



Christmas Kiss

DIANA PANTON



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Once upon a time, a long time ago, while guesting with The Hamilton All-Star Jazz Band youth ensemble, I had the pleasure of performing a song with a young teenaged singer named Diana Panton. This stunningly beautiful redhead, with hair all the way down her back, wearing a glamorous green gown, had selected a very sophisticated song written by Billy Strayhorn called 'Daydream' on which I contributed a solo. Not a bad song choice for a teenager! I thought that was pretty hip, especially with the brilliant arrangement she had requested to be written by Don Thompson. Very very impressive - I was sure that she would have a shot at becoming a singing star. Instead she opted to work on her education degree in order to teach French and the Arts.

Ten years later, with a Masters degree in French literature under her belt, she called Don Thompson again and told him that she was ready to make and finance her recording debut, yesterday perhaps... They worked together finalizing tunes and agreed that simplicity was the best approach as far as the arrangements were concerned. They formed this magnificent trio with Don playing piano and/or bass, Reg Schwager on guitar and Diana's beautiful voice. That became their signature sound and an extremely talented trio was born.

Since that time, all four of Diana's CDs have been a great success, not only in North America, but also in Japan, Taiwan and I'm sure Europe will be next. This trio has an effect on people; I know, I've seen it happen time and again with double standing ovations at concert venues. By now, you are probably wondering how I've come to see all those ovations. Permit me to explain... When Diana and the boys recorded CD number 3, titled pink, they invited me to add, as Diana likes to say, 'another colour to their sound'. It was a treat to be there in the studio playing with them; everything seemed so perfect with those harmonic wizards. On the strength of that record, they asked me to join them on a tour of western Canada, with stops including the Yukon and Powell River, and that is why I have seen all those standing ovations. Playing with this group does something to you.

As impressed as I am with Diana's on-stage performance, having toured with her, I can also attest that she is an amazingly organized person. Not only does she sing, but she writes lyrics, manages gigs, books flights, books hotels, produces and markets records and speaks French fluently! She is a great road manager, as well as teacher of French and Fine Arts. Can she bake a cherry pie? I don't know, but I wouldn't be surprised!

Now, about the new Christmas album, titled Christmas Kiss... The quality and the mood of the music on this CD is very different from your typical seasonal disc; you don't have to play it only in December. Personally, I could listen to this recording all year long and really get my money's worth out of it. Diana's voice is in top form here; she is like an instrument - mind you, I've never heard an instrument sound that good. Listening to this record makes one feel content, peaceful,

loving, warm and cozy. The songs, again, have been carefully selected: some are popular, some are obscure, plus there are two original songs that you will eventually know by listening to them frequently.

Don Thompson's arrangements are beautiful - allowing the lyrics to be front and centre with delicious chords in the background shared by those two masters of harmony, Reg on guitar and Don on piano, bass and vibraphone - yes, he plays all three - but not all at once! I hear some overdubs here. Reg plays fabulous guitar solos with Reg2 playing rhythm guitar behind himself. It's very tricky and you should not try doing that at home!

Diana is the soul and heartbeat on this CD with the rest of us enjoying being different parts of the whole. There are many kinds of tears - tears of joy, laughter, nostalgia, sadness and melancholy - to name a few. I experienced various types of tears myself while listening to this CD, that's how enjoyable it is. 'Baby It's Cold Outside' knocked me out when I heard the voice of the male singer who had been invited to sing the 'guy' part, along with Diana doing her 'little girl' thing. I knew who it was - Harrison Kennedy is his name and he is fantastic. Harrison is a four time Blues Juno Nominee, as well as a former member of the hit R&B group 'Chairman Of The Board'. They really are spectacular on this definitive version of this song. You will enjoy the performance of these two great artists together.

This CD is a winner with great jazz solos, great songs, incredible vocals and an energy that will make you feel great during the holiday season and beyond. Congratulations to the recording engineer Chad Irschick and all the people who were involved in making this project a 5 star ***** record!

We wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season filled with love and peace throughout the world.

Guido Basso



To all the listeners who requested this Christmas album, may this music accompany your holiday celebrations this year and in years to come.

Wishing you all the magic the season can offer.

Christmas kisses,
xx Diana

Est Noel Cheri (Miami)

LYRICS AND MUSIC BY

Jeanne Lacroix, Bernard Michel, Henri Salvador

Tonight, it is Christmas, my dear
It is Christmas and I am far from you.
What are you doing tonight for Christmas,
my dear?
Wait for me my dear, think of me.

Christmas, Christmas,
So far from home.
Christmas, Christmas,
On the other side of the world.

Tonight, it is Christmas
My dear, why did I leave?

But next year I believe,
If nothing happens,
I will be there
And I will say quietly:

Tonight, it is Christmas, dear.
It is Christmas and I am close to you.
It is nice by the fire, dear.
It feels good my dear to be in your arms.

Christmas, Christmas
Is a touch of happiness.

Christmas, Christmas
For all those who love one another.
Tonight, it is Christmas,

My dear, Christmas in my country.

*the translation provided is approximate

Christmas Kiss

LYRICS BY Diana Panton

MUSIC BY Don Thompson

Snowflakes fall, cold winds blow
Outside it's winter white
And there's nowhere else I'd rather be tonight.

The kids upstairs are in their beds
All tucked in warm and tight
And they dream of reindeer
flying through the night.

Now there's time for us dear
Relax and reminisce
Welcome in this Christmas Eve
With a Christmas kiss.

And as we snuggle by the fire,
We'll share a dream or two
And I'll steal another Christmas kiss from you
And I'll wish that all our Christmas
dreams come true.

Images of Christmas

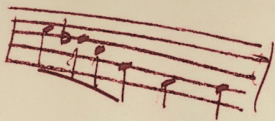
LYRICS BY Jackie Rae

MUSIC BY Guido Basso

Images of Christmas
Drifting through my mind
Like a coloured picture book
The brightest you can find.
I can see you standing right beside the tree,
Wrapping up a present that's filled with love for me.

Tousled-headed kiddies peeping out of sight,
Wondering what surprises will arrive
this silent night.
Images of Christmas,
Guess they'll have to do,
Cause I'm far away,
So very far away,
This lonely Christmas day when I should be with you.





DON *



REG



DIANA



GUIDO *

* SENIORS

Don Thompson

My sincere thanks to:

MY MUSICAL DREAM TEAM: Don, Guido and Reg
DON for his immense talent, for inviting me to pen lyrics to his beautiful composition and for his sweet drawing (inspired by his now famous tour stageplots!)

GUIDO for his generous liner notes, for his lovely original song and for setting the musical tone of the album with his first notes. Also, great solo on the kissing horn!

REG for his impeccable playing, deft touch and quiet sense of humour

HARRISON for his super vocals which had me grinning from ear to ear in the studio!

DAVE FRISHBERG for mailing us a copy of his great tune Snowbound

CHAD for his tireless efforts in making the music sound its best

JOSE for his lovely photographs

HEIDI for making sure the wrapping for the music looks just right

H, KIKI, KRISTEN and NORMA for the times when we are away from home

MY FRIENDS, FAMILY and LOVED ONES who make the holiday season brighter - Christmas kisses to you all!

Credits

DIANA PANTON: vocal

REG SCHWAGER: guitar

GUIDO BASSO: cornet, flugel, trumpet

DON THOMPSON: bass, piano and vibraphone

HARRISON KENNEDY: vocal (track 2)

RECORDED AT Inception Sound Studios, Toronto, Ontario, Canada in August 2011

PRODUCED BY Diana Panton

CO-PRODUCED BY Don Thompson

ARRANGEMENTS BY Don Thompson

RECORDED, MIXED AND MASTERED BY Chad Irschick, Inception Sound Studios

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Jose Crespo

MAKEUP BY Melanie Gillis

CD DESIGN CONCEPT BY Sabrina Musa, Diana Panton and Laurel Panton

CD FINAL LAYOUT AND DESIGN BY Heidi Schlitt @ Indie Pool

2xHD Mastering: RENÉ LAFLAMME - 2xHD Executive Producer: ANDRÉ PERRY

www.dianapanton.com

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1. KISSING BY THE MISTLETOE 4:32
(LESLIE MCFARLAND)
2. BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE 4:46
(FRANK LOESSER)
3. CHRISTMAS KISS 4:04
(DIANA PANTON, DON THOMPSON)
4. WINTER WEATHER 2:53
(TED SHAPIRO)
5. C'EST NOËL, CHÉRI (MAMI) 3:28
(JEANNE LACROIX, BERNARD MICHEL,
HENRI SALVADOR)
6. WINTER WONDERLAND 3:57
(FELIX BERNARD, RICHARD B. SMITH)
7. HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS 5:15
(RALPH BLANE, HUGH MARTIN)
8. DECEMBER 5:20
(AL RINKER, FLOYD HUDDLESTON)
9. SNOWBOUND 3:33
(DAVE FRISHBERG)
10. WINTER WARM 4:47
(HAL DAVID, BURT BACHARACH)
11. THE CHRISTMAS WALTZ 3:55
(SAMMY CAHN, JULIE STYNE)
12. CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE 4:35
(LEE MENDELSON, VINCE GUARALDI)
13. LET IT SNOW!/C'EST L'HIVER! 3:27
(ENG. SAMMY CAHN,
FR. PIERRE NOËS, JULIE STYNE)
14. IMAGES OF CHRISTMAS 4:45
(JACKIE RAE, GUIDO BASSO)
15. DOUCE NUIT/SILENT NIGHT 2:50
(FR. GILLES BROWN,
ENG. JOHN YOUNG, F. GRUBER)

TOTAL TIME: 62:16





DIANA PANTON:
vocal

GUIDO BASSO:
cornet, flugel, trumpet

REG SCHWAGER:
guitar

DON THOMPSON:
bass, piano and vibraphone

HARRISON KENNEDY:
vocal (track 2)

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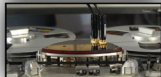
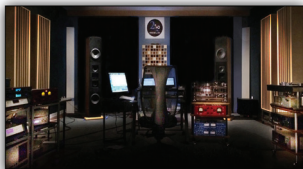
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THE 2xHD FUSION MASTERING SYSTEM



2xHD is a record label which uses its proprietary system to process music masters originally recorded in analog or DSD or other format, to DSD in order to produce a unique listening experience.

The process uses a selection from a pool of high-end audiophile components and connectors. In some cases even using battery power, so as to benefit from the cleanest power source possible. This variable equipment combination custom tailored to each project, creates the most accurate reproduction of the original recording, unveiling information previously masked by the use of EQ, transformers, patch bays, extended cable length etc. The selection of components is critical, as many A/D and D/A converters are unable to pierce through these filters that create a ceiling effect to the sound. The 2xHD system preserves the dynamics of the original master and provides an open feeling to the sound.

2xHD was created by producer/studio owner André Perry and audiophile sound engineer René Laflamme, two dedicated music lovers determined to experience only the warmth and depth of the music without hearing the equipment.

2xHD Mastering by: René Laflamme
2xHD Executive Producer: André Perry

www.2xhd.com
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