

Laura Fygi – The Best Time Of Year (2004)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas* 2. *Christmas Waltz* 3. *What Are You Doing New Years Eve* 4. *Sleigh Ride* 5. *Very Best Time Of Year* 6. *Winter Wonderland* 7. *Christmas Morning* 8. *Once A Year Miracle* 9. *A Song For Christmas* 10. *Merry Christmas Darling* 11. *Christmas Time Is Here* 12. *Christmas Song* 13. *Noel A Paris* Laura Fygi (vocals) Maarten Van Der Grinten (guitar) Joke Schonewille (harp) Joan Berkhemer (violin) Roeland Dagne (cello) Friederike Darius (flute) Joris Roelofs (clarinet) Jan Menu (tenor saxophone) Paul Van Zelm (French horn) Hans Vroomans (piano) Marcel Serierse (drums) Jeroen DeRijk (percussion)

The true and genuine feeling of Christmas spirit comes through in this beautifully arranged new album of Laura. It's been 10 years ago since Laura's released her first bossa nova album 'The Lady Wants To Know', the 3rd release of Laura's most successful albums.

It's going to be a magic Christmas. To capture magic, Laura renders 13 seasonal classics with a brand new interpretation with a range of music from bossa nova to ballad classics. Of this year's slew of Christmas releases, this is surely one of the coolest, oozing smooth accessible jazz that conjures the festive spirit in a subtle way. This release features a slightly more bossa nova feel to it than other Christmas releases. Re-arrangements of traditional Christmas numbers are only vaguely recognisable as their original incarnations.

Laura's sultry and smoky voice cruises effortlessly from the bossa nova tunes 'Sleigh Ride', 'Winter Wonderland', to the jazz licks of 'Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas', 'The Christmas Song' and the French version of 'Noël À Paris' pulls off a jazzy version, the CD's mellowest track.

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Traditional unforgettable favorites are all included in this impeccable album like 'The Christmas Waltz', 'Christmas Morning', 'What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?', 'Once A Year Miracle', 'A Song For Christmas', 'Merry Christmas Darling', 'Christmas Time Is Here', and the title song 'The Very Time Of Year'. The depth of feeling that Laura portrays in the new interpretation unmistakably between the lyrical and the passionate.

Laura is often credited with having created the bossa nova sound as a result of this marvelous CD, which is probably the most important and significant jazzy Christmas album ever released. Classic, wonderfully delivered, impressive tunes that leave you wanting the next.

Easy listening for those mellow moments over the festive season. As you look ahead to the new year what better way to celebrate the holiday season than by listening to Laura this most excellent and fabulous Christmas album ever!

Laura has done it again - 'The Very Best Time Of Year' will no doubt punches for 'The Very Best Christmas Album of Year 2004'!!! ---Miss Chilly Hung, amazon.com

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