

Camille Nelson

Acoustic Christmas



Camila Nelson's holiday offering, **Acoustic Christmas** is one of my favorite gifts this year. This talented singer and guitarist's twelve track album of instrumentals and light vocals sparkles and glows. She opens with **O Come, All Ye Faithful**. Camille embellishes this 18th century carol with ribbon and bows of the aural kind. What wonderful memories it brought back to me of singing this in Latin as a boy at high mass. Adeste Fidelis! Next is **Joy to the World** and it is a wondrous glorification. Her fretwork is skillful as she makes the Yuletide gay with comfort and joy.

One of my favorites of late, **The Wexford Carol** comes next. There is something so timeless about this song, so evocative that it can be played at any time and it still stir the soul. Nelson's rendition is smooth and gentle, almost like round. Gentle vocals bathe the background in seraphic beauty. **Still, Still, Still** with vocals by Kimberly Knighton, Britney Holman, and Cardin McKinney is a shining star on the recording with baby soft voices blending in dulcet, three-part harmonies sung almost like a lullaby. But then it is, isn't it?

Camille adds her voice to the beautiful hymn **More Holiness Give Me** authored by Philip Bliss (His name is perfect) in 1873 for the Mormon Church. Camille's interpretation is sublime, keeping the original spirit of the song, one of gratitude, humble and strong.

*"More holiness give me,
More sweetness within,
More patience in suff'ring,
More sorrow for sin."*

All Creatures of Our God and King isn't in the track listing, but it is on the album and I am happy that it is. The tune features the voice of Marj Desius and it is a celebration usually heard around Easter, but any time is a good time to celebrate miracles. This is one folksy and light and feels like the music is in playing your living room. Intimate and honest.

The final cut, of course is the ever popular **Silent Night**. This song has been done so many times that we take its reverence for granted. But not this time. Camille's soft, tentative version is so evocative of that cold night, the Guiding Star, and the Miracle it symbolizes for so many. You don't have to have a name for your faith to believe in miracles. Highly recommended for a different and distinct offering of Christmas music fare.

-R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews