

Dave Koz - Memories of a Winter Night (2007)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Deck The Halls* 2. *Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town* 3. *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas (Instrumental)* 4. *White Christmas* 5. *Winter Wonderland (Fast)* 6. *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* 7. *Please Come Home For Christmas* 8. *Memories Of A Winter's Night* 9. *Little Drummer Boy (2001 Version)* 10. *Silver Bells* 11. *Boogie Woogie Santa Claus* 12. *O Tannenbaum (O Christmas Tree)*

Musicians: Dave Koz - Saxophones, Piano Alex Al - Bass David Benoit - Piano Rick Braun - Trumpet Gerry Brown - Drums Bridgette Bryant - Background Vocal Brian Culbertson - Piano, Keyboards, Percussion, Trombone Jim Culbertson - Trumpet Paul Jackson, Jr. - Guitar Brian Kilgore - Percussion Jeff Koz - Nylon String Guitar Nick Lane - Trombone Kimberley Locke - Vocal Tony Maiden - Guitar, Vocal Eddie Miller - Wurlitzer, B-3 Organ Ester Nicholson - Background Vocal Ray Parker, Jr. - Guitar Phil Parlapiano - Keyboards, Guitar Fernando Perdomo - Bass Doug Pettibone - Guitars David Piltch - Acoustic Bass Brenda Russell - Vocal Bill Sharpe - Bass Sandy Simmons - Background Vocal Brian Simpson - Keyboards, Piano Kelly Sweet - Vocal Michael Thompson - Guitar Stevo Théard - Drums Bruce Watson - Guitars Gigi Worth - Background Vocal Donn Wyatt - Piano, Keyboards

From trends visible in the 2000s, smooth jazz fans couldn't get enough of three things: all-star cruises, all-star summer tours, and big holiday tour extravaganzas. In 2006, the only year since 1997 that genre superstar Dave Koz didn't traverse the country for Christmas, there were three other tours out there. As if to say, "I'm back, now deck those halls," he celebrated the "Dave Koz and Friends" Smooth Jazz Christmas tenth anniversary in 2007 with not only another great touring show but his third Christmas CD in ten years. For fans who missed 1997's underrated *December Makes Me Feel This Way* and 2001's *Smooth Jazz Christmas*, *Memories of a Winter's Night* is a good way to catch up with the best of those discs and hang out by the fire with some exciting new tracks (seven in all). There are three songs from December, two from *Smooth Jazz Christmas* (including the high-spirited, big-band flavored Brenda Russell led jam "Boogie Woogie Santa Claus"), and a nice mix of classics Koz hadn't previously tackled, from "Deck the Halls" to a jamming blues version of "Winter Wonderland." The real highlights, however, are the new tracks by young vocalists Kelly Sweet (an ethereal voiced singer who toured with Koz in 2007), who creates a lovely chill take on "White Christmas," and former

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American Idol finalist Kimberley Locke, who rocks steady on "Please Come Home for Christmas." Koz pays homage to his own tradition with the beautiful, lyrical Hanukkah-inspired title track. ---Jonathan Widran, Rovi

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