

LIGHT THE WINTER'S DARK by Heidi Muller & Bob Webb

Recorded, mixed and mastered by Bob Webb at Treehouse Studios, Charleston, WV

Notes on the Songs:

1 *Long Winter's Night (2:58) by Heidi Muller, written Oct. 2011 to ease us into the acceptance of winter and letting go the things of the past year.

2 Peace on Earth (4:47) by Tim Carbone & Dave Von Dollen, recorded by their group Railroad Earth in 2002 – a bluegrass song with a Buddhist perspective.

3 Cherry Tree Carol (2:55) Appalachian Christmas carol from Eastern Kentucky with a special take on human nature.

4 Old Christmas Morning (3:24) Old-time West Virginia fiddle tune, collected from the Hammons Family, this one is usually played much faster but we took it slow.

5 Light the Winter's Dark (3:45) A song for the New Year, honoring prophets from all religions and the light every individual brings to humanity. Written by Jennifer Cutting and recorded on her Song of Solstice CD by Jennifer Cutting and the Ocean Orchestra. For more info on her music, visit www.jennifercutting.com.

6 Cold Frosty Morning (2:07) Old-time Appalachian fiddle tune on the baritone dulcimer.

7 Solstice Carole (3:09) Song by the Canadian group, the Wyrld Sisters, in 1992 – written by Kim Baryluk, Nancy Reinhold and Kim Segal. A lovely statement of the meaning of Solstice.

8 Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day (3:04) A centuries-old song from the British Isles, which I first heard performed by William Pint & Felicia Dale.

9 Star of the East (4:01) An Appalachian carol also known as Brightest and Best, and a favorite of legendary dulcimer player Jean Ritchie's family in eastern Kentucky.

10 Winter's Turning (2:59) A dulcimer-guitar original, previously recorded on Heidi's Gypsy Wind CD. This is a new recording.

11 I Wonder As I Wander (4:37) Appalachian carol with original words collected in North Carolina by John Jacob Niles, and then more verses that he wrote himself.

12 *Jesse's Carol (3:41) – by Heidi written in 1986 and previously recorded on Matters of the Heart and the Victory Review compilation. This is a new recording.

13 Snow Shoveler's Reel (2:44) – Dulcimer tune by Marc Mathieu of Hearst, Ontario, who wrote it while musing on whether or not to go out and shovel the driveway before morning... he did, and this tune came together with shovel in hand! To hear more of Marc's music, you may contact him at dulcimarc@gmail.com.

14 Summer Will Come 'Round Again (5:00) Another wonderful song with a wise and promising message by Jennifer Cutting, with music by Gary Wicknam.

15 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (1:58) An instrumental version of the Christmas carol, with dulcimer and mandolin.

16 Here Comes the Sun (3:14) The George Harrison song, of course, to bring us back to the light of longer days.

*Lyrics below

Guest Musicians:

John Lilly Americana songwriter, known in Seattle and nationwide – harmony vocals on Peace On Earth

Ron Sowell Music director for Mountain Stage radio show, leader of the house band – harmonica on Long Winter's Night

Julie Adams Singer for Mountain Stage band, heard nationally on the show – harmonies on Peace on Earth, Summer Will Come 'Round Again and Here Comes the Sun

Mark Davis Charleston, WV singer/drummer, member of VooDoo Katz & Bare Bones – percussion on Peace on Earth, Light the Winter's Dark, Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day, Summer Will Come 'Round Again and Here Comes the Sun; and harmony vocals on Peace on Earth and Here Comes the Sun

Deron Sodaro Charleston, WV bass player in VooDoo Katz and Comparsa – bass on Peace on Earth, Summer Will Come 'Round Again and Here Comes the Sun

Dave Wilson Violinist from Springfield, Missouri, played in Radio Flyer, Gallier Brothers and more – fiddle on Peace on Earth

Janis Carper Americana songwriter and guitarist – slide guitar on Long Winter's Night

LONG WINTER'S NIGHT

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The sun is setting on the year
It's time to pack away
Garden tools and summer jewels
And love that didn't stay

Count your blessings, one and all
And bid the year adieu
Winter's waiting at the door
It's best you let him through

So build a fire, catch a spark
Light a candle in the dark
Settle in and rest awhile
On this long winter's night

Gather all your efforts in
You scattered on the tide
However they return to you
With your arms open wide

Alder, oak and sycamore
Are stripped down to the skin
And reaching up with empty arms
They welcome back the wind

So build a fire...

When the ridges and the mountain peaks
Take on a bluish glow
That rises up to kiss the moon
Reflected on the snow

Then comes the time of year again
To watch your candles burn
And let the earth regenerate
Until the light returns

So build a fire...

So build a fire, catch a spark
Light *your candles* in the dark
Settle in and rest awhile
On this long winter's night

JESSE'S CAROL

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It's the time again in the city
When the stores are all open at night
The bright shining star at the Bon Marche
Is hung from a five-story height
And the people crowd round and fill up their arms
As the registers ring in the cash
While down in the Square you will find others there
Looking for food in the trash

It's the time again in the city
When the neighborhood takes on a shine
Door decorations and colored lights
Bayberry, holly and pine
And the woodsmoke rises into the sky
As folks go out shopping for trees
While the ones who didn't get to the mission tonight
Are hoping just not to freeze

It's the time again in the city
When people are starting to smile

Carols are sung while stockings are hung
And children stay close all the while
And Jesse still stands at the corner of Fourth
With that faraway look in her eye
Lost and alone with no place to call home
And no reason left to try

It's Christmas again in the city
Does anyone want to hear
The muttering wino who's asking for change
Or the sound of the silent tear
While we stay warm and loved and fed
Thousands with no place to go
Are watching our world of holiday cheer
On the streets in the rain and the snow