

# Christmas And All That Jazz

I love the holiday season! Kicking things off with Thanksgiving at the end of November, then Advent, Christmas obviously, New Years and then winding down with The Epiphany. I remember fondly the scents and sounds of the season; fresh pine from the tree, warm cookies from the oven, a cornucopia of foods, and music... glorious music everywhere. No matter what was going on at home or in the world, it all seemed to go away during the holiday season. It was as if the world were covered with a blanket of love and rightfully so. My mom made the holidays very special when I was a child and she loved Christmas. Mom got her wings eight months ago so I dedicate "Christmas and All That Jazz" to you mom.

I remember at Christmas she would sing this funny song to me about Santa being "too fat for the chimney". I included a chorus from the song in my Christmas medley in her honor. I am sure she is singing along.

Christmas came early this year with the release of Transitions, my first recorded work since my stroke. I found that working on the album this time around was more than fun and a realized dream. It was therapeutic emotionally, mentally and musically. I discovered that working on the project was helping me to regain more of my ability to sing which is an unbelievable blessing. So, I made calls to the extraordinary musicians who worked with me on Transitions, and with everyone on board we set up a schedule. First issue; Christmas was only 6 months away, second issue; Circumstances arose that placed me 1100 miles away from the band, and lastly everyone's conflicting schedules also contributed to the madness. With the help of the internet, email, text and phone calls, everything clicked and a recording session on Skype sealed the deal on this wild ride.

Jimmy DeSalvo, piano, cooked up tasty arrangements which were augmented by his skill and his extraordinary relationship with this instrument. Steve Jankowski, Musical Director and horns, sweetened the Christmas pot with his musical arrangements and his phenomenal playing. Joel Bennett, bass, seasoned the pot with his input on some arrangements and his formidable talent. Vinnie Corrao, guitar, flavored the mix with his marvelous guitar prowess. Tom Cottone, drums, put in the bam with his awesome skill. Tommy LaBella, alto sax, tenor sax, put a garnish on this crazy cool Christmas musical meal of old favorites. Its's all in the pot, Christmas and All that Jazz.

## **MUSICIANS**

Jimmy De Salvo, Piano

Tom Cottone, Drums

Joel Bennett, Bass

Vinnie Corrao, Guitar