

CHRISTMAS IS YOU - TIM REYNOLDS
A CHILD WAITS - MARY MELNICK
OUR CHRISTMAS DANCE - MICHAEL RHONE
I REMEMBER YOUR HEART - MOLLY THORNTON
SNOWFALL - TED KOPULOS
ACROSS THE WAY - BARBARA REYNOLDS
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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



TIM REYNOLDS



MARY MELNICK



MICHAEL RHONE



MOLLY THORNTON



BARBARA REYNOLDS



KRISTIN BROWNSTONE



KAREN DEHART



TED KOPULOS

CD
LYRIC BOOKLET

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

LYRIC BOOKLET

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 suppertime
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.

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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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, 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 Christmas time, 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.



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
Glows 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.

The holidays are almost here
And shoppers fill the street,
With lists that they prepared all year

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!

Or maybe 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?

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 ...

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.

Ohhhhh ...

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 bugger 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 ---

Ohhhhh ...
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 Kopulo

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 (3:34)

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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I REMEMBER YOUR HEART (3:58)

Vocal by Molly Thornton
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

ACROSS THE WAY (4:13)

Vocal by Barbara Reynolds
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 see 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 (THE LIGHT OF HANNUKAH) (2:58)

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,
And bring 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.