

= Maybe This Christmas =

Maybe This Christmas is a holiday compilation album released in November 2002 through Nettwerk Records featuring contemporary musicians performing both classic and original Christmas songs . The album is the first in a series , named by Ron Sexsmith , of three holiday compilations released through the record label between 2002 and 2004 . A portion of the proceeds from each album in the series went to Toys for Tots , a charity supported by the United States Marine Corps . Most of the tracks exclusive to Maybe This Christmas were recorded just a few months prior to its release . The album 's cover art was designed by artist Paul Frank , creator of Julius the pictured " wide @-@ mouth monkey " . Critical reception of the compilation was mixed , with reviewers often complimenting or criticizing select tracks . In the United States , the album reached a peak position of number thirty @-@ eight on Billboard 's Top Holiday Albums chart .

= = Background and composition = =

Maybe This Christmas is the first in a series of three consecutive holiday compilation albums released through Nettwerk . Maybe This Christmas Too ? and Maybe This Christmas Tree were released in October 2003 and October 2004 , respectively . The series was named by Ron Sexsmith , who contributed the title track to the compilation . A portion of proceeds from all three albums went to Toys for Tots , a charity supported by the United States Marine Corps . Maybe This Christmas contains thirteen " rock @-@ oriented " tracks recorded by various artists . Most of the tracks exclusive to the album were recorded just a few months prior to its release . Allmusic 's MacKenzie Wilson dubbed the compilation as an " album suited for those twenty @-@ somethings searching for [their] not @-@ so @-@ typical Christmas collection . " The cover art was designed by artist Paul Frank , creator of Julius the " illustrated , wide @-@ mouth monkey " .

The album opens with Phantom Planet 's " sweet rock romp " rendition of Felix Bernard and Richard B. Smith 's " Winter Wonderland " . Sexsmith 's title track is less than minutes in length and has a shuffling beat . " Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas " (Ralph Blane , Hugh Martin) features a downtempo , " jazz @-@ like " solo piano performance by Chris Martin of Coldplay . Exclusive tracks to the album include Vanessa Carlton 's piano @-@ driven rendition of the traditional song " Greensleeves " as well as Bright Eyes ' cover of " Blue Christmas " (Bill Hayes , Jay Johnson) ; others include Sense Field 's version of John Lennon and Yoko Ono 's " Happy Xmas (War Is Over) " and " What a Year for a New Year " by Dan Wilson , lead singer of the rock band Semisonic .

Jimmy Eat World 's " 12 / 23 / 95 " , described by The Austin Chronicle 's Christopher Gray as " serious emo " and The New York Times ' Kelefa Sanneh as a " gentle ballad of apology " , previously appeared on the band 's 1999 album Clarity . The song title and date refer to Little Christmas Eve , the traditional day in which Norwegians decorate Christmas trees . Jack Johnson incorporates a " upbeat street @-@ corner " shuffle into his version of " Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer " (Johnny Marks , Robert L. May) , just over two minutes in length . The traditional song " God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen " is performed as a duet by the Barenaked Ladies and Sarah McLachlan . Following is a string of original songs , including " Bizarre Christmas Incident " by Ben Folds , " What a Year for a New Year " by Dan Wilson) and Neil Finn 's " Sweet Secret Peace " . " Winter Wonderland , " " Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas " and " Bizarre Christmas Incident " were recorded previously for fans but had not been released commercially . The closing track , " Snow " (Archibald Lampman , Loreena McKennitt) was performed by McKennitt and has been described as a " haunting , orchestral new @-@ age hymn that could fit nicely into a midnight Mass . "

= = Reception = =

Maybe This Christmas received mixed critical reception . Many reviewers complimented or criticized select tracks , though Jimmy Eat World 's " 12 / 23 / 95 " received the most praise . Allmusic 's

MacKenzie Wilson awarded the album three out of five stars and described it as a " solid holiday effort " for both " casual and die @-@ hard music fans " . Wilson considered " 12 / 23 / 95 " the standout track of the album and wrote that performances by Bright Eyes , Loreena McKennitt , Sense Field and Dan Wilson provided traditional carols with " fresh face " along with their own " dash of coolness " . She also complimented Coldplay 's rendition of " Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas " , calling it as " endearing " as the original , and thought Sarah McLachlan 's " God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen " was " playfully charming " . Christopher Gray of The Austin Chronicle considered " Blue Christmas " the best and " Bizarre Christmas Incident " the " funniest " track on the compilation .

Chris Willman of Entertainment Weekly gave the album a " B " rating and called it a " mixed bag " . He described performances by Vanessa Carlton and Bright Eyes as " painful " but also complimented the Barenaked Ladies and McLachlan for their collaboration . Willman considered Wilson 's " What a Year for a New Year " the stand @-@ out track of the album . Annie Zaleski of The Phoenix rated the album 2 @.@ 5 out of 4 stars , calling some of the collection " gorgeous and alluring " but most of it " subdued " . Zaleski complimented the title track but criticized performances by Coldplay and Bright Eyes , the latter for its " unsteady , wobbly twang " . Zaleski and Kelefa Sanneh of The New York Times also praised " 12 / 23 / 95 " . Zaleski concluded : " Not exactly your traditional take on traditional holiday fare , but a pleasant alternative to all the muzak you have to put up with this time of year . "

= = Track listing = =

" Winter Wonderland " (Felix Bernard , Richard B. Smith) , performed by Phantom Planet ? 2 : 47
" Maybe This Christmas " (Ron Sexsmith) , performed by Ron Sexsmith ? 1 : 53
" Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas " (Ralph Blane , Hugh Martin) , performed by Coldplay ? 2 : 22
" Greensleeves " (traditional) , performed by Vanessa Carlton ? 3 : 35
" Blue Christmas " (Bill Hayes , Jay Johnson) , performed by Bright Eyes ? 2 : 21
" Happy Xmas (War Is Over) " (John Lennon , Yoko Ono) , performed by Sense Field ? 3 : 29
" 12 / 23 / 95 " (Jimmy Eat World) , performed by Jimmy Eat World ? 3 : 37
" Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer " (Johnny Marks) , performed by Jack Johnson ? 2 : 09
" God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen " (traditional) , performed by Barenaked Ladies and Sarah McLachlan ? 3 : 30
" Bizarre Christmas Incident " (Ben Folds) , performed by Ben Folds ? 2 : 24
" What a Year for a New Year " (Dan Wilson) , performed by Dan Wilson ? 4 : 06
" Sweet Secret Peace " (Neil Finn , Michael Leunig) , performed by Neil Finn ? 3 : 50
" Snow " (Archibald Lampman , Loreena McKennitt) , performed by Loreena McKennitt ? 5 : 36
Track listing adapted from Allmusic .

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from Allmusic .

= = Charts = =

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