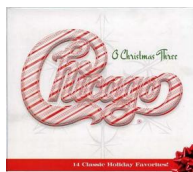


Chicago XXXIII - O Christmas Three (2011)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 07 December 2011 19:30 - Last Updated Tuesday, 12 December 2017 16:44

Chicago XXXIII - O Christmas Three (2011)



01. *Wonderful Christmas Time* (3:50) 02. *Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree* (3:28) 03. *I Saw Three Ships* (3:05) 04. *Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays* (4:12) 05. *What Are You Doing New Years Eve* (5:06) 06. *It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year* (3:32) 07. *I'll Be Home For Christmas* (3:11) [play](#) 08. *On The Last Night Of The Year* (3:38) 09. *Merry Christmas Darling* (3:12) [play](#) 10. *Rockin' And Rollin' on Christmas Day* (4:09) 11. *My Favorite Things* (3:20) 12. *O Christmas Tree* (3:44) 13. *Jingle Bells* (3:30) 14. *Here Comes Santa Claus / Joy To The World* (2:53)

Personnel: Robert Lamm - keyboards, vocals Lee Loughnane - trumpets, vocals James Pankow - trombone, Walter Parazaider - saxophones, flute Jason Scheff - bass, vocals Tris Imboden - drums, percussion Keith Howland - guitars, vocals Lou Pardini - keyboards, vocals Drew Hester - percussion + America (Gerry Beckley and Dewey Bunnell) – vocals, ukuleles, guitars (I Saw Three Ships) Hank Linderman - cuatro (I Saw Three Ships) Dolly Parton – vocals (Wonderful Christmas Time) Bebe Winans – vocals (Merry Christmas Darling) Steve Cropper – guitar (Rockin' And Rollin' On Christmas Day) Children's Choir

Now that Chicago have recorded their third collection of Christmas music -- cleverly titled *O Christmas Three* -- it's a reasonable question to ask whether there are still new carols for the group to sing. Naturally, the answer is yes, there are songs that they missed on their first two seasonal LPs, and they do a fair bit of them here, including songs like "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Jingle Bells," and, of course, "O Christmas Tree," all songs they missed the first time around. Also, they have upped the quotient of originals and recent holiday tunes, opening the record with a rendition of Paul McCartney's "Wonderful Christmas Time" featuring Dolly Parton. She's not the only guest here, either, with America lending harmonies to "I Saw Three Ships," BeBe Winans singing "Merry Christmas Darling," and Steve Cropper laying down some guitar on "Rockin' and Rollin' on Christmas Day." Generally, *O Christmas Three* is brighter and cheerier than Chicago's two previous Christmas albums -- and those records were hardly dour, of course -- and that bit of good spirit is enough to make this the rare three-quel that doesn't dampen the legacy of whatever came before. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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