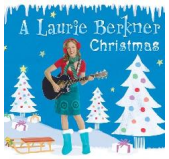
## Laurie Berkner - A Laurie Berkner Christmas (2012)




*01 – Jingle Bells 02 – Santa's Coming To My House Tonight 03 – Little Drummer Boy 04 – I Saw Three Ships 05 – Candy Cane Jane 06 – Do You Hear What I Hear 07 – Children Go Where I Send Thee 08 – Silent Night 09 – Christmas Lights 10 – Christmas Is Coming 11 – Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer 12 – Jolly Old St. Nicholas 13 – Frosty the Snowman 14 – White Christmas 15 – We Wish You A Merry Christmas* Musicians: Laurie Berkner – guitar, vocals Adam Bernstein – bass, vocals Susie Lampert, Jeffrey Lesser – keyboards, vocals Christopher Olsen, David Weiss - flute Roger Rosenberg – bassoon Mac Gollehon – horn Tim Newman - trombone Brady Rymer – bass, mandolin, vocals Bob Golden – drums, percussion Marisol Miller-Richa, Elizabeth Mitchell, Lucy Day Mueller, Sebastian Newman, Manika Yamin – vocals

Records by the Laurie Berkner Band offered a winning indie sensibility directed toward children's music, and their high point, Rocketship Run, was one of the best collections of original children's songs of the 2000s. Berkner's 2012 Christmas album is technically a solo effort, and it shows in the arrangements, which are much closer to standard children's fare than Rocketship Run. A tad simplistic but always buoyant and light-hearted, the arrangements help Berkner shine in a solo role, and she contributes a few solid originals to the Christmas canon, most notably "Santa's Coming to My House Tonight" and "Christmas Lights." Berkner also earns points for not shying away from religious material; the program includes "Silent Night," "Do You Hear What I Hear?," and "Children Go Where I Send Thee." Children are heard on backing vocals throughout, always a plus on children's albums, and while A Laurie Berkner Christmas could have benefited from a little more band, it's still a solid Christmas record for the pre-teen audience. --- John Bush, Rovi

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