

# CHRISTMAS GUITAR



SEAN  
KELLY



Ah...Canada Day. The voice of a loon wafting over the lake, the diaphanous mist lifting to reveal Ol' Sol over the horizon - and on my iPod, the very un-seasonal *Christmas Guitar* album. An anachronism, perhaps? Well, not really. Think of Sean Kelly and his producer James Robertson as two of Santa's elves; if they are not busy making their toys all summer long there will be many a disappointed boy and girl on Christmas morn. So, by the red glow of the recording studio light they shape their ideas into Christmas, creating magic from their palette of sounds.

When the topic of the *Christmas Guitar* CD first arose, everyone was aware of all the great Christmas recordings that were already available. We all know the ones; those perennials that poke their way up from the back of the CD collection every December. Well, Sean knew he had to come up with something new. And so he has, as you will hear on your first listening. What they did invent is their own mini orchestra in order to realize something unique. Bells, drums, guitars of all shapes and sounds, harps and keyboards of various design all add up to a feast of festive sound.

But it is the guitars that take the lead. Sean, whose recording *The #1 Classical Guitar Album*, only featured the nylon stings, still placed those to the forefront (most of the time), with his collection of electrics adding colour and nuance to the melodies. Listen to the support his electric gives to the melody of "Huron Carol"; it adds that haunting quality that I have always suspected lay just under the surface of this Canadian classic. The big exception to the nylon is during "Carol Of the Bells", where bass and electric guitars trade off solos. Turn this one up to savour the full effect!

One could go on doing a track-by-track analysis, but in the end, it is the album taken as a whole that made me lose myself on this Canada Day morning. I closed my eyes and imagined the mist changing to a light dusting of snow, and found myself anticipating the most wonderful time of the year.

Have a warm and merry Christmas.

Thom McKercher  
July 1, 2008



### *Thanks from Sean to:*

God, my family & friends (especially Erin!),  
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Dedicated to Robert Palangio and  
The Pro Cathedral of the  
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where I heard many of these  
carols performed so beautifully!  
Thanks for my first  
professional gig!

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James Robertson & Sean Kelly, Producers  
MB Daellenbach, Tonmeister  
Janina Laughton, Production Manager  
James Robertson, Engineering & Mixing  
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1	Joy To the World	2:34	Kelly-Robertson / Mason
2	Away In a Manger	3:16	Kelly-Robertson / Traditional
3	I Saw Three Ships	2:30	Kelly-Robertson / Traditional
4	Huron Carol	2:54	Kelly-Robertson / Traditional
5	The First Noel	2:32	Kelly-Robertson / Traditional
6	The Angel Gabriel *	3:15	Kelly-Robertson / Traditional
7	Deck the Halls *	3:10	Kelly-Robertson / Traditional
8	Good King Wenceslas	3:18	Kelly-Robertson / Traditional
9	God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen	2:46	Kelly-Robertson / Traditional
10	O Holy Night	5:15	Kelly-Robertson / A Adam
11	What Child Is This?	3:27	Kelly-Robertson / Traditional
12	Silent Night	3:41	Kelly-Robertson / Gruber
13	We Three Kings *	4:52	Kelly-Robertson / Hopkins
14	Carol Of the Bells *	4:16	Kelly-Robertson / Leontovych
15	We Wish You a Merry Christmas	1:12	Kelly-Robertson / Traditional

\* Additional electric guitar solos by James Robertson  
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