Jorma Kaukonen □ – Christmas (1996)



1 Downhill Sleighride 2 Christmas Rule 3 What Child Is This? 4 Christmas Blues 5 Journey Of The Three Wise Men 6 Baby Boy 7 You're Still Standing 8 Silent Night 9 Holiday Marmalade 10 Holiday Segue Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar, Baritone Guitar, Backing Vocals, Bells [Sleigh] – Michael Falzarano Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar, Keyboards, Vocals – Jorma Kaukonen Backing Vocals – Vanessa Lillian Bass, Keyboards, Backing Vocals – Fred Bogert Drums – Chris Munson, Wayne Killius

Christmas With Jorma Kaukonen is a collection of folk-rock Christmas songs written and performed by Kaukonen and his musical partner Michael Falzarano. These original numbers should appeal to Kaukonen's fans, but may also extend past that to other folk-rock listeners. Curious buyers may want to take a chance on this album, few Christmas albums contain as many original songs as this one does. ---Bradley Torreano, AllMusic Review

This is one of those real funky Christmas albums that works because of its nontraditional approach; place it alongside your Leon Redbone and "Austin Rhythm and Blues Christmas" holiday CDs.

Jorma Kaukonen, best known as guitarist for Jefferson Airplane and Hot Tuna, has always been more attuned to the blues than rock, and this new Christmas album reflects that – from the opening acoustic blues of "Downhill Sleigh Ride" to the rocking Delta mud of "Christmas Blues."

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Written by bluesever

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Nontraditional it may be, but it's still very much in the vein of the Christmas spirit – perfect for sitting in front of a low fire with a few friends and a warming beverage, chasing through holiday carols with some blues thrown in for leavening.

The highlight is "Christmas Rule," a hilarious, romping blues about Santa's sleigh getting shot down by a too-high Christmas Eve fire, with the not-so-jolly bearded one showing up at the front door in a foul mood demanding the keys to Jorma's pickup in order to finish his deliveries.

Hey – can't do the traditional thing? Treat yourself and get this album. It may be the best Christmas present you ever give yourself. ---Jim Trageser, trageser.com

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