

“Christmas Again” CD on its way SOON!

In the early months of 2021, I began to rummage through my file folder entitled “Finished Songs.” I had recently produced an online daily Advent retreat through my FaceBook page and shared a lot of my music. In the 15 years since I released my first solo CD “Paintbrush in the Green” there were two other Advent Christmas releases, “Blanket of Stars” and “Back to Bethlehem.”

Every year I usually compose one of two new Christmas songs, and I type up a lyric and include it in my Christmas cards as a prayer/spiritual reflection. Other people send those brag letters, but I fight that temptation because my ongoing posts on social media of my West Highland Terrier, Grace Allen Quinlivan seem like enough showboating! She is a four-legged diva, and by the way is quite excited to be featured on the new CD cover with me!

The title song’s verse sets the tone for the album; a song about Christmas songs:

*If we gather up the carols of the ages
And collect hymns of Christmas praise
We would have a great mountain of pages
And could sing holy music for days....*

Another phrase seeks to explain why I keep making music for this festive and holy time:

*New ones come every year for some reason
As we celebrate the birth of God's Son...*

So this is why Amy Grant and I (one of my musical heroes...and someone I finally met a few years ago...JUST as sweet as I imagined) keep releasing Christmas music. Though not together...yet. My bucket list still has that on top!!

Families like mine have historically collected music for the season in the format of 78 RPM, 33 1/3 and 45 RPM, cassette, 8-track, and CD. Now we listen through digital apps and streaming services, podcasts and broadcasts. But one thing never changes: each year when November leans into December, people like myself scour the new music releases with expectation to find a new “classic” Christmas tune.

I’m particularly excited about this new collection because my producer/engineer Alan Dusel (Starfields Productions, Williamsville, NY) found some creative new tools. As I write this little essay, we are beginning to mix the songs. I’ll need to come up with the song order, but I have already decided that the title track must be first.

The song “**Christmas Again**” includes musical contributions from the South Buffalo Irish band **Crikwater**, the Celtic duo **Kindred**, a bunch of singers and even a cameo appearance by

Gracie! The CD starts with a virtual house party complete with conversation, laughter and singing.

Another tune, **“Time for Bed”** was originally written and sung as part of a Christmas Eve homily at a children’s Mass. The gist of the lyric illustrates how challenging it is to get kids to go to sleep on Christmas Eve, all torqued up on sugar and excitement! This song will be featured in my first-ever [animated music video](#). Watch this website, my YouTube page and social media for more information about a premier by mid-November!

My hope for this album is that listeners find moments of joy, prayerful reflection, some laughter, maybe even a tear and some tapping of the toes.

I pray that you will enjoy **“Christmas Again,”** again and again...’til my next Christmas album.....