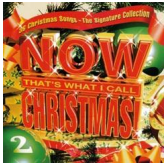


Now That's What I Call Christmas! 2 (2003)

Written by bluelover

Sunday, 04 December 2016 16:21 -

Now That's What I Call Christmas! 2 (2003)



Disc: 1 1. *Opera of the Bells* - Destiny's Child 2. *O Come All Ye Faithful* - Stacie Orrico 3. *I Don't Wanna Spend One More Christmas Without You* - Nsync 4. *Santa Baby* - Kylie Minogue 5. *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town* - B2K 6. *Step into Christmas* - Elton John 7. *Jingle Bells* - Jimmy Buffett 8. *All I Want for Christmas Is You* - Mariah Carey 9. *Do You Hear What I Hear?* - Vince Gill 10. *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* - Aaron Neville 11. *Last Christmas* - Wham! 12. *Christmas Through Your Eyes* - Gloria Estefan 13. *Christmas Wrapping* - Waitresses 14. *A Christmas to Remember* - Amy Grant 15. *Silent Night* - Charlotte Church 16. *Please Come Home for Christmas* - Luther Vandross 17. *O Holy Night* - Celine Dion 18. *Peace* - Norah Jones

Disc: 2 1. *Winter Wonderland* - Gordon Jenkins & His Orchestra 2. *I'll Be Home for Christmas* - Barbra Streisand 3. *Silver Bells* - Johnny Mathis 4. *The Little Drummer Boy* - Lou Rawls 5. *Happy Holiday* - Peggy Lee 6. *The Christmas Blues* - Dean Martin 7. *Run Rudolph Run* - Chuck Berry 8. *Baby, It's Cold Outside* - Tom Jones 9. *Feliz Navidad* - Josi Feliciano 10. *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* - Burl Ives 11. *The First Noel* - Andy Williams 12. *I Know What I Want for Christmas* - George Strait 13. *O Little Town of Bethlehem* - Yolanda Adams 14. *Kentucky Homemade Christmas* - Kenny Rogers 15. *Go Tell It on the Mountain* - Andy Griffith 16. *Adeste Fideles (O Come All Ye Faithful)* - Kurt Herbert Adler 17. *(There's No Place Like) Home for the Holidays* - Barry Manilow 18. *Auld Lang Syne* - Guy Lombardo

Marking something of a break from the Now That's What I Call Music! series' focus on the new, Now That's What I Call Christmas! Vol.2: The Signature Collection devotes one disc to contemporary pop versions of Christmas songs and another disc to vocal pop, jazz, and country versions of holiday favorites. Destiny's Child gets the album off to a strong start with the spellbinding a cappella "Opera of the Bells," but Stacie Orrico's "O Come All Ye Faithful," Elton John's "Step into Christmas," and *NSYNC's "I Don't Wanna Spend One More Christmas Without You" share the same problem: they don't sound especially Christmassy. This dilemma plagues more of the contemporary holiday songs than it should, although Kylie Minogue's vamp on "Santa Baby" is equally silly, sexy, and festive, and Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" sounds like a modern take on A Christmas Gift for You from Phil Spector. Ballads like

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Vince Gill's "Do You Hear What I Hear?" and Aaron Neville's "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" also fare well, while Charlotte Church's "Silent Night" and Celine Dion's "O Holy Night" end the album with the same kind of vocal beauty that began it. It's not the most satisfying collection, but it's still hard to fault any Christmas album that bothers to include the Waitresses' "Christmas Wrapping." Disc two delivers more of the goods, with tracks like Louis Armstrong's "Winter Wonderland," Burl Ives' "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and Chuck Berry's "Run Rudolph Run" providing plenty of vintage cheer. Peggy Lee, Dean Martin, Andy Williams, and Kenny Rogers also contribute more traditional holiday music. Now That's What I Call Christmas! Vol. 2: The Signature Collection does indeed offer something for everyone, but at the expense of presenting a more focused Christmas collection. ---Heather Phares, AllMusic Review

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