here  
And shoppers fill the street,  
With lists that they prepared all year  
For gifts that can't be beat.

### I REMEMBER YOUR HEART (3:58)

Vocal by Molly Thornton Carter  
Music and Lyrics by Ted Kopulos

There's a never-ending list of things  
I love this time of year.  
All the things I dream about  
When Christmastime is near.

And when I see it in my mind  
And all the things it's been,  
There's one thing I remember, Mom,  
Every time Christmas comes again.

I remember the snow.  
How you smiled as we played.  
The fun.  
How you laughed when we'd slip and fall.

In all of my memories of Christmas  
You are part.  
When I think of Christmas,  
I remember your heart.

I remember your hugs.  
Coming in from the snow.  
Your arms.  
How they made us feel warm inside.

Just ask me the thing that made each  
Christmas from the start.  
When I think of Christmas,  
I remember your heart.

Just say what you will  
But he way that you cared  
Is what I remember then.

All the things that you did  
And the joy that you shared  
Reminds me of Christmas again.

I remember your face  
In the glow of the tree.  
Your smile,  
Filled with love for us all our lives.

And until the day when I can give  
That love to my own,

I'll remember those days, Mom.  
I'll remember those years, Mom.  
And when I think of Christmas,  
I'll remember your heart

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### SNOWFALL (1:59)

Piano Solo by Ted Kopulos  
Music by Ted Kopulos

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### **ACROSS THE WAY (4:13)**

Vocal by Barbara Reynolds  
Piano by Brad Handshy  
Music and Lyrics by Ted Kopulos

A lonely, silent stable  
Whose animals do sleep.  
I grab my tattered robe and lay  
Among the straw and sheep.

When weary travelers stir the night  
And I awake to candlelight.  
I look across the way and see  
A man and woman smile at me.

A manger made of aged wood  
A sense of Joy, a sense of Good  
I see in those who've come this day  
Across the way.

I offer them my scraps of food  
To share what bit have I,  
But as I turn to reach for it,  
I hear a child's cry.

But not in sadness or in fear  
His little cries are soft and dear  
And from His head, a shining light  
Gently warms the wintry night.

A sea of stars that fills the sky,  
And one looks down as Heaven's Eye,  
And shines so bright, the night is day.  
Across the way.

The mother sees me watching  
And beckons unto me,  
To come and meet the wonderous Child  
The world will come to see.

And as I near his bed of pine  
I know that he's a child Divine.  
I feel so deep inside of me  
A sense of peace and harmony.

A child wrapped in swaddling clothes  
Who calms the night in sweet repose  
Three kings have come to humbly pray  
Across the way.

For all my years, I'll always see  
The miracle that came to be.  
The son of God was born that day  
Across the way  
Across the way.

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### **IF NOT FOR YOU (2:58)**

**(THE LIGHT OF HANNUKAH)**  
Vocal by Mary Melnick  
Music and Lyrics by Ted Kopulos

The sun begins to set  
And the shamash light will soon be here.  
The celebration of Your endless love  
Draws near.

Though You're in our hearts each day  
Tonight again, we say ...

If not for You  
There would not be the land.  
If not for You  
There would not be the sea.  
The stars up in Your Heaven  
Would have never come to be.

If not for You  
And Your light from up above  
There would be no love, it's true.  
We would not be  
If not for You.

The candles fill our hearts  
Bringing joy upon this festive night.  
As they did so long ago,  
Once more they burn so bright.

In sorrow, joy and tears  
You've loved us through the years.

If not for You  
There would not be the sun  
If not for You  
There would not be the rain.  
The burning flame reminds us  
What was lost and then regained.

If not for You  
And your light from up above  
There would be no love, it's true

We would not be  
We could not be  
If not for You

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### **JINGLE IN MY PANTS (3:02)**

Vocal by "Kermit the Frog" with "Fozzie Bear"  
Music and Lyrics by Ted Kopulos

My story starts a week or two  
Before last Christmas Eve,  
When Santa had a problem that  
You never would believe.

He needed one more helper  
To wear a Santa suit,  
So I said yes because I thought  
I might look kinda cute.

I got into the coat and hat,  
The beard was on my face,  
And while holding on to all those bells  
I pulled my pants in place.

I stood up in the costume  
And was lookin' pretty hot,  
But while fastening my buckle  
Something fell where it should not ...

Have.

And now ...