


Xmas Vibe

CHARLES XAVIER






According to a review in Jazz Times, "Xmas Vibe" is "deserving of a wide audience" with its creative arrangements of your favorite holiday standards. Most people can provide the glass of wine and warmth of a wood burning fire as the perfect setting for a holiday celebration, but few can create the backdrop of a starry winter night.

With the delicate sound of vocals, guitar, piano, vibes, chimes and bells, vibraphonist Charles Xavier takes the Christmas message on a creative and melodic song journey. The songs, both traditional and contemporary, are enchanting and mystical, and at times, abstract. Xmas Vibe orchestrates a magical winter landscape with style and unusual flair with the combined talents of Charles Xavier, Tina Marie Murray on vocals, Russell Golub on guitar and Terry Rodriguez on piano.

The artistic demands of jazz music have always been the driving force behind the San Francisco Bay Area-based drummer/vibraphonist and composer Charles Xavier, although his music cannot generally be classified as jazz. In his previous releases, Xavier created strong musical statements, bringing together the free-form artistry of jazz, infusing it with the passion of funk, rock and the street heat of rap.

A jazz drummer since he was sixteen, Xavier was born and raised in New Bedford, Massachusetts, where the East Coast jazz scene shaped and defined his musical tastes. He studied arranging and composition at Berklee College of Music in Boston. At the Creative Music Studio in Woodstock, New York, he studied drumming with Jack DeJohnette, Bobby Moses, Stu Martin and Jumma Santos, and creative ensemble performance under the guidance of Karl Berger, Dave Holland, Kalaparusha, and John Ambrocrombie.

His other releases include "The XMan Cometh, Expect the Unexpected," and "The King Has Come," with Xavier and the Messengers, which received an "Editor's Choice" review from Downbeat Magazine.

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1. CHRISTMAS DAY IS ALMOST HERE (Charles Xavier) 5:11
 2. THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY (Davis) 6:06
 3. HAPPY XMAS (War Is Over) (Lennon & Ono) 4:27
 4. CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE (Guaraldi & Mendelson) 4:48
 5. TOYLAND (Traditional) 4:24
 6. GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN (Traditional) 5:27
 7. O HOLY NIGHT (Traditional) 6:16
 8. SILENT NIGHT (Traditional) 4:59
 9. A HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS (Marks) 3:22
 10. SILVER BELLS (Traditional) 3:21
 11. BLUE CHRISTMAS (Hayes & Johnson) 6:05
 12. O CHRISTMAS TREE (Traditional) 4:14

Tina Marie Murray: Vocals (Christmas Day Is Almost Here & Christmas Time Is Here).

Charles Xavier: Vibraphone, Mallet Kat Express, Keyboards, and Percussion. Russell Golub: Guitar.

Terry Rodriguez: Acoustic Piano (Christmas Time Is Here). Produced by Charles Xavier.

Music recorded at Happy Media, San Bruno CA. Guitars recorded live by Ryan Frias, San Mateo CA.

Engineered and mixed by Ryan Frias and Charles Xavier. Mixed at Polarity Post Production and Earthwire Studio. Mastered by Rainer Gembalczyk at Sienna Digital.

Special thanks to Roger Wiersema, Patrick Fitzgerald and Drew Youngs. Charles Xavier plays Musser Vibraphones, and endorses the Mallet Kat Express & Vic Firth Sticks & Mallets.

Design: Albert Salerno

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www.happynoterecords.com


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This holiday music release is dedicated to my father, Charles Xavier Sr., a caring & loving individual and the go-to guy for our family. Dad passed away June 28th, 2009, and our family misses him greatly. I'd like to thank my wife Stephanie, and our families for their support and love. Many heartfelt thanks to the musicians Russell, Tina and Terry, who performed on this CD, my labor of love. Special thanks to Mingus, Bosco, JS Gilbert, my New Bedford hometown friends, and my circle of close friends, you know who you are. To life, to love, to music and friends. I'll miss my close friend Ray Mayeri who loved jazz as much as I do and my bass playing buddies Steve "Liberty" Loria and Donald Baldwin, all whom passed away this year. God bless my friends, who are grooving in heaven now.



RUSSELL GOLUB and CHARLES XAVIER

BAND NAME: Charles Xavier

GENRE: Holiday, World Music

SOUNDS LIKE: George Winston, Gary Burton, Vince Guaraldi.

BAND WEBSITES WITH MUSIC (OFFICIAL/MYSPACE):

www.happynoterecords.com

www.myspace.com/thexman

www.youtube.com/thexmancometh

www.facebook.com/charlesxavierxman

www.twitter.com/CharlesXavierJr

The Spanish version begins on the next page.