The Moody Blues [] – December (2013)

Written by bluesever Wednesday, 19 December 2018 13:59 -

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1 Don't Need A Reindeer 3:59 2 December Snow 5:11 3 In The Quiet Of Christmas Morning (Bach 147) 2:51 4 On This Christmas Day 3:40 5 Happy Xmas (War Is Over) 2:37 6 A Winter's Tale 4:28 7 The Spirit Of Christmas 4:52 8 Yes I Believe 4:21 9 When A Child Is Born 3:34 10 White Christmas 3:08 11 In The Black Midwinter 3:21 Flute – Norda Mullen (tracks: 3, 7) Programmed By, Keyboards, Orchestrated By – Danilo Madonia

Lushly orchestrated and full of hope and love, this 2003 holiday gem actually fits quite neatly into the canon of Moody Blues albums. Their own December Snow and The Spirit of Christmas join elegant renditions of White Christmas; Happy Xmas (War Is Over); When a Child Is Born , and more!

It was inevitable that The Moody Blues would produce a Christmas record. Why it took this long is the mystery. The group's classical music underpinnings have always been ripe for the Christmas canon and on December they add to it with their own contributions. "Don I t Need A Reindeer" is a remarkably sweet little pop song that proves Justin Hayward can still write what sounds like a hit. A fair amount of orchestration shades the rest of the CD, as the band arranges and adds lyrics to a Bach piece (here called "In the Quiet of Christmas Morning") while also taking on "In the Bleak Midwinter," "When A Child Is Born," "White Christmas," and the John Lennon/Yoko Ono classic, "Happy Xmas (War Is Over)." In the same vein, though less cheerful, John Lodge pens a melancholy meditation on the horrors of the Mideast in 2003. While hell s no John Lennon and December is uneven at best, for Moody Blues fans it will be like finding the lost chord. ---Martin Keller, Editorial Reviews

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