

Kristin Chenoweth – Some Lessons Learned (2011)

Written by bluesever

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01 – *I Was Here* (03:36) 02 – *I Want Somebody (Bitch About)* (03:12) 03 – *Fathers and Daughters* (03:14) 04 – *What Would Dolly Do* (02:49) [play](#) 05 – *God and Me* (02:59) [play](#) 06 – *Change* (03:17) 07 – *What More Do You Want* (03:24) 08 – *Wreck You* (03:49) 09 – *I Didn't* (02:43) 10 – *Borrowed Angels* (04:04) 11 – *What If We Never* (03:37) 12 – *Mine to Love* (04:11) 13 – *Lessons Learned* (04:16)

Musicians: Mike Brignardello Bass Pat Buchanan Guitar (Electric) Shannon Forrest Drums Paul Franklin Guitar (Steel) Vanessa Freebairn-Smith Cello Mike Johnson Guitar Songa Lee Violin Paul Leim Drums Brent Mason Guitars Aaron Oltman Viola Joel Pargman Violin Gary Prim Hammond B3, Piano Mark Robertson Violin Jason Roller Fiddle, Guitar (Electric) Adam Schoenfeld Guitar (Electric) John Willis Banjo, Guitar (Acoustic) Glenn Worf Bass, Bass (Upright)

Having already won an Emmy for her stints in *Pushing Daisies* and *Glee*, and a Tony Award for her leading roles in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *Wicked*, Broadway veteran Kristin Chenoweth could well have to make room on her mantelpiece for a Grammy with her fourth studio album, *Some Lessons Learned*. Eschewing the musical standards of her 2001 debut, *Let Yourself Go* and the Christian AOR of 2005's *As I Am* (although the latter's "Borrowed Angels" does appear here in a slightly altered version), the follow-up to her holiday-themed *A Lovely Way to Spend Christmas*, sees the versatile singer/actress instead go back to her roots on 13 tracks inspired by the country songs she used to sing while growing up in Oklahoma. It's a change in direction which perfectly suits her distinctive nasal twang, especially on the more uptempo numbers, such as the tongue-in-cheek search for unconditional love of "I Want Somebody (Bitch About)," the radio-friendly Shania Twain-esque "What More Do You Want," and the jaunty, old-fashioned honky tonk of "I Didn't." But unsurprisingly, she's just as adept on the slower numbers, as she emotively croons her way through the gentle, steel guitar-laden "God and Me," the fingerpicking acoustics of "Fathers and Daughters," and the faithful cover of Carrie Underwood's "Lessons Learned." Recorded in Nashville with producer Bob Ezrin (Pink Floyd, Peter Dinklage), in between her performances in the Broadway revival of *Promises, Promises*, Chenoweth, perhaps understandably, occasionally fails to leave her show tune background behind, particularly on the soft rock power ballads "I Was Here" and "What If We

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Never," which sound like the kind of show stoppers Kurt and Rachel would belt out at the end of a Glee episode. But the spirit of childhood hero Dolly Parton is never far behind, as evident on an affectionate, lilting rendition of "Change" (from her 1996 album Something Special) and "What Would Dolly Do?," a self-penned tribute to the country icon packed with toe-tapping rhythms, doo wop vocals, and rockabilly riffs. Her most high-profile release to date, Some Lessons Learned is a convincing first attempt to embrace the mainstream, which suggests that Chenoweth can now add authentic country-pop singer to the list of her many talents. ---Jon O'Brien, allmusic.com

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