

## Helix - A Heavy Mental Christmas (2008)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 22 December 2018 13:11 -

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01 *Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer* 02 *Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree* 03 *Santa Claus Is Back In Town* 04 *Wonderful Christmas Time* 05 *Jingle Bell Rock* 06 *Happy Xmas (War Is Over)* 07 *Sock It To Me Santa* 08 *Jingle Bells* 09 *Silent Night* 10 *Christmas Time Is Here Again* Paul Fonseca - Guitar (Bass), Vocals (Background) Steve Georgakopoulos - Guitar Jim Lawson - Guitar Aaron Murray - Keyboards Brent Niemi - Drums, Vocals (Background) Gord Prior - Bells, Tambourine, Vocals (Background) Rick VanDyk - Guitar, Vocals (Background) Brian Vollmer - Vocals Doug Weir - Vocals (Background)

For most people, it's way too early to start thinking about Christmas but for Helix mainman Brian Vollmer, Christmas began over this past summer. The idea for a Helix Christmas album was conceived, a deal was made with Wal-Mart in Canada, and the album was recorded. A HEAVY MENTAL CHRISTMAS was released in early October exclusively through Wal-Mart and online through Vollmer's website PlanetHelix.com. The album follows the successful formula laid out by Trans-Siberian Orchestra and Twisted Sister: Rock bands creating their own seasonal album by taking old-time Christmas classics and adding their own hard-edged sound.

The album breaks down to nine holiday classics and a new Helix song, 'Christmas Time Is Here Again'. The band stays pretty true to the originals but they are rocked up and heavy! A few cool guitar solos are added in to add a little punch and some length but there isn't much else added in to make these songs any different. This album is basically a holiday covers album and, even though I'm not big on cover tunes, it's definitely a lot of fun. I like hearing the Helix versions of 'Jingle Bell Rock', 'A Wonderful Christmas Time' and 'Happy Xmas (War Is Over)', these are some of my favorite Xmas songs and I am one of those people that tune into the Lite Rock stations November 1st to hear the holiday music. I really enjoyed the acoustic/power ballad version of 'Silent Night', it sounds great with the electric guitar coming in for the instrumental section. The new Helix original, 'Christmas Time Is Here Again', is a pretty cool song and has more energy than the classics. Obviously the difference is that this song was written as a Rock

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song while the others aren't and Helix always does a great job putting out new Rock songs.  
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