

# MUSIC

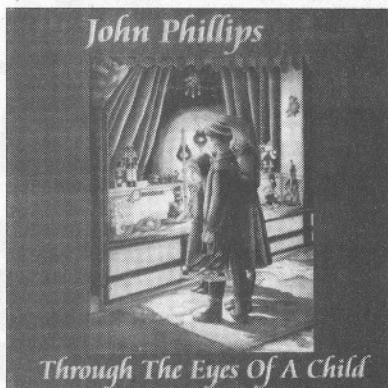


BY KEVIN KELLY

CD reviews, musician profiles, performances and more

## Sounds of Christmas

### The best of local holiday music



It's hard to believe, but the Christmas season is once again upon us. It's a time of goodwill, fun times and, of course, Christmas music. From *Any mummies allowed in?* to *Santa Claus is coming on a trike* to *Santa's a bayman like us*, Newfoundland and Labrador has its share of classic holiday tunes. *The Newfoundland Herald* has put together a collection of local Christmas music releases to keep you entertained over the holidays.

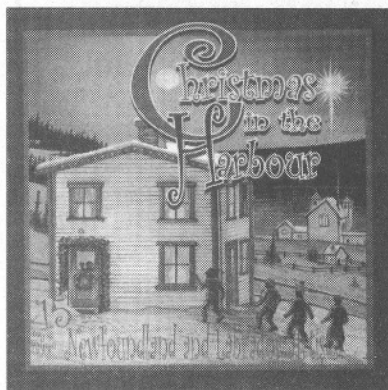
#### John Phillips: *Though the Eyes of a Child* (Avondale)

This St. John's singer/songwriter has released two albums over his career, but takes on Christmas in this original holiday release. Featuring 10 songs written by Phillips, it's an album that encompasses differing Christmas moods from religious (*The star*) to searching for gifts (*The happy tree*). The album also features high quality supporting musicians thanks to the likes of Sandy Morris, Glenn Simmons, Boomer Stamp and Patrick Moran.



#### The Irish Descendants: *The Gift* (Sextant/EMI)

If you like your Christmas with a little Irish brogue, then this CD is for you. Recorded in 2001, *Heading home for Christmas* is already a holiday favourite. The CD includes a faithful rendition of the Dermot O'Reilly Christmas classic, *Children's winter*. An excellent traditional music disc for the holidays from one of the province's best known bands.

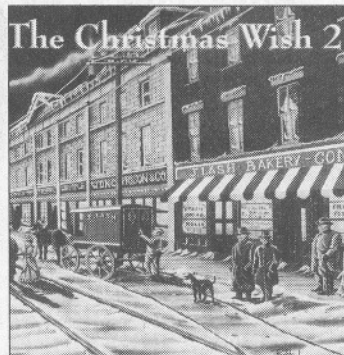
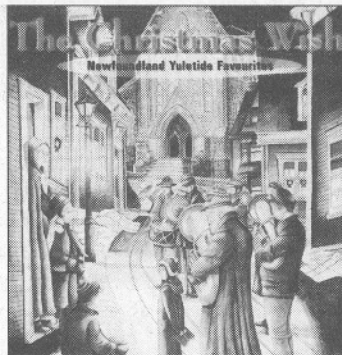


#### Various Artists: *Christmas In The Harbour* (First City Productions)

Gary O'Driscoll's tune *Christmas in the harbour* is a holiday classic from 1980, but this album released in 1998 features an updated, upbeat version of the tune by The Punters. But there's more talent than that on the CD, as such well-known artists as Shanneyganock, Colleen Power, Bruce Moss and Gordon Quinton are featured on the holiday record. The highlight is Darcy Broderick's emotional rendition of O'Driscoll's *Christmas Eve in St. John's*, a song about fishermen and sailors who long to be home at Christmas.

## Various Artists-*The Christmas Wish 1 and 2* (Avondale)

These two excellent holiday compilations, which were released in 2001 and 2002, are available separately but both showcase the very best Newfoundland and Labrador Christmas music has to offer. *Christmas Wish 1* is slightly better than the sequel because it includes Great Big Sea's *Seven joys of Mary*, two tracks from The Ennis Sisters and The Celtic Connection, as well as Pamela Morgan's ethereal version of the *Cherry tree carol*. That said, *Christmas Wish 2* includes Simani's Christmas must-have tune, *Any mummings allowed in*; two tracks from Shanneyganock; Rasa's version of *The coventry carol*; and The Punters' version of the Roger Miller classic, *Old toy trains*. Both compilations make the grade for your holiday feast.



### Hope Your Holiday Hits the High Notes!

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