

Smokie – Light A Candle - The Christmas Album (1996)

Written by bluelover

Saturday, 14 December 2019 16:25 -

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1 *It Won't Be Christmas* 3:41 2 *Mary's Boychild* 3:47 3 *Light A Candle* 3:53 4 *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas* 4:34 5 *A Spaceman Came Travelling* 4:45 6 *Silent Night* 4:13 7 *A Winters Tale* 4:12 8 *When A Child Is Born* 4:29 9 *O' Little Town Of Bethlehem* 3:41 10 *O' Holy Night* 4:01 11 *White Christmas* 3:44 12 *Away In A Manger* 3:09 13 *O' Christmas Tree (O' Tannenbaum)* 3:50 14 *Christmas Isn't Just For Children* 5:30

Backing Vocals, Bass – Terry Uttley Drums, Percussion – Steve Pinnell Engineer – Charlie Jensen Guitar, Backing Vocals – Mick McConnell Keyboards, Composed By [Orchestrations], Performer – Martin Bullard Lead Vocals, Guitar, Backing Vocals – Mike Craft + Accordion – Henry Marsh Fiddle – Lars Lilholt Whistle – Tine Lilholt Voice [Child's Voice] – Stephanie Bullard Percussion [Additional] – Peter Bo Mikkelsen Lead Vocals – Terry Uttley

Quite a surprise. I am a fan of Smokie, but like other groups who founded their success on the skills of the Chinn and Chapman writing duo they never attained the same status or success when they went their own way. However, they were talented and tight musically with a good sound, and this album shows it. The mix is also much better than the average bunch of classics covered with minimal effort or input. There are classics of course; *Mary's Boychild*, *Have Yourself a merry Little Christmas*, *Silent Night* etc, but also later compositions *A Spaceman Came Travelling*, *A Winters Tale* and self penned *It Won't Be Christmas*, *Light a Candle*, *Christmas Isn't Just For Christmas*, all of which have been arranged and are performed as if they really cared. A real find for my Christmas album collection, which be warned for comparison, includes works from Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Annie Lennox and Jethro Tull. ---Clem Neville

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