

1. **HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS** 2:13  
*(Autry, Haldeman) Gene Autry's  
Western Music Publishing Co./ASCAP*
2. **AWAY IN A MANGER** 2:54 *(arr. O'Brien)*
3. **WALKING IN A  
WINTER WONDERLAND** 3:28  
*(Smilh, Bernard) WB Music Corp./ASCAP*
4. **IT CAME UPON A  
MIDNIGHT CLEAR** 3:25 *(arr. O'Brien)*
5. **THE CHRISTMAS SONG**  
*(Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire)* 5:28  
*(Torme, Wells) Edwin H. Morris & Co., Inc./ASCAP*
6. **WHITE CHRISTMAS** 4:15  
*(Berlin) Williamson Music Co./ASCAP*
7. **O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM** 2:59  
*(arr. O'Brien)*
8. **SILVER BELLS** 3:36  
*(arr. O'Brien)*
9. **FROSTY THE SNOWMAN** 2:48  
*(arr. O'Brien)*
10. **SILENT NIGHT** 3:34  
*(arr. O'Brien)*



*Produced by Rich O'Brien  
Recorded at Eagle Audio, Ft. Worth, Texas*

*Engineered by Mike Talmage  
and Mat Trammell*

*Mastered by G. Geurin,  
Digital Editing Services, Dallas, TX*

*Book Design by Joan Pelosi & David Weed*

**WJRC 1225**

# RICH O'BRIEN

## *It's Christmas*





This is a Holiday recording featuring one of America's foremost guitarists, Rich O'Brien. Rich, in great demand both in recording studios and concert venues throughout the country, delivers an extraordinarily tasteful and enjoyable performance in this CD. He is adeptly joined by musicians who are also fine artists- Johnny Case and Tim Alexander on piano and accordion, Mac MacRae on the bass, Ron Thompson on drums and Billy Briggs on the saxophone.

Many improvisational performers display their technical prowess unceasingly. I find this extremely annoying, especially in songs like these Holiday classics. It makes you forget the tune! This lack of musical understanding only serves to obfuscate and detract from the tradition, spirit and beauty of these wonderful songs. Rich never does this. He always makes you cognizant of lyrics and melody, a rare ability for which every instrumentalist should strive. Rich accomplishes this through his ever-present musical taste and sensitivity.

This is an album that you will savor. It is relaxing mood music of high quality and truly captures the spirit of the Holiday Season. Rich's solo guitar selections are particularly enjoyable and are prime examples of this very special artist's talent. Rich O'Brien always produces a beautiful sonority, another aspect of his artistry that makes this recording special and will give you many hours of enjoyment.

*John Giordano*

Music Director, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra

RICH O'BRIEN - Acoustic and Electric  
Guitars, Mandolin

JOHNNY CASE - Piano

TIM ALEXANDER - Piano and Accordion

BILLY BRIGGS - Tenor Saxophone

MAC MACRAE - Bass Fiddle

RON THOMPSON - Drums and Percussion

THE SUNRISE STRING QUARTET:

LEON HUBBARD - First Violin

ORA MAE HUBBARD - Second Violin

PEGGY HARRISON - Viola

MONTE KNUTSON - Cello

String arrangements by Dave Hanson,  
Denver, CO.

All other arrangements by Rich O'Brien

Thanks to everyone who had a hand in this special project - especially all the wonderful musical folks whose contributions elevated my efforts to a much classier level:

Johnny- virtuoso and friend

Tim- Saves my bacon.

Billy- gentleman and legend

Mac- versatile musician (but terrible wrestler).

Rockin' Ron- Yeah Babe!

Ora Mae, Leon, Peggy and Monte- gentle poetry in an angry world.

Dave Hanson- for writing the gentle poetry

Thanks to Froggy for the Fotos

Ditto Scott, Dane, Kathleen and Laraine for your indulgence and support.

Loving Thanks to my family and friends.

And thanks to Jesus Christ, Savior and Friend,  
without You there'd be no Christmas.

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*It's Christmas* is Rich O'Brien's heartfelt Holiday gift to music lovers everywhere. In this instrumental collection, O'Brien has recorded ten of his favorite Christmas melodies, displaying the virtuosity and wide range of styles that have made him a favorite of Western music fans. From the upbeat swinging "Here Comes Santa Claus," to the gentle, classical guitar version of "Silent Night," recorded with the Sunrise String Quartet, *It's Christmas* celebrates the cheerful and sentimental nature of the Holiday season. Accompaniment is provided by some of Texas' finest players, former Asleep at the Wheel member Tim Alexander on piano and accordion, the nimble fingered Johnny Case on piano, Mac MacRae on bass, Ron Thompson on drums and Billy Briggs on saxophone.

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IT'S CHRISTMAS



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