

Keb' Mo' - Moonlight, Mistletoe & You (2019)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 22 December 2019 16:29 - Last Updated Monday, 22 March 2021 17:36

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1 *Please Come Home For Christmas* 3:00 2 *Moonlight, Mistletoe & You* 3:29 3 *Better Everyday* 3:34 4 *Santa Claus, Santa Claus* 3:55 5 *Christmas Is Annoying* 2:12 6 *Merry, Merry Christmas* 4:34 7 *I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm* 4:17 8 *Santa Claus Blues* 3:02 9 *When The Children Sing* 3:06 10 *One More Year With You* 4:16

Acoustic Guitar – Keb Mo (tracks: 2, 9) Backing Vocals – Hollie Hammer (tracks: 3), Jason Eskridge (tracks: 3), Michael B. Hicks* (tracks: 3), Theron Thomas II (tracks: 3) Baritone Saxophone – Ryan Middagh (tracks: 10) Bass – Joe Reed (tracks: 2 to 4), Reggie McBride (tracks: 7), Steve Mackey (3) (tracks: 1, 6, 8) Cello – Carole Rabinowitz (tracks: 2, 7) Drum – Neil Tufano (tracks: 10) Drums – Chester Thompson (tracks: 2 to 4), Les Falconer (tracks: 7), Marcus Finnie (tracks: 1, 6), Neil Tufano (tracks: 5), Steve Jordan (tracks: 10) Electric Guitar – Akil Thompson (tracks: 1 to 4, 6, 8), Keb Mo (tracks: 3) Electric Upright Bass – Christian McBride (tracks: 10), Scott Mulvahill (tracks: 5) Janet Darnall (tracks: 2, 7), Jenny Bifano (tracks: 2, 7), Kevin Winkelmann (tracks: 2, 7) Vocals – Carter Moore (tracks: 9), Keb Mo, Melissa Manchester (tracks: 7), The Children Of NIA House Montessori School (tracks: 9)ott Mulvahill (tracks: 5) Grand Piano – Shelly Berg (tracks: 10) Guitar – Keb Mo (tracks: 1, 4 to 8, 10), Mike Pachelli (tracks: 7) Keyboards – David Rodgers (tracks: 1, 6, 8), Phil Madeira (tracks: 2 to 4) Organ – Phil Madeira (tracks: 3) Percussion – Marcus Finnie (tracks: 10) Piano – David Rodgers (tracks: 2, 7, 10), Michael B. Hicks (tracks: 3), Phil Madeira (tracks: 2) Saxophone, Flute – Alex Graham (2) (tracks: 10), Jovan Quallo (tracks: 10) Tenor Saxophone – Gerald Albright (tracks: 3), Evan Cobb (tracks: 7), Tyler Summers (tracks: 3, 7) Trombone – Roland Barber (tracks: 10), Roy Agee (tracks: 3, 7, 10) Trumpet – Quentin Ware (tracks: 10), Steve Patrick (2) (tracks: 10), Vinnie Ciesielski (tracks: 3, 7) Viola – Betsy Lamb (tracks: 2, 7), Simona Ruso (tracks: 2, 7) Violin – Conni Ellisor (tracks: 2, 7), David Angell (tracks: 2, 7), David Davidson (tracks: 2, 7), Janet Darnall (tracks: 2, 7), Jenny Bifano (tracks: 2, 7), Kevin Winkelmann (tracks: 2, 7) Vocals – Carter Moore (tracks: 9), Keb Mo, Melissa Manchester (tracks: 7), The Children Of NIA House Montessori School (tracks: 9)ott Mulvahill (tracks: 5)

The inherent friendliness of *Moonlight, Mistletoe and You* buoys the first holiday album from veteran blues singer Keb' Mo' through its periodic shifts in tone and style. Keb' Mo' has long been known for dabbling in a variety of different American roots music, so the intermingling of

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blues, jazz, and Tin Pan Alley pop comes as no surprise. His easy touch ties together these shifts in sound, but his warmth can sometimes be suppressed by the crisp, clean production that veers just a little bit too close to antiseptic on occasion. Despite the digital gloss of "Merry Merry Christmas" and the bouncy "Better Everyday," Moonlight, Mistletoe and You still winds up as a cozy listen, all due to Keb' Mo's emphasis on sweetness and good humor. The entire album is a celebration -- when he's lamenting the holiday on "Christmas Is Annoying," his tongue is firmly in cheek -- and that's what makes it an appealing soundtrack for the season. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, allmusic.com

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