

# 'Tis the season! Time for new holiday releases!

## Pete's CD Review

Bob Dylan: If you haven't heard Dylan lately after you get over the sound of his voice, this may become one of your holiday favorites. The players and singers that join Bob make this an overall enjoyable holiday release.

Favorite: "*Santa Claus is coming to town*"

Aretha: "*This Christmas..*": The Queen of souls first Christmas release. Aretha oversings on at least 70% of this CD. When she doesn't do that; it's okay. And only okay. The liner notes open by criticizing the people who didn't help her get this released. "Merry Christmas" ... from the Queen.

Favorite: "*The Lord will make a way*" and "*Silent Night*"

Neil Diamond: "*A Cherry-Cherry Christmas...*" A compilation of Neil's two Christmas releases and three new songs. One of them: "*A Cherry Cherry Christmas*" that pays homage to ... himself? The rest of the tunes are predictable, but perfect holiday fare.

Favorite: "*Sleigh ride*" and "*You make it feel like Christmas*"

Taylor Swift: "Holiday collection. Six-track sampler. Great song selection for her limited vocal range. Her young fans will love it. Two original tunes will have you looking for the liquor cabinet. What the heck is she doing to Silent Night?"

Favorite: "*Santa baby*"

Sting: "*If on a winter's night. ...*" Sting went out of his way to make an unusual tribute to Christmas. He avoids domestic coziness of secular songs, recognizing that for many, winter is a time of darkness and introspection. This celebrates winter, not just Christmas. Playing this in January or on any cold, windy, snowy night with hot tea and brandy will bring "*On a winter's night*" full circle.

Favorite: "*Soul Cake*" and "*Chrismtas at sea*"