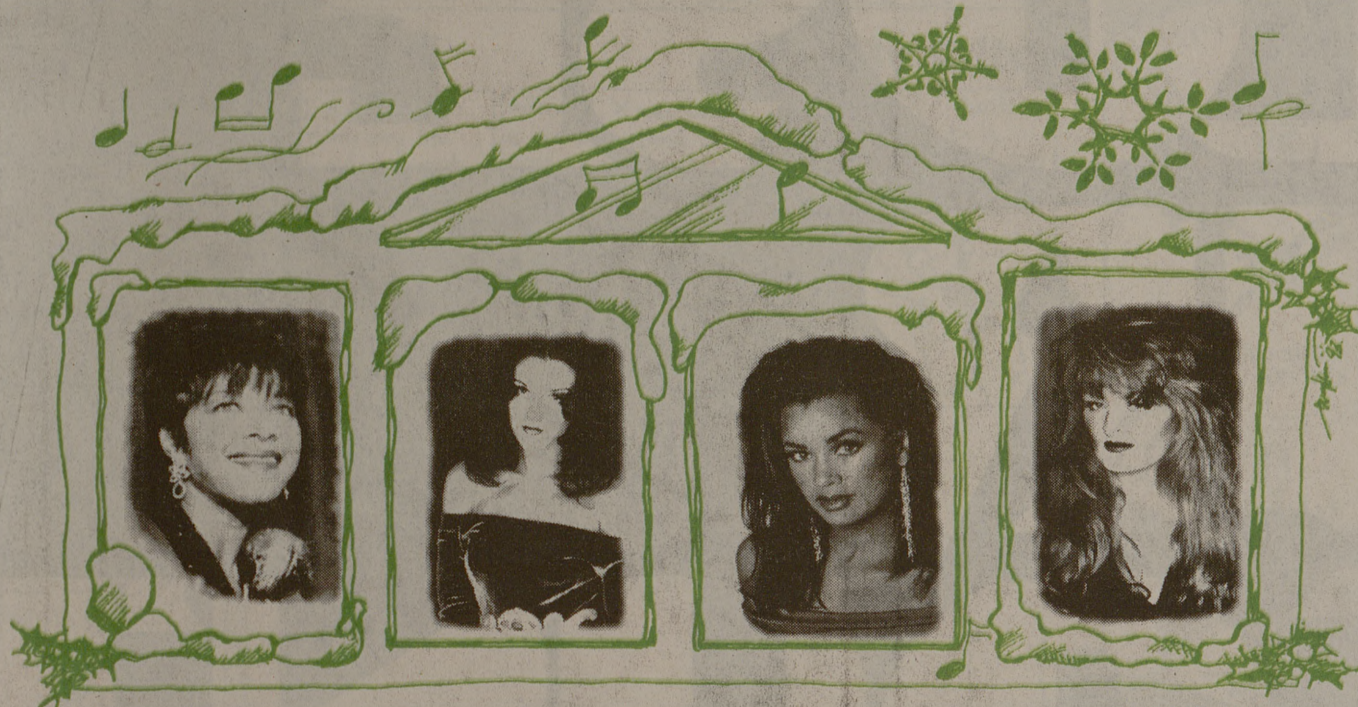


HOLIDAY MUSIC

Celebration of the Christmas spirit



Angel Kim/THE BATTALION

Natalie Cole, Celine Dion, Vanessa Williams and Wynonna sing classic holiday tunes in "The Christmas Album."

By Jacqueline Ayotte

THE BATTALION

David Foster's "The Christmas Album" Christmas Music Featuring Wynonna, Tammy Wynette, Natalie Cole and others Interscope

It's beginning to sound a lot like Christmas. Especially with David Foster's newest production, "The Christmas Album."

This album takes you on a musical holiday journey with a select mixture of magical voices. From Wynonna and Tammy Wynette to Vanessa Williams and Natalie Cole, you will feel the magic of Christmas right before your ears.

The nostalgic journey begins with

Wynonna's sexy, bluesy version of "Blue Christmas."

Her voice is so suave, so familiar, it carries the soul home.

And Natalie Cole's "A Grown Up Christmas List," fills your heart with celebration. Her voice is simply beautiful.

On a more poppy level, Vanessa Williams brings a touch of that spiritual gospel music feel with her soft, intense version of "Go Tell It On The Mountain."

And Celine Dion's gorgeous voice makes "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire)" sound simply majestic.

Tammy Wynette's dazzling country version of "Away In A Manger" sings out the spirit of Christmas Western style.

When BeBe and CeCe Winans double up on "The First Noel," they cast a spell of holiday merriment with their rich, delicate voices.

Although Johnny Mathis' rendition of "It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" is a little on the corny side, the rest of the album definitely makes up for it.

The same goes for Tom Jones' "Mary's Boy Child," as well as a couple other fruity tunes.

On the whole, "The Christmas Album" is just as the name says.

Although it's a 90s version of old Christmas carols, "The Christmas Album" is a celebration of real, unadorned music.

It captures what carols should — the wonderful spirit of Christmas.

Connick sings classics with a big band sound

By Joe Leih

THE BATTALION

"When My Heart Finds Christmas" Harry Connick Jr. Christmas Jazz Columbia Album courtesy of CD Warehouse

Harry Connick Jr. is definitely a throwback.

In the days when hip hop and grunge rule the airways, he turns his back on modern music and leads the big band jazz everyone thought

had long been extinct.

His latest release, "When My Heart Finds Christmas," proves that Connick has not ended this trend. Covering priceless Christmas classics and even a few of his own original tunes, Connick successfully lets his new album transport everyone back to the days of swing.

"Sleigh Ride" is one of his best. With screeching horns, his classic slurring vocals and the occasional shout of

See Connick/Page 10



Connick

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