



jamari a note for christmas

SYN TONIC SYN7774401

A Note for Christmas





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The winter season is a time of celebration and spirituality – the Solstice, the first snowfall, Christmas and the start of a new year. Winter is a time when families gather, food is shared, songs are sung, and traditions are recreated. It is also a time of reflection and hardship, like a barren tree under a darkened sky. This season stirs many emotions for each of us.

Inspired by an intimate musical tradition, piano and voice dance together to create this collection of live recordings. Through original songs and fresh arrangements of traditional carols, these improvised performances express a mosaic of seasonal sentiments.

May this musical gift warm your heart.

a note for christmas 4:19

RECORDED AT 2:34 PM, MAY 31

ORIGINAL

Dear love,
again it's Christmas.

The streets are lit and sparkle.
The ground is white,
and every night
the children ask,
"how many sleeps till Santa?"
When the time had come,
like every year,
to find a special gift for you,
I didn't know what I could give to you
to show my love.

I give you a note for Christmas.
No gift of gold or fancy thing,
not expensive big or anything,
but given from my heart.
A note for all our memories,
a note to bring you back,
to all the times we've shared along the way.

A note to say, I love you,
on this special day.



gift of love

jesous abatonnia 2:32

RECORDED AT 1:18 PM, MAY 23
TRADITIONAL

Written in the 17th century by Father Jean de Brebeuf as a gift to the Huron People, this song is honored as the first Canadian Christmas carol. The beautiful melody combined with percussive Huron lyrics inspired new rhythm and harmonies.

estemialon de tsonour
have courage you who are humans

jesous abatonnia
jesus he is born

onnaouateous d'oki
behold the spirit who had us

n'onouandaskouaentak
as prisoners has fled

ennonchien skouatribotat
do not listen to it

n'onouandilonrachatha
as it corrupts our minds

jesous abatonnia
jesus he is born

a, oki onkinnbache
they are spirits, coming with a message

eronbia, eronnon
for us, the sky people

iontonk ontatiande ndio
they are coming to say,

sen tsatonnnharonnion
rejoice!

ouarie onnaouakoueton ndio
mary has just given birth

sen tsatonnnharonnion
rejoice!

jesous abatonnia
jesus he is born

(This is a direct Huron translation, rather than the English which is commonly sung.)

jingle bells 4:08

RECORDED AT 10:13 PM, JUNE 3
TRADITIONAL

The snow is falling outside and jingling sleigh bells echo in the distance. Suddenly, mittens, scarves and toques emerge from cozy houses and everyone discovers the snow!

prayer to a star 4:26

RECORDED AT 2:10 PM, MAY 25
ORIGINAL

shine clear
shine cold
pierce through the night
illuminate the path
until the dawn

shine down
light the way
to bethlehem
shine true
my faithful star
glorious one

he waits
little child
gift of love
heaven
a king for all the world
salvation

great star
wondrous one
send out your light
to shine through the darkness
shine through the night

this is the moment
our lord has come
shine from the heavens
shine like the sun

oh star
don't fail
my journey's long
show me through the night
show me to the dawn



coventry carol 4:20

RECORDED AT 12:45 AM, JUNE 4

TRADITIONAL

Moved by the haunting tale told by this historical carol, we focused on the image of mothers singing a final lullaby to their babies.

Lullay, Thou little tiny Child,
Bye-bye, lulloo, lullay.
Lullay, Thou little tiny Child,
Bye-bye, lulloo, lullay.

Oh sisters, too, how may we do
For to preserve this day?
This poor Youngling for whom we sing,
Bye-bye, lulloo, lullay.

Herod the king in his raging
Charged he bath this day
His men of might in his own sight
All children young to slay.

Then woe is me, poor Child for Thee,
And ever morn and day,
For Thy parting nor say nor sing,
Bye-bye, lulloo, lullay.

oh come emmanuel 3:58

RECORDED AT 3:43 PM, MAY 25

TRADITIONAL

Arranged as a vocalise, the beautiful melody of hope is accompanied by the painful wait in exile.

carol of the birds 3:27

RECORDED AT 1:54 PM, MAY 31

TRADITIONAL

We found this 15th century Catalan in a Quaker hymnal and gave it a playful jazzy slant. The piano becomes the birds, continuously soaring and swooping through the skies.

When in the eastern skies,
the wondrous star did rise
and fill the night with splendor,
came birds in joyful throng

to sound their dainty song
in a carol sweet and tender.
Hosanna to the Child
and to His mother mild
full reverently to render.

The kingly eagle came
to praise His holy name
in mighty proclamation.
The sparrow then replied,
"Tonight is Christmas tide,
a night of jubilation!"
Then robin red-breast sang
"Now death has lost its pang,
in Christ is our salvation."

The nightingale sang sweet
the holy babe to greet
in Mary's arms a lying.
The cuckoo and the quail
flew over hill and dale
in admiration vying.
The barn owl's eyes were dim.
Such radiance blinded him
and homeward he went flying.

noel 4:00

RECORDED AT 9:45 PM, JUNE 3

ORIGINAL

The emergence of man, the awakening
of spirit, the birth of awareness.
Celebrations of humanity. Gifts.

a message has arrived
the writer had a hand
in the everlasting story
and the destiny of man
and now this gift before me
so nicely wrapped and signed
wish you were here and wish you well
sends merry christmas from noel
Noel, Noel, Noel

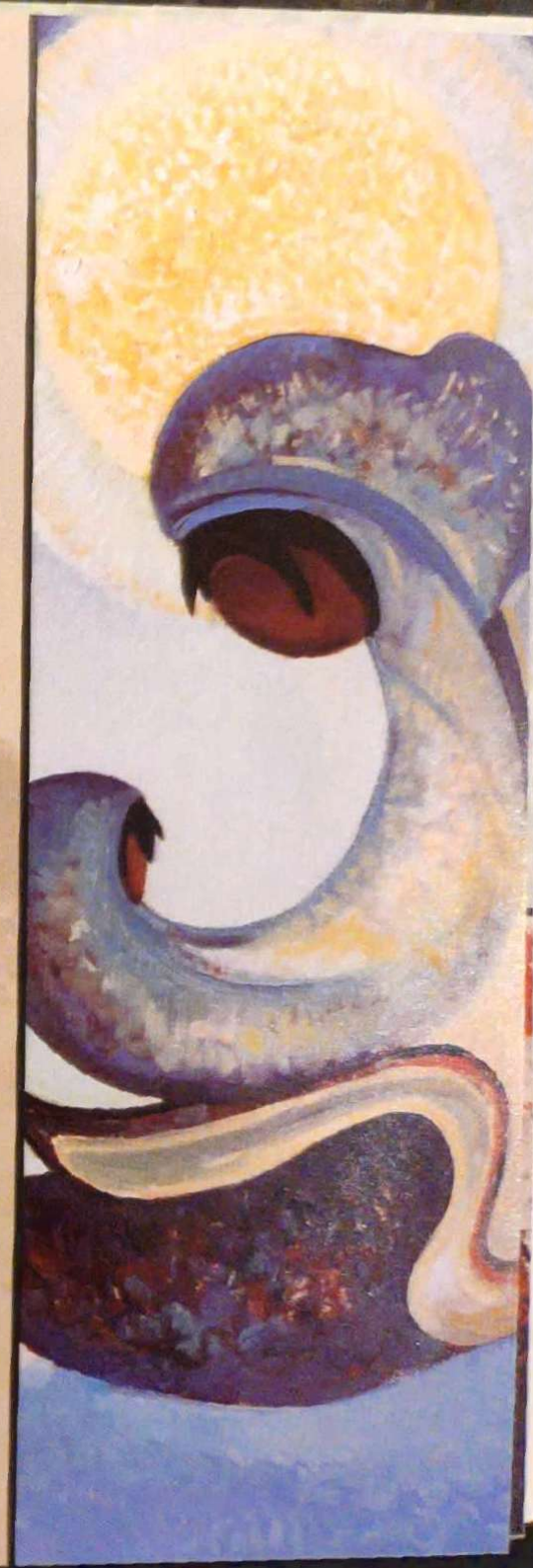
that was an extraordinary time
they were the days of true alliance
matters of heart and mind
and through it all she loved to play
angel was silver like a bell
catching the first snowflake that fell
and merry christmas says noel
Noel, Noel, Noel

rejoicing in the changing wind
the first snowflake just fell

the first angel, noel did say
arrived quite late on christmas day
she took one look and flew away
and soon after the sun was set
among the stars a tear was shed
we struggled with the alphabet
and the first snowflake fell
Noel, Noel, Noel

i'm glad to hear you wish me well
without a sun or moon to chase
in this silent time and place
a savior born
a time of grace
Noel, Noel, Noel

rejoicing in the changing wind
the first snowflake just fell



little drummer 3:20

RECORDED AT 2:22 PM, MAY 30

VARIATION OF TRADITIONAL

"THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY"

When adapting this piece, we tried to capture the wide-eyed wonder that one small child must have felt when approaching the 'new born king'. Jaime improvised the melody imagining the majesty of kings, wise men and angels surrounding the baby Jesus, and the magical experience of a little drummer.

the only gift 4:53

RECORDED AT 4:48 PM, MAY 30

ORIGINAL

Far from home I dream of you,
I feel your touch, those soft embraces.
Close my eyes and see your face,
imagining myself there in your arms.

Christmas Eve is drawing near,
I know that soon we'll be together.
Now I lay while others sleep,
surrounded by the sound of night's
embrace.

Then I hear angels in heaven up above
sing of the wonders of the season
and of love.
In the dark I hear my promise so true,
this Christmas, love,
I'll be with you.

Days pass into nights,
the dawn will rise and bring me closer.
My journey home is almost through,
I close my eyes once more and reach
for you.

Then I hear angels in heaven up above,
Sing of the wonders of the season
and of love.
In the dark I hear my promise so true,
this Christmas, love,
I'll be with you.

The moment that we meet is magical,
here in your arms again,

now this Christmas Eve will find,
you and I promising never to part.

So say you'll stay with me
and we'll forget the other presents,
for our love's
the only gift I'll ever need.

I give my love
this Christmas day
and for all time
my love to you.

joy to the world 2:44

RECORDED AT 4:13 PM, MAY 26

VARIATION OF TRADITIONAL

We announce the arrival of the season
with joy and excitement in its many
forms.

Joy to the world, it's Christmas time!
Let all who live rejoice,
with laughter and love,
and peace and light!
Celebrate with joyful song!
Celebrate with glorious song!
Celebrate with love and joyful song!



kyrie 2:14

RECORDED AT 1:58 AM, JUNE 4
ORIGINAL MUSIC WITH WORDS
ADAPTED FROM THE LATIN MASS

This composition consists of only words and a chord structure. The melody and piano textures are completely improvised. The use of Latin evokes power and majesty, while the text describes humility and the desire for mercy.

Kyrie eleison
Lord, have mercy

Osanna in excelsis
Triumph to thee, oh God most high

Christe eleison
Christ, have mercy

Agnus dei
Oh Lamb of God,

Qui tollis peccata mundi
Who takes away the sins of the world
Miserere nobis
Grant us

Pacem
Peace

the christmas song 3:40

RECORDED AT 4:26 PM, JUNE 4
TRADITIONAL

This elegant song *Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire* epitomizes the Christmas fantasy, evoking many warm images.

waiting 3:37

RECORDED AT 4:07 PM, MAY 29
ORIGINAL

The piano anticipates and echoes the voice, and the two move separately yet together through this piece, expressing the strength of love.

silence
quiet echo
of the memory
wishing you were near to me
i feel the coming of the snow

waiting
holding promises
that you said to me
that on christmas eve you'd be with me
i watch the falling of the snow

can you hear my call
feel my love
it reaches out to you
you said you'd be here
promised you'd be here

i lit a candle to remind me of your love
burning strong and true
i left you the tinsel
knowing how much joy it brings for you
it waits too

can you hear my call
feel the love
that i still feel for you
i know you'll be here
somehow you'll be here

empty
hours passing
i wait patiently
and light the fire here to comfort me
i feel the coldness of the snow

waiting
doubting promises
that you said to me
that on christmas eve you'd be with me
i watch the falling of my tears

And light the fire
to comfort me

we three kings 3:31

RECORDED AT 2:07 PM, MAY 31

TRADITIONAL

Christmas is often filled with traveling. Like the Kings, many people travel long distances to deliver gifts to loved ones. Inspired by their journey and the obstacles they faced, we infused this popular carol with a middle-eastern flavour, driving rhythm, and a little bit of Christmas chaos!

i wonder as i wander 3:21

RECORDED AT 4:04 PM, MAY 23

TRADITIONAL

Imbued with a sense of humility and awe, standing under a vast starry sky, this pensive song drew us to explore the wonder of existence.

silent night 2:07

RECORDED AT 3:23 PM, MAY 25

VARIATION OF TRADITIONAL

*Silent night, Christmas night
Winters chills
Warmed by light
Fires of yuletide welcome the Sun
Celebrations of life have begun
Go with warmth in your heart*



all songs arranged by jamari

jamari is
Jaime Taylor voice
Robert Mari piano

recorded live May/June 2001
at Olive House, Victoria, BC, Canada
to 20-bit ADAT

Noel words by David Simmonds,
music by Mike Collins, Robert Mari, and Jaime Taylor;
Silent Night and *Joy to the World* new lyrics by Jaime Taylor;
all other original compositions words and music
by Mike Collins and Jaime Taylor;
Jingle Bells percussion by Sasha

Paul Mari no booklet paintings
Emrys Miller booklet design
50% recycled paper, 10% post-consumer

Mike Collins producer
Aida Puim assistant producer
Kevin Alexander sound engineer
Robert Mari assistant sound engineer



thanks to Mike (my forever
love); my Taylor family;
my Wagner family; all my
brothers and sisters (kiss-
es!); my amazing and
ever-tolerant friends
Barry Vall (for the
wings!); the Augustana
Choir; Robert (you are a
blessing!); Grammy and
Grampy, (I miss you, you
give me hope to 'tarry'
on); Kat (for you girl!);
and all the other wonder-
ful people in my life!
- Jai

thanks to each and every
Christmas, Person, and
"Cafe" throughout my life.
I dedicate this album to
my father - thanks
Partner!
- Robert

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go with warmth
in your heart.