

Airborne – Christmas: Holiday Music - CD Reviews

The group Airborne Jazz hails from New Haven, Connecticut, and features Thomas Borino (piano/keyboards/vocals), Thomas Sansone (sax/flute/vocals), Greg Borino (guitar/vocals), Dean Kosh (drums), Mike Nunno (bass) and guest female and male vocalists Jeanmarie Rivera, Elizabeth Dellinger, and the Rev. Keith Outlaw.

With a stellar reputation and years of music to back it up, they come dressed to impress for the holiday season, and boy, do they do it well.

Contemporary Jazz fans will be impressed with the sounds of the season as Airborne Jazz offers a fresh look at classic holiday music. I must give props to the male and female singers on this CD. The arrangements of the parts are clever, and the classic "The Christmas Song" and "Christmas Time Is Here" never sounded better. The male vocal shows some influence from Nat King Cole and Johnny Mathis, which are great names to be compared to. Any Airborne Jazz fans will find this CD to be very impressive. In fact, it has the potential to win over lots of new fans as well. Without question, the biggest note on the CD is the big high note on the end of "O Holy Night". That alone is worth purchasing this album!

"The Little Drummer Boy" mixes R&B vocals with nice flute and string parts. The percussion and drums are in the pocket the way Airborne Jazz fans like it and have come to expect from this band. It's nice to hear sax on "Every Year at Christmas Time", and the swinging jazz waltz is filled with soulful female backgrounds that are warm, with strong lead female vocals and smooth phrasing. Airborne Jazz is just in time for your Holiday Music mix! - Great job guys!!

Michele Wilson-Morris – The Entertainment Bank

The season just got brighter with the release of Airborne – Christmas: Holiday Music featuring 10 holiday classics performed by the multi-cultural contemporary jazz group from New Haven, Connecticut. This cheerful, vocal-intensive collection of favorite seasonal music, including original compositions, is sure to warm up your festivities with their 'Joyful Jazz' spin on your favorite Christmas songs.

An enchanted album with the Airborne verve you've grown accustomed to, inspiring peace and serenity. Only Airborne knows how to fly this high... fusion jazz and soulful singing combined with their signature message of hope and holiday spirit! Contribute to making this spirit brighter and find a higher level of joy and peace this season, gift yourself a copy of Airborne –Christmas: Holiday Music.

Sandy Shore – Smoothjazz.com

Airborne is a multicultural contemporary jazz group from New Haven, Connecticut, who have been together since the 1980s. The members are Thomas Borino (piano/keyboards/vocals), Thomas Sansone (sax/flute/vocals), Greg Borino (guitar/vocals), Dean Kosh (drums), Mike Nunno (bass).

There are also some wonderful guest female and male vocalists on *Christmas Holiday Music*, Jeanmarie Rivera, Elizabeth Dellinger, and the Rev. Keith Outlaw.

The members of Airborne have been proclaimed the "musical peacemakers" of contemporary jazz and certainly this musical project is peaceful and joyful. There are many trademark Airborne moments particularly in the musical and vocal arrangements that are very pleasant and will continue to bring pleasure for many repeated plays.

A standout among the songs is "Every Year At Christmas Time," which has a slightly urban feel and is sung soulfully by the female vocalist, Jeanmarie Rivera and which benefits from the sax provided by Thomas Sansone, who also provides the lovely flute for "I Wander as I Wander." Other standouts are "Christmas Time Is Here," which for most listeners will evoke the *Peanuts* gang, and "The Christmas Song," which will make listeners feel warm and fuzzy.

"O Holy Night," a beautiful but difficult song to sing, is also a highlight here, with that gorgeous high note near the end that is sure to send a thrill through you time and again by the Rev. Keith Outlaw..

Overall, this is a classy Christmas offering which will remind you of the great jazz singers of the recent past, such as Nat King Cole, Lena Horne, and Johnny Mathis. Certainly, it will make a welcome gift for yourself and others.

Rhetta Akamatsu - Blogcritics.org