

GOODWILL TO MEN

I am fully aware what month this is. Spring is in the air and Helen wants me to buy gladiolas when I go out for groceries. I never wear my jacket and Easter is past tense. So, why am I writing about a Christmas album? Because it is a great album by a great performer with a majorleague voice and, also, because I misplaced it when it came last winter, and I feel guilty, guilty, GUILTY. OK, so it's not Santa season, but trust me on this one.

Seamus Kennedy's "Goodwill To Men" will knock the socks off your mantle.

He opens up with a stirring "Gaudete", then booms through a collection of carols and anthems and traditional novelties. I loved his "Miss Fogarty's Christmas Cake", a sprightly 6/8 that segues effortlessly into a double jig.

Seamus is a very dramatic singer but, on him, it looks good. Seamus has a website, (www.seamus-kennedy.com) which is good because he has lots of CDs and I can't review them all, but I can assure you that those I have heard are primo.

Mike Miller, Tune-Up

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SEAMUS KENNEDY - GETS ON EVERYBODY'S NERVES

You said it, Seamus!

Maryland's (via Belfast) answer to Woody's "Songs To Grow On..." is NOT recommended listening to those of you whose residences don't echo to the patter of tiny feet.

However those blessed (cursed?) with the fickle, perpetually snot-ridden ball of energy that is a pre-school kid will instantly recognise the value of this collection of daft kid's songs.

Pay The Reckoning's own mini-reprobate's musical tastes used to begin and end with "In The Highways, In The Hedges" from the "O Brother" soundtrack (as well as PtR junior's own monotone rendition of the Thomas The Tank Engine theme). But ever since listening to Kennedy's CD, he has broadened his horizons. No longer does he plead "Girls, daddy!". (He's not a budding Father Jack ... it's just that the aforementioned "In The Highways ..." is sung by a group of little girls.) Instead he tugs at PtR's trouser leg and implores "Fly, daddy!". Which is his shorthand for Kennedy's breathless version of "I Know An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly".

Oh ... and then it's "Marley, please" ... shorthand for Kennedy's rendition of that oul' Belfast street rhyme "Wee Willie's Lost His Marley".

And then we have to skip to "I Am The Music Man" and "When You Come To The End Of A Lollipop". And then "There's A Hole In The Bucket".

The finale - "I Know A Song That Gets On Everybody's Nerves" - arrives.

Thank God we think! No harm to you, Seamus but it's time to stick on something a wee bit more adult. Let's see ... a bit of the Bothy Band, maybe? A few bits and pieces from The Boys Of The Lough? What about that new album by Micheal O'Raghallaigh?

No chance!

"Dad? Fly please, daddy. Daddy. Fly, please!"

Don't take our word for it. Take the word of Pay The Reckoning Og ... ten out of ten and play it again!

Aidan Crossey

Pay The Reckoning

www.geocities.com/paythereckoning/reviews