Brian Setzer Orchestra – Christmas Comes Alive! (2010)

01 – Dig That Crazy Santa Claus
02 – Sleigh Ride
03 – Boogie Woogie Santa Claus
04 – Winter Wonderland
05 – Santa Claus Is Back In Town
06 – (Everybody’s Waitin’ For) The Man With The Bag
07 – Stray Cat Strut – You’re a Mean One, Mr Grinch
08 – ‘Zat You Santa Claus_
09 – Angels We Have Heard On High
10 – Run Rudolph Run
11 – Jingle Bell Rock
12 – Blue Christmas
13 – Fishnet Stockings
14 – The Nutcracker Suite
15 – Jingle Bells

Personnel:

Brian Setzer (guitar, vocals)
Tim Messina (tenor sax, clarinet)
Eric Morones (alto sax, clarinet, flute)
Matt Zebley (alto sax, clarinet, flute)
Jim Youngstrom (tenor sax, bass clarinet)
Charlie Peterson (baritone sax, clarinet)
Steve Reid (trumpet)
Jamie Hovorka (trumpet)
Sean Billings (trumpet)
Brian Scanlon (trumpet)
Kevin Norton (trumpet)
Jason Thor (trombone)
Jeremy Levy (trombone)
Kerry Loeschen (trombone)
Robbie Hioki (bass trombone)
Francisco Torres (trombone)
Johnny Hatton (bass)
Tony Pia (drums, percussion)
Julie Reiten (vocals)
Janick Lafreniere (piano)
Leslie Spencer (vocals)

“Knoxville Tennessee how you doin??” And so begin the festivities on Brian Setzer’s Christmas Comes Alive!, a 2010 release that combines Setzer’s two favorite genres as of late, the live album and the holiday record. He leads his swinging orchestra through seasonal tunes, making “Sleigh Ride” and “Winter Wonderland” jump, jive, and wail, digging out zany R&B and rock & roll standards like “Zat You Santa Claus?” and “Run Rudolph Run,” finding a way to make a medley of “Stray Cat Strut” and “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch.” Nothing is unexpected, then, but surprises are overrated for Christmas albums anyway. They should be comforting and reassuring, and that’s a Setzer specialty these days: you always know what you’re going to get -- a rollicking hybrid of jump blues and rockabilly -- and if that’s what you want out of a holiday record, Christmas Comes Alive! will not let you down. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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