

= Sounds of the Season : The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection =

The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection - EP , or simply The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection , is the first extended play (EP) released by American country recording artist Taylor Swift . The EP was first released on October 14 , 2007 by Big Machine Records exclusively to Target stores in the United States and online . The release was originally a limited release for the 2007 holiday season , but was re @-@ released to iTunes and Amazon.com on December 2 , 2008 and again in October 2009 to Target stores . The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection features cover versions of Christmas songs and two original tracks written by Swift , " Christmases When You Were Mine " and " Christmas Must Be Something More " , all of which have a country pop sound . Like their first album , this one also features CDVU + technology that includes more than 30 pages of bonus features with an exclusive video performance , 60 printable photos , complete album lyrics , downloadable graphics , and hidden links . In addition , the packaging of the album is made from 100 % recycled materials .

Music critics received the album with favorable responses , where some would have preferred a full album . The EP was a commercial success , peaking at number twenty on the Billboard 200 and at number one on Top Holiday Albums . Songs from The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection have been performed at several venues .

= = Background and composition = =

For the original release of The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection , Swift partnered with the American retail company Target ; it was made available as an exclusive limited release at Target stores in the United States and online , at Target.com. The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection 's cover art is from Swift 's music video for " Teardrops on My Guitar " (2007) . On October 6 , 2009 , the EP was re @-@ released by Target and made available as a digital download on the iTunes Store and Amazon.com , both making minor adjustments to its cover art and removing " Sounds of the Seasons " , leaving it as The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection .

The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection is holiday music with a country pop inclination . The EP is mainly composed of cover versions of holiday hits and Christmas carols . The EP 's opening track is a cover version of " Last Christmas " by Wham ! from their 1986 album Music from the Edge of Heaven . The original song " Christmases When You Were Mine " was written by Swift , Liz Rose , and Nathan Chapman . Lyrically , the track fixates on prior Christmases , in which the song 's protagonist , was happier . The lyrics also express that the current Christmas is much harder to cheer for than previous ones . It is the only song to date that Swift has ever recorded in which Chapman is credited as a co @-@ writer , in all of their other collaborations , Chapman is only credited as a producer , while Swift and sometimes other songwriters are credited . Swift covered " Santa Baby " , a 1953 song originally performed by Eartha Kitt . " Silent Night " is a Christmas carol cover that is musically performed differently , replacing the instrumentation from piano to acoustic guitar ; Swift 's vocals are also faster than traditionally recorded for the song . " Christmas Must Be Something More " is the second original song from The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection , self @-@ penned by Swift . The lyrics attempt for audiences to recognize the reason for the celebration of Christmas , the commemoration of Jesus Christ 's birth . The closing track is a rendition of Irving Berlin 's " White Christmas " , which was popularized by Bing Crosby on his 1942 album of the same name .

= = Critical reception = =

The EP received generally positive critical reception . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic said the songs on The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection were " all crisp , cheerful arrangements that are suitably seasonal but also faithful to her bright country @-@ pop . " Craig Shelburne of CMT said , " Thanks to this teen star , a new generation of sensitive girls may discover the melancholy but oh @-@ so @-@ melodic ' Last Christmas ' . She also includes two original holiday songs . " An uncredited review in Deseret News felt that the release was too short , with only 6 songs , yet

fulfilled its task . Dan MacIntosh of Country Standard Time concluded , " Swift is a fine singer , who finds ways to inject sincere emotion into every line she sings . They say the best things come in small packages . And that saying holds true for Swift 's new one . "

= = Commercial performance = =

On the week ending December 8 , 2007 , The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection debuted at number eighty @-@ eight on the Billboard 200 . The following week , the EP rose to a new peak at number forty @-@ six on the Billboard 200 . Following its 2009 re @-@ release , The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection re @-@ entered the Billboard 200 at number twenty , its peak , and extended its run on the chart to twenty @-@ four weeks . For the 2007 holiday season , the EP peaked at number eighteen on Top Country Albums and at number twenty @-@ two on Top Holiday Albums , and for the 2009 holiday season , it peaked at number fourteen on both Top Country Albums and Top Holiday Albums . For the 2010 holiday season , The Taylor Holiday Collection re @-@ entered the Top Holiday Albums Chart at number one . As of December 2014 , the EP has sold 1 @,@ 040 @,@ 000 copies in the United States .

= = Promotion = =

Swift first performed a song from The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection , " Silent Night " , on November 28 , 2007 in New York City , at the Rockefeller Center , which was broadcast by The Today Show ; Swift dressed in a long black dress and a white winter coat and performed while playing a rhinestoned acoustic guitar . She then performed " Christmases When You Were Mine " on November 29 , 2007 in St. Charles , Missouri , at the Family Arena , as part of her set for WIL 's Jinglefest 2007 , and " Santa Baby " in Bloomington , Minnesota , at the Mall of America on December 8 , 2007 . Swift appeared on The Today Show again on Christmas Day of 2007 , performing " Christmases When You Were Mine " and " Silent Night " .

All of the tracks except " Christmas Must Be Something More " received airplay on several country radio stations and therefore each charted on Billboard 's Hot Country Songs : " Last Christmas " peaked at number twenty @-@ eight , " Christmases When You Were Mine " peaked at number forty @-@ eight , " Santa Baby " peaked at number forty @-@ three , " Silent Night " peaked at number fifty @-@ four , and " White Christmas " peaked at number fifty @-@ nine .

= = Track listing = =

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Personnel = =

As listed in liner notes .