

= A Very Gaga Holiday =

A Very Gaga Holiday is a live EP released by Lady Gaga , containing songs performed at the ABC Christmas special A Very Gaga Thanksgiving . It was made available for purchase in the US on November 22 , 2011 , exclusively on the iTunes Store and Amazon , and on November 26 in the rest of the world . The EP is made up of jazz covers of the songs " Orange Colored Sky " and " White Christmas " , the latter featuring an extra verse , and acoustic versions of " You and I " and " The Edge of Glory " , both songs originally from the singer 's second studio album , Born This Way (2011) . A recurring theme on the EP is Gaga stopping midway through singing to engage in conversations with the listeners .

Following its release , A Very Gaga Holiday received mixed reviews from music critics . Reviewer Stephen Thomas Erlewine , writing for Allmusic , listed " White Christmas " and " Orange Colored Sky " as highlights , while Amelia Proud , writing for the Daily Mail , found the release to be uninspiring and weaker than Gaga 's other works . A Very Gaga Holiday entered the album charts of Canada , France and the United States , while " White Christmas " entered the singles chart of Belgium , Japan and the United Kingdom .

= = Background and recording = =

Gaga covered " Orange Colored Sky " during a surprise appearance at The Oak Room in New York City on September 29 , 2010 , and again on January 5 , 2011 . Brian Newman served as a guest performer on trumpet for performances at the Robin Hood Gala on May 9 , 2011 , to benefit the Robin Hood Foundation , and at BBC Radio 1 's Big Weekend in Carlisle , England on May 15 , 2011 . Gaga later performed it on the ABC Christmas special A Very Gaga Thanksgiving , along with a cover version of " White Christmas " . Gaga put emphasis on the jazz side of the song . She added a second verse , describing the original song as " too short " . In the verse , Gaga describes a snowman , saying that Santa Claus is on his way to meet him . The lyrics end with Gaga saying , " Okay , so I suppose it 's not very white outside yet . " The songs on A Very Gaga Holiday were recorded during the shooting of A Very Gaga Thanksgiving at the Convent of the Sacred Heart , New York City .

On November 22 , 2011 , A Very Gaga Holiday was released as a digital EP . Both " Orange Colored Sky " and " White Christmas " were included in the release , along with two other tracks which were also performed : minimalist versions of Gaga 's 2011 singles " The Edge of Glory " and " You and I " , both songs which originally featured on Gaga 's second studio album , Born This Way . Interscope Records announced the release after the opening of the Holiday Wonderland Gaga Workshop at Barneys New York . It was released in the United States to the iTunes Store and Amazon and had a worldwide release to iTunes after four days .

= = Composition = =

Gaga 's cover of " White Christmas " is a " jazzy rendition " and features an extra verse about a snowman . Halfway into the cover , before beginning the new verse , Gaga says , " So as you can tell , I 'm very outgoing and a little bit shy , but I 've decided that this song is just too short . It 's such a beautiful Christmas song but it 's only one verse , so I added an extra one . " " You and I " is devoid of the musical arrangements from the version in Born This Way , and features instrumentation from a piano and a trumpet , which is played halfway through the song . From time to time , Gaga shouts the word " America " while singing the song . Her acoustic version of " The Edge of Glory " begins with a monologue , explaining her dedication of the song to her grandfather : " It 's the second Thanksgiving I 'm spending without my grandpa , and I wrote this song about him , so here it is . So Grandma , if you 're watching at home , this one 's for you . " Following the first chorus , Gaga stops playing her piano and tells a story about Italian cookies . A recurring theme for the songs is Gaga stopping midway through singing to engage in conversation with the listeners .

= = Release and reception = =

In the United States , the EP debuted at number 52 on the Billboard 200 with sales of 22 @, @ 000 copies , for the week ending December 10 , 2011 . The same week , the special also had an impact on Gaga 's second studio album , Born This Way , which moved up the Billboard 200 chart from position 72 to 21 , with sales of 47 @, @ 000 ; copies (up 416 % from previous week) . As of April 2016 , A Very Gaga Holiday has sold 44 @, @ 000 copies in the US according to Nielsen SoundScan . Gaga 's version of " White Christmas " entered the UK Singles Chart at number 87 , for the week ending December 3 , 2011 . The same version also entered the Belgium (Flanders) Singles Chart at number 86 , for the week ending dated December 24 , 2011 , and the Japan Hot 100 singles at number 93 . In Canada , A Very Gaga Holiday debuted at number 74 on the Canadian Albums Chart and in France , it entered the SNEP Download Albums Chart at number 26 .

Stephen Thomas Erlewine from AllMusic awarded the EP three out of five stars , saying that the release was an " attractive holiday bauble " and that although Gaga 's main persona was about authenticity , she appeared to " push her affectations " much more than required on the songs . Erlewine picked " White Christmas " and " Orange Colored Sky " as his top choices from the EP . Evigshed Magazine 's Sylvia Lesas complimented the musical arrangement of the tracks , saying that Gaga 's vocals were a highlight of the EP and adding , " ' The Edge of Glory ' featuring beautiful piano line gives me chills . It is a truly moving version . [Gaga] makes every song special . " Erin Strecker from Entertainment Weekly gave a glowing review of the release , explaining that Gaga 's fans might have been expecting a release like A Very Gaga Holiday which gave prominence to the singer 's vocals . She added that the songs showed " how much her voice really is well @-@ suited for the big @-@ band and jazz @-@ era stylings on these tunes " .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Lady Gaga ? vocals , producer , piano
Phil DeTolve ? sound editor , recording at Convent of the Sacred Heart , New York City
Brian Riordan ? sound re @-@ recording mixer
Alex Smith ? piano
Brian Newman ? trumpet
Paul Francis ? drums
Scott Ritchie ? bass
Steven Kortyka ? saxophone
Credits and personnel adapted from digital booklet .

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =