

Music

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performances and more

BY DEBORAH THOMAS

Christmas Wish 2

Good music for a happy holiday

The Christmas Wish 2

Released: Nov., 2002

Various Newfoundland Artists

Produced by Avondale Music

\$19.95

In 1999, traditional music makers in this province saw a large gap in the Christmas music selection and decided to do something about it.

Now, three years later, those same people have released the second in a series of two CDs that give Newfoundland music a special place at Christmas.

The original release *The Christmas Wish* included selections by Great Big Sea, The Ennis Sisters, The Celtic Connection, The Fables and other popular Newfoundland names. It was a huge hit and sold out all over the province.

The newest release, aptly named *The Christmas Wish 2*, follows the same format — boasting popular names on the local music scene and including a mix of both traditional favourites with original work.

Lyle Drake produced the project for Avondale Music in St. John's. He remembers the motivation to start the project in the first place.

"There was very little out there of Christmas music from Newfoundland artists. Most of it was all remakes of the *Jingle Bells* (type) tunes," he says. "We didn't want to do a project like that."

The songs they did choose to cover on this CD are songs that are not the most popular Christmas tunes, including *We Three Kings* by Shanneyganock, *Old Toy Trains* by the Punters and *Mary's Boy Child* by Joy Norman. There is also a remake of country crooner Steve Earle's called *Nothing But a Child*, a remake made by Terry Penney.

The remaining songs are all originals and most were written specifically for the CD. So if you're looking for a CD full of songs you can sing along to, this isn't for you.

Carl Peters' singing the heartfelt *Gift From the Heart* is the



most memorable song on the release. It is a tribute to Peters' father and tells the story of how he goes to his father's grave to sing him the same Christmas song every year — the same song they would sing together when his father was alive.

RASA's *The Coventry Carol* and Dave Panting's instrumental offering of *Good King Wenceslas/Deck The Halls/God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* are my two favourite cuts on the CD. The first for the amazing vocal talents of Erin Best and the latter for Panting's talented playing.

Oh, but who can forget SIMANI's *Any Mummies Allowed In?*

Christmas just wouldn't be the same without that song. Fact is, your holiday season collection won't be complete without this compilation CD.

It rounds out a unique blend of holiday music that puts a little bit of the sound of home into the season. ▲

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