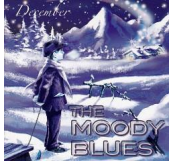


The Moody Blues – December (2013)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 19 December 2018 13:59 -

The Moody Blues – December (2013)



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'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 he'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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