

= Oh Blue Christmas =

Oh Blue Christmas is an EP by the American band A Fine Frenzy , released in November 2009 in the United States by Virgin Records . It was initially released exclusively through Target just two months following the group 's previous studio album Bomb in a Birdcage . The EP contains cover versions of three popular holiday songs ( " Blue Christmas " , " Winter Wonderland " and " Christmas Time Is Here " from A Charlie Brown Christmas ) as well as three original tracks . According to Alison Sudol , A Fine Frenzy 's leader , the collection of songs was recorded in five days at record producer David Bianco 's studio in Los Angeles .

The EP , and " Christmas Time Is Here " in particular , received positive critical reception overall . In the United States , Oh Blue Christmas peaked at number 87 on the Billboard 200 , number three on Billboard 's Top Holiday Albums chart and number 28 on the Top Rock Albums chart . A Fine Frenzy was touring throughout the United States around the time Bomb in a Birdcage and Oh Blue Christmas were released .

= = Composition = =

With a total length at approximately 22 minutes , Oh Blue Christmas contains renditions of three popular holiday songs : " Blue Christmas " ( Billy Hayes , Jay W. Johnson ) , " Winter Wonderland " ( Felix Bernard , Richard B. Smith ) and Vince Guaraldi and Lee Mendelson 's " Christmas Time Is Here " . The latter originally appeared on the 1965 television special A Charlie Brown Christmas and the soundtrack of the same name . Also included are three original tracks , " Redribbon Foxes " , " Winter White " and " Wish You Well " . Of " Redribbon Foxes " , Sudol stated :

... when I was writing it , I was in a cabin covered with snow and it was very quiet outside . This was all in my head , of course . Down a hill there 's a little town , all lit up , carolers singing . It 's a little bit sad , although it 's very beautiful . There 's a little fox creeping through the snow , a fox that 's very hard to catch .

Sudol stated that " Winter White " was the " first genuinely heart @-@ achy song " she had ever written and revealed that " Wish You Well " is about a family member . According to Sudol , the group " expand [ ed ] its sound " by incorporating horns , mandolins and pedal steel guitars . The EP was recorded in five days at record producer David Bianco 's studio ( Dave 's Room ) in Los Angeles . She said of the recording process :

We all holed up in ( producer ) David Bianco 's lovely studio , which was built in the ' 70s and hasn 't changed much since then ? and though it was the sticky , hot LA summer outside , inside , it was snowy , delightful Christmastime . We ... [ recorded ] everything together around an invisible campfire ; everyone picking up different instruments and playing them on a moment 's notice . There was definitely some holiday magic in the air that week .

= = Reception = =

Cory Frye of the Albany Democrat @-@ Herald described Sudol 's overall performance " sultry " and called " Redribbon Foxes " a standout original track . In his review for AllMusic , Andrew Leahey wrote that the cover songs are " perfectly pleasant " , but insisted that Sudol 's original songs were the highlight of the collection . Leahey complimented Sudol 's " lilting , whimsical " performance and mentioned that songs like " Redribbon Foxes " have a broader appeal . Brian Moore of RedEye , a daily publication put out by the Chicago Tribune , thought the EP contained both traditional and indie qualities and described Sudol 's voice as " smooth , velvety and well @-@ suited for holiday music " . OffBeat 's Alex Rawls thought the EP was more " wintry " than " Christmas @-@ y " , more melancholic than celebratory , and only " Wish You Well " evoked a warm , joyous tone . One reviewer for Skope Magazine described the collection as " whimsical " .

" Christmas Time Is Here " in particular received positive critical reception . Moore and Rawls both considered the song to be the best track on the EP . Rawls called it the collection 's " finest moment " , having " evocative sounds that swell and recede " . Frye described the track as " bone @-@

chilling " ; Brandon Ferguson of OC Weekly called it " nostalgia @-@ inducing " .

= = Track listing = =

Track listing adapted from AllMusic .

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from AllMusic .

= = Chart performance = =

Oh Blue Christmas managed to chart in the United States , peaking at number 87 on the Billboard 200 , number three on Billboard 's Top Holiday Albums chart and number 28 on the Top Rock Albums chart .