

# Reviews: *Baby It's Cold Outside*

Chris Pasin, trumpet; Patricia Dalton Fennell, vocals;  
Armen Donelian, piano; Ira Coleman, bass; Rich Syracuse,  
bass; Peter Einhorn, guitar; Jeff Siegel, drums



Today's Deep Roots Christmas Pick. December 20, 2017: Chris Pasin and Friends – 'Baby It's Cold Outside'

**Deep Roots, David McGee**

Here's a holiday outing that should satisfy traditionalists and adventurous spirits alike, a true rarity. Trumpeter/flugelhorn master Chris Pasin, whose resume includes several years touring as a soloist with Buddy Rich and backing giants on the order of Sinatra, Torme, Sarah Vaughn, Nancy Wilson, Ray Charles and Tony Bennett, as well crafting his own projects with some of New York's finest jazz players, has brought some Gotham friends together, along with upstate New York-based vocalist Patricia Dalton Fennell (in a dual role as vocalist and producer), and given the holiday season the scintillating *Baby It's Cold Outside*.

For those more interested in new insights into seasonal warhorses, Pasin and friends offer a five-and-a-half-minute journey through "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," featuring discursive solos by Pasin on trumpet and pianist Armen Donelian, as well as a tasty drum-and-bass dialogue between Jeff Siegel and Ira Coleman, respectively, plus a couple of nice tempo changes for added texture. Similarly, "We Three Kings of Orient Are" is almost unrecognizable when Pasin soars into upper register impressionistic flurries before giving way to Donelian skittering across the keys and taking the melody line into uncharted waters over the course of six-and-a-half minutes. And though Donelian gets a might Baroque on another six-and-a-half-minute journey through "Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel," the arrangement features only him and Pasin (on trumpet), and in staying close to the identifiable melody and improvising some ruminative passages, the duo achieves remarkable beauty serving to enhance the song's majesty.

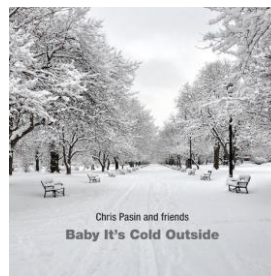
Vocalist/producer Fennell stands out every time she takes the spotlight, starting with the first cut, a warm, engaging "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"; through a fun, sexy romp through the title track, which finds her and Pasin not singing but speaking the lyrics in a sensuous pas de deux between a lusty woman and a man caught off-balance by her fleshly importuning; and culminating in a powerful, reverential rendition of "Greensleeves" (well, actually it's "What Child Is This," the Christmas story set to the music of "Greensleeves") accompanied only by pianist Donelian, who works some florid variations on the melody during his solo but mostly supports the singer in spare, stark fashion. Fennell sounds so casual, so confident, so unaffected in her conversations with the musicians you can't help but return repeatedly to her performances. In a beautiful bit of sequencing, "Greensleeves" is followed on the disc by Vince Guaraldi's "Christmas Time is Here," with no vocal but rather Pasin's trumpet sounding the familiar theme and establishing the captivating mellow mood.

Ms. Fennell has quite a resume herself. In addition to her vocalizing, she founded Albany Health Management Associates in upper New York State, to which she brought her skills as a clinician, therapist, researcher and acknowledged expert on the understanding and treatment of chronic illness.



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In the 1980s she was a hospice worker when the movement was in its formative years, which led her to question, “If we can treat the dying this well, why can’t treat the living this well? Why can’t we treat the chronically ill this well?” She went on to develop a new model for the care of the chronically ill and thus far has published three books on the subject, one of which has become a textbook used the world over. This CD, the second she’s recorded with Pasin and company, she sees as inseparable from her mission with AHMA. In a profile of her posted on the WAMC.org website, she closes with a statement that might well be the mission statement for Baby It’s Cold Outside too, in that one of the album’s great gifts to listeners is its sheer humanity: love of the songs radiates from the performances. The black and white cover shot may suggest the bleak midwinter, but on the inside, abundant soul abounds.

Says Ms. Fennell: “We have to provide care for those who can’t care for themselves—that’s service. We have to discover and treat, to improve life and prevent suffering—that’s clinical science. And we have to make art, make beauty—that’s what makes life worth living.”

Cue the music.

Music Review: Chris Pasin warm brilliant holiday cheer Chris Pasin – BABY, IT’S COLD OUTSIDE  
**Rotcod Zzaj**

By Dick Metcalf, editor, *Contemporary Fusion Reviews*

Chris Pasin warm brilliant holiday cheer.

It’s been a while since I gave trumpeter/flugelhorn player Chris my “PICK” in issue # 158, and now he’s put together a seasonal album that stands out nicely as one of the most cheerful I’ve heard in many years (for those who have been reading us for a while, you’ll know already that I seldom review holiday albums). It doesn’t hit the streets until October 6th, 2017, so you’ll only find the title track, “Baby, It’s Cold Outside”, posted for listening (& pre-sale) right now... but, that’s more than enough to let you know how HIP this coming holiday season is going to be... some great dialogue between Chris and vocalist Patricia Dalton Fennell that will put you in the mood for the festivities!

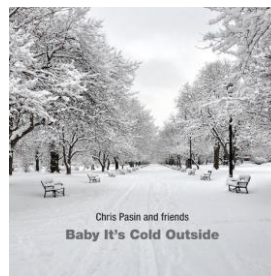
If jazz is the way you’d prefer to spend all your holidays, you’ll totally dig Chris’s upbeat rendition of the classic carol, “We Three Kings”... believe it or not, this one will have you up & dancin’ ’round the tree – all I can say for this splendid performance is – “HOT”!

You’ll have no worries about being “bogged down” with too much tradition when you listen to my personal favorite of the eleven tracks offered up for your yuletide jazz enjoyment... “Santa Claus is Coming to Town” like you’ve never heard it before will ring your bells and have you playing the track over & over again! I give Chris and his high-talent players (Armen Donelian – piano; Ira Coleman – bass; Jeff Siegel – drums; Rich Syracuse – bass; Peter Einhorn – guitar; Patricia Dalton Fennell – vocal) my



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MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, with an “EQ” (energy quotient) rating of 4.99 for this most joyful holiday jam! Get more information about this fascinating player and his great album on Chris’s website.

Music Review: Chris Pasin and Friends – ‘Baby It’s Cold Outside’

## **Midwest Record**

Patricia Fennell has got such a Diana Krall vibe going that any advertisers upset they can no longer hire Patti Wicks when they want a Krall doubler should look Fennell up. In fact this sounds so much like the kind of Christmas record Krall would make if she didn’t have to deal with the commercial pressures a major label will put on you that real jazzbos will find this a match. In fact, all the jazzbos on board here are cats that stand behind and to the side of the greats making them sound great so you have the added bonus of cats that know what they are doing pushing the boundaries of creativity without ever getting precious about it. It’s 92 degrees in Chicago today so it’s not too early to start thinking Christmas thoughts. Uh,...hot stuff throughout.

Music Review: Chris Pasin and Friends – ‘Baby It’s Cold Outside’

## **Jazz History Online, Thomas Cunniffe**

A veteran of the Buddy Rich and Toshiko Akiyoshi orchestras, trumpeter Chris Pasin approaches music with an accessible straight-forward style. Whether backing guest vocalist Patricia Dalton Fennell or playing an improvised solo, he presents his ideas with little artifice but great skill. The playlist on his holiday disc, “Baby, It’s Cold Outside” includes many stalwarts from the standard repertoire, but the arrangements include their share of surprises. Perhaps the most notable is the title track, a vocal duet between Pasin and Fennell where the traditional roles are reversed. They turn the lyrics into an overlapping conversation, and Fennell plays the seductress with elan. As I write this review in November 2017, the headlines are full of stories about sexual harassment; the role reversal makes this version a little easier to take, but perhaps it would be best to retire this oldie, as it no longer reflects accepted social behavior. Pasin sticks to trumpet and flugelhorn for the rest of the album, offering a stunning duet on “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” with pianist Armen Donelian, an intriguing arrangement of “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (with fine solos by Pasin and guitarist Peter Einhorn), and a mixed meter treatment of “I’ll Be Home for Christmas”. This album is an excellent addition to a holiday jazz music mix.

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## **Amazon, Customer Review**

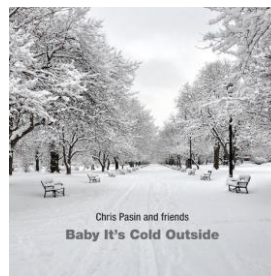
**Grady Harp**

**5.0 out of 5 stars ‘It’s that time of year’**



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Hailing from Chicago jazz trumpeter Chris Pasin studied at the famed New England Conservatory of Music where he majored in classical and jazz performance. In the early '70's he performed at the Village Vanguard with the George Russell Big Band and also a steady six night a week gig at the Parker House with the Winiker Swing Band as well as shows at the Hyannis Melody Tent and North Shore Music Circus and various and sundry studio and commercial gigs in Boston as an in-demand trumpet player. This was followed by two years on the road with the Buddy Rich Band in the early '80's, then ten years in New York City where he toured with the Toshiko Akioshi/Lew Tabackin big band internationally as well as freelancing in New York. Now, after a long hiatus from music to raise a family, Chris is as active as ever, generating recordings, performances, and assembling ensembles ranging from avant garde improvised music to R&B and pop. For the season he has created a new CD of re-imagined holiday music, *BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE*.

Though the CD is not released yet, this MP3 is available to brighten the mood. The ensemble is Chris Pasin trumpet, flugelhorn, vocals, Patricia Dalton Fennell vocals, Armen Donelian – piano, Ira Coleman – bass, and Jeff Siegel – drums.

The additional works are all well-known Holiday songs but offered in a manner that makes them very fresh. If I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS doesn't melt your heart.. 'you'd better watch out.' Perfect for downloading in your car to keep the season bright!

Music Review: Chris Pasin and Friends – 'Baby It's Cold Outside'  
**Gonzo Weekly**

So, in July I get sent a Christmas jazz record that isn't actually going to be available until October. That's okay by me though, as in December it will be warm as it's our summer in the Southern Hemisphere and when I was sent this we had already had six inches of snow so was quite appropriate! Now, Chris recorded his debut CD as long ago as 1987 but he is probably best known for working with others in the live environment, spending a few years with Buddy Rich as the jazz trumpet soloist as well as performing with the likes of Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Mel Torme, Sarah Vaughn, Nancy Wilson, and Ray Charles. For this album he has brought in Patricia Dalton Fennell (vocals), Armen Donelian (piano), Ira Coleman (bass), Rich Syracuse (bass), Peter Einhorn (guitar) and Jeff Siegel (drums).

It is a mixture of instrumentals, led mostly by Chris' pure clear trumpet, and some with vocals and is a combination of well-known Christmas standards, all given a melodic arrangement to make them into something a little different to the norm.

The highlight for me is the title cut, which has been turned into a two-way conversation between Patricia and Chris — I have heard many different versions of this song over the years, but this has to be



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the only one that oozes sex. Patricia often proves her vocal skills on other numbers, but here her spoken voice is like warm velvet and combined with the muted trumpet in the background and the laid-back feel of the arrangement makes this something quite extraordinary. Overall this is a beautifully conceived and performed album that is easy to listen to and totally enjoyable from start to end.

Music Review: Jazz trumpeter Chris Pasin spreads warm holiday spirit with his new CD of seasonal classics, *Baby, It's Cold Outside*

## **Republic of Jazz**

Nothing gets music lovers in a celebrating mood like listening to their favorite carols, and this brand-new CD, *Baby, It's Cold Outside*, delivers a whopping dose of holiday cheer. On 11 of the most-beloved sounds of the season, trumpeter Chris Pasin and friends show they have a real gift for making such familiar material their own, while maintaining the spirit and warmth that's such a major part of the yuletide celebrations.

Equally comfortable on both trumpet and flugelhorn, leader Chris Pasin has proved himself among the most versatile of musicians. Besides fronting his own bands, he's been a mainstay of ensembles led by the likes of Buddy Rich, Toshiko Akiyoshi/Lew Tabackin, George Russell, and Brother Jack McDuff. Pasin has also appeared with legendary figures including Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Mel Tormé and Ray Charles, to name a few.

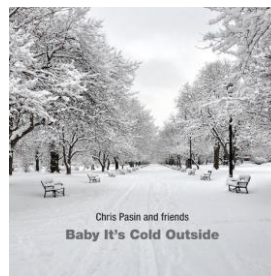
For *Baby, It's Cold Outside*, Pasin has assembled a stellar ensemble of some of the most in-demand musicians on the New York jazz scene. Among them: pianist Armen Donelian (Sonny Rollins, Chet Baker, Paquito D'Rivera); bassists Ira Coleman (Freddie Hubbard, Betty Carter, Herbie Hancock) and Rich Syracuse (Mose Allison, Bernard Purdy, Kurt Elling); drummer Jeff Siegel (Ron Carter, Jack DeJohnette, Sheila Jordan); singer Patricia Dalton Fennell (Dave Holland, Giacomo Gates, Pete Levin); and guitarist Peter Einhorn (Joe Lovano, Plácido Domingo, Jim Hall).

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas": Here's a subtle, sensitive and understated version of a classic that steers clear of the overly sentimental, right from Donelian's heart-felt piano opener. "We Three Kings": Uptempo and bursting with energy, the band brings great drive and brilliant feeling to this beloved carol, which features an excellent solo from leader Pasin. "Baby, It's Cold Outside": Check out the sexy and playful collaboration between Pasin and vocalist Patricia Dalton Fennell. The twosome demonstrate their wit and camaraderie as they work their seductive skills on the lyrics. "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen": A very welcome new take on a traditional tune turns it into a cooker; the great rhythmic drive makes it downright danceable. "I'll Be Home for Christmas": Pasin and Einhorn shine on solos in this unique treatment of a 1940s-vintage hit.



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Pasin and friends' fresh take on the greatest songs of the season celebrate the beloved classics in an original and vastly appealing style. Listeners will enjoy old favorites in a new way this holiday season, thanks to the great renditions performed by this talented and creative ensemble.

Music Review: Chris Pasin and Friends – 'Baby It's Cold Outside'

## ***Musicalmemoirs***

I really enjoyed the jazzy rendition of "Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas" incorporating a few unusual harmonic chord changes and a warm, appealing vocal by Patricia Dalton Fennell. Chris Pasin is sturdy and improvisational on his trumpet and flugelhorn, breathing brassy life into these familiar holiday favorites. On the trio rendition of "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" Ira Coleman is stunning on his bass solo and Armen Donelian makes bold statements on piano. Throughout the entire production, Jeff Siegel keeps the time controlled and inspired on his trap drums. This is a delightful and well produced Christmas album that takes inspirational journeys outside the predictable path and heightens our listening enjoyment. Pasin decorates the production with his shiny, hard bop horn and folks like Peter Einhorn on guitar and Pasin's trusty trio adds the sparkling tinsel, tying everything together like a jazzy holiday ornament for our ears.

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## ***Jersey Jazz, Joe Lang***

Baby It's Cold Outside (Planet Arts – 301714) is a delightful Christmas album from trumpeter CHRIS PASIN. Pasin has enlisted a terrific group of musicians including pianist Armen Donelian, bassist Ira Coleman, drummer Jeff Siegel, bassist Rich Syracuse, guitarist Peter Einhorn and vocalist Patricia Dalton Fennell, mixed them into a variety of combinations, and they have produced an eclectic 11-song program that holds your interest no matter the combination of players. The material may be oriented toward the Christmas season, but the playing is strictly jazz, and fine jazz at that. Pasin plays both trumpet and flugelhorn with authority and imagination. His supporting players each sparkles when given solo space. Fennell is an assured vocal presence. Put it all together, and you have an album that is filled with the spirit of the season, but would sound nice at any time of the year.

5.0 out of 5 stars. Music Review: Chris Pasin and Friends – 'Baby It's Cold Outside'

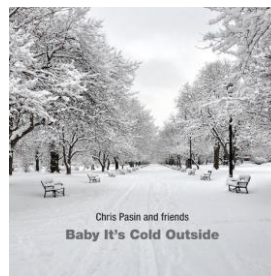
## ***Susan Frances***

Christmas novelties treated with a traditional smooth jazz flare make Baby It's Cold Outside from trumpet/flugelhorn player Chris Pasin a keepsake. Reworking numbers like "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" and "We Three Kings of Orient Are" with well-placed toots of the trumpet along the familiar



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motifs give the tracks a modish veneer without diminishing their iconic luster. The samba-infused rhythm of bassist Rich Sycamore and drummer Jeff Siegel driving “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,” gives the number a catchy beat brimming with spicy agility. The recording turns mellow and reflective as vocalist Patricia Dalton Fennell adds a lullaby gleam to “Greensleeves.”

The smooth jazz contours of Pasin’s horn embroiders elegant spirals along “Christmas Time Is Here,” embellishing Peter Einhorn’s laid-back guitar riffs coasting languidly along the track with sprinting notes. The tune has a hammock swinging lure, which switches to a boppish bounce through “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” clad with a lively spirit. The lounging atmosphere of “The Christmas Song” is gilded in Armen Donellan’s sparking piano keys kindling a torchlight shimmer, and transitions to a shuffling gait along “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town.” The soaring notes of Pasin’s horn opening “Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel” are striking and hold the listener in rapt attention.

Pasin’s cover of Yuletide favorites coated in the smooth jazz/classic swing palette captures the essence of Christmas traditions on *Baby It’s Cold Outside*. Pasin’s renderings of nostalgic Christmas tunes tweaks these sing-along minstrels in jazz-embossed tooling without diluting their iconic sweetness.

### ***Michael Doherty's Music Log***

Chris Pasin And Friends: “Baby It’s Cold Outside” (2017) CD Review

Well, it’s that time of year again. It just can’t be avoided, no matter how much alcohol we drink.

Christmas is coming, and I just can’t see a way around it. Can you? Every autumn sees the release of a number of CDs celebrating the holiday. Most are crap. But some are good. A large percentage of the good ones are instrumental albums, and the reason for this is rather obvious: the lyrics to the majority of traditional Christmas songs suck. Trumpet player Chris Pasin and Friends deliver a mostly instrumental collection of holiday songs on *Baby It’s Cold Outside*. The musicians on this release include Chris Pasin on trumpet and flugelhorn, Armen Donelian on piano, Peter Einhorn on guitar, Ira Coleman on bass, Rich Syracuse on bass, and Jeff Siegel on drums. Joining them on certain tracks is vocalist Patricia Dalton Fennell.

The album opens with one of the songs with vocals – a gentle, late-night rendition of “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas.” This version has a pleasant, nostalgic, relaxed vibe, and is actually quite good. I love those touches on trumpet, as well as that lead section. That’s followed by “Santa Claus Is Coming To Town,” with the trumpet doing what would be the vocal line. It’s hard to listen to it without hearing in your head the song’s lame lyrics. I prefer the section with piano on lead, when we can forget for a moment what song it is that they’re playing. Ira Coleman and Jeff Siegel get a chance to shine on bass and drums respectively in the second half of the track.

“We Three Kings Of Orient Are” gets a bit loose and features some wonderful and energetic work on trumpet. At moments, you can forget that this is a Christmas song, and those obviously are my favorite



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moments. There is some really nice stuff on drums here. This track kind of eases out at the end. And then “Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel” begins as a trumpet solo. This is kind of an intriguing rendition, with some pretty stuff on keys. In fact, this track is just piano and trumpet. It ends up being one of my favorite tracks, which might be in part because I’m not as familiar with this one, and so no lyrics are running through my noggin as I listen to it. I can simply enjoy it as a beautiful piece of music.

I love “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” the song used as the title track for this album. It’s not specifically a Christmas song, though by now it is, by virtue of its winter setting, tied (perhaps reluctantly) to the holiday. This track features vocals, of course, delivered as spoken word by Patricia Dalton Fennell and Chris Pasin. Here the roles are reversed, with the woman being the aggressive one. When the roles are reversed like this, the guy often comes across as kind of a dweeb. Right? Unless he’s married or really dislikes the woman or something. Patricia gives some delightful line readings (“I’m not concerned about your brother, dear”). But my favorite part of this rendition is the trumpet, which is the real singer here. “It Came Upon A Midnight Clear” features more great work on trumpet, over a cool groove. I really like what Peter Einhorn does on guitar.

Though labeled as “Greensleeves” on the CD case, the song here is actually “What Child Is This?” with vocals by Patricia Dalton Fennell. While I like her voice, this is a song I definitely prefer without the lyrics, or with the original “Greensleeves” lyrics (which have absolutely nothing to do with Christmas). The music is so beautiful. Some of the best Christmas music ever written, however, is by Vince Guaraldi, and it was written for a cartoon. Yup, here Chris Pasin And Friends cover “Christmas Time Is Here” from A Charlie Brown Christmas, which, by the way, is the best Christmas special ever made. This is a good rendition, perhaps slightly more lively than many versions, but featuring good work on trumpet and guitar. The CD concludes with a really nice instrumental rendition of “The Christmas Song.”

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***Chronogram*, Michael Eck**

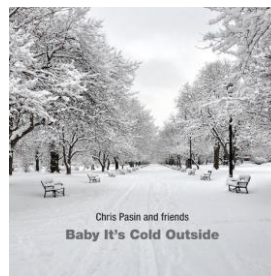
Trumpeter Chris Pasin’s latest is a shiny silver Christmas ornament, and a fine jazz album, too. On *Baby It’s Cold Outside*, Pasin and friends bop through 11 holiday classics with flair and grace. Pasin likes to leave lots of room; that works well with these sturdy melodies made new. Pianist Armen Donelian is a delight on “Santa Claus is Coming to Town”; guitarist Peter Einhorn provides the sonic palette for “God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman”; and Pasin doesn’t even play on “Greensleeves,” leaving the tune to Donelian and vocalist Patricia Dalton Fennell (who also produces the disc). She and Pasin make the title track into a dialogue rather than a song, like a snowbound Nichols and May. And Scott Petito’s clean engineering makes every note shine.

Pasin and his all-star jazz ensemble will pop into Hudson Hall on 12/9 for a concert that is sure to capture the holiday spirit.



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Music Review: Chris Pasin and Friends – ‘Baby It’s Cold Outside’

Chris Pasin

Baby It’s Cold Outside

(Planet Arts)

**Downbeat**, Frank-John Hadley

A talented advocate of archangel Gabriel’s horn, Chris Pasin used his memories of childhood Christmases to inform the enjoyable jazz he presents on this album. The trumpeter and several collaborators, including pianist Armen Donelian, toggle between calm introspection and swinging heat as required for their treatments of the usual carols and secular songs.

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**O’s Place Jazz Newsletter**, D. Oscar Groomes

O’s Notes: Trumpeter Chris Pasin assembled six different groupings of musician friends to celebrate the Holidays on Baby It’s Cold Outside. The collection has 11 selections including a few vocal tracks featuring Patricia Dalton Fennell (also a notable expert on chronic illness). She breathes warmth into the chilly Northern breezes notably on “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas” and the title track. Pasin’s tone is incredibly rich on “Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel”, a duet with pianist Armen Donelian.

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**All About Jazz**, Dan Bilawsky

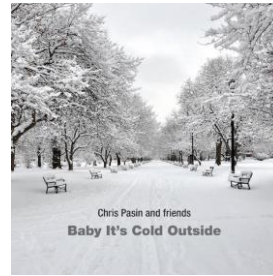
Chris Pasin clearly buys into the idea that spreading holiday cheer with and for those who are near and dear is a beautiful manifestation of the Christmas spirit. For Baby It’s Cold Outside the veteran trumpeter gathered seven of his musical chums and put together a program of tried-and-true yuletide nuggets, remaining loyal enough to the templates while also juicing the mix.

Six different personnel configurations are in play across this album’s eleven tracks—everything from a Patricia Dalton Fennell-Armen Donelian voice-and-piano duo on “Greensleeves” to a swinging, horn-fronted quintet take on “Santa Claus Is Coming To Town” that has a dalliance with double time—and Pasin’s mix-and-match approach for track-to-track casting helps to hold interest. A buoyant and ballsy “We Three Kings Of Orient” leads to a reverent-turned-flowing “Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel” painted with patience by Pasin and Donelian; a casual take on the title track with some role reversal and pseudo-sprechstimme exchanges between Pasin and Dalton Fennell makes its way toward an “It Came Upon A Midnight Clear” where the leader and guitarist Peter Einhorn share the spotlight; and an appropriately sentimental “Christmas Time Is Here,” complete with some space for the leader to stretch, draws a clear



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line to a lively “I’ll Be Home For Christmas” that replaces the song’s usual misty-eyed sentiments with joyful expressions.

*Baby It’s Cold Outside* sits in an appealing middle ground, neither playing toward the lowest common denominator nor coming off as a highbrow holiday happening. It boasts direct and accessible arrangements and toasts the season with style.

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***Jazz Quad, Leonid Auskern***

“Winter is near!” – this motto of the Stark family of George Martin’s famous saga was remembered to me at the first glance at the cover of the album *Baby It’s Cold Outside* and comparing it with the scenery outside the window where the golden autumn is still forming its palette of colors. But the second, more attentive look made me appreciate the fabulous charm of the winter landscape pictured in the photo and remember that winter is not only fierce cold (“Baby, it’s cold outside” – the name of the album and the standard of the same name), but also the beauty, warmth and solemnity of Christmas and New Year’s holidays.

Christmas albums, as I have often already noted, is a special genre, a special specialization. They invariably appear in large numbers every year on the eve of Christmas, sometimes, as in this case – well before the winter (*Baby It’s Cold Outside* is published on October 6). And working on such projects are real professionals, in this case – jazz.

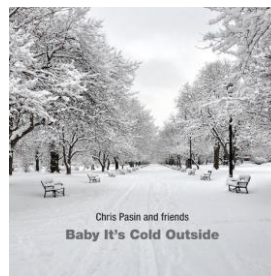
Trumpeter Chris Pasin played with his own bands, as well as in the ensembles of Buddy Rich, Akio Shi-Tabakin, George Russell, accompanied by such vocalists as Sinatra, Bennett, Ray Charles. So, his dialogue with the vocalist Patricia Dalton Fenell was verified to the smallest detail. Fenell is also far from a beginner, she, for example, collaborated with Dave Holland and Pete Levin. Among the main characters of the album I will mention another well-known pianist Armen Donelian, among whose partners there were stars of the first magnitude – Rollins, Chet Baker, Paquito D’Rivera, and Armen himself rightfully belongs to the same list.

The program of the album Pasin and his friends-partners composed of the most famous Christmas songs, as those carols, which have long been considered by the category of traditional and author’s compositions. The vocalist of the ensemble has a strong and beautiful voice, and I especially appreciated his virtues in the wonderful medieval English song Greensleeves, which Patricia sings to the accompaniment of Donelian’s piano, but it is the chimney (sometimes flugelhorn) Chris Pasin’s pipe (in some cases – the flugelhorn) that gives the Christmas warmth and softness to the sound of the group *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, *Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel* or *I’ll be Home for Christmas*. With some surprise I was convinced that Christmas songs in jazz interpretation can be not only



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melancholic ballads, but also quite tempo compositions, like We Three Kings of Orient Are. In general, the album is able to please any jazz fan, and any family that, having gathered at a festive table on Christmas night, will include this music.

## Music Review: Chris Pasin and Friends – ‘Baby It’s Cold Outside’ *Jazz Global Beat*

From subtle to sexy to swinging, Chris Pasin and friends shine a brilliant light on the best yuletide favorites

Nothing gets music lovers in a celebrating mood like listening to their favorite carols, and this brand-new CD, *Baby, It’s Cold Outside*, delivers a whopping dose of holiday cheer. On 11 of the most-beloved sounds of the season, trumpeter Chris Pasin and friends show they have a real gift for making such familiar material their own, while maintaining the spirit and warmth that’s such a major part of the yuletide celebrations.

Equally comfortable on both trumpet and flugelhorn, leader Chris Pasin has proved himself among the most versatile of musicians. Besides fronting his own bands, he’s been a mainstay of ensembles led by the likes of Buddy Rich, Toshiko Akiyoshi/Lew Tabackin, George Russell, and Brother Jack McDuff. Pasin has also appeared with legendary gures including Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Mel Torme and Ray Charles, to name a few.

For *Baby, It’s Cold Outside*, Pasin has assembled a stellar ensemble of some of the most in-demand musicians on the New York jazz scene. Among them: pianist Armen Donelian (Sonny Rollins, Chet Baker, Paquito D’Rivera); bassists Ira Coleman (Freddie Hubbard, Betty Carter, Herbie Hancock) and Rich Syracuse (Mose Allison, Bernard Purdy, Kurt Elling); drummer Je Siegel (Ron Carter, Jack DeJohnette, Sheila Jordan); singer Patricia Dalton Fennell (Dave Holland, Giacomo Gates, Pete Levin); and guitarist Peter Einhorn (Joe Lovano, Placido Domingo, Jim Hall).

Pasin and friends’ fresh take on the greatest songs of the season celebrate the beloved classics in an original and vastly appealing style. Listeners will enjoy old favorites in a new way this holiday season, thanks to the great renditions performed by this talented and creative ensemble.

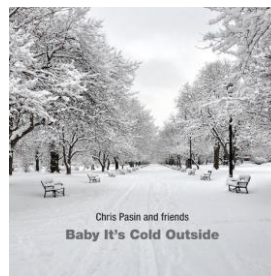
## *Jazz Journal*, Mark Gilbert

Chris Pasin may not be a household name but he comes well recommended, playing for two and a half years with Buddy Rich in the early 80s before moving on to the Toshiko Akiyoshi and Lew Tabackin big band. His CD debut as leader was the 1987 *Detour Ahead* with Steve Slagle, Benny Green, Rufus Reid,



## Reviews: *Baby It's Cold Outside*

Chris Pasin, trumpet; Patricia Dalton Fennell, vocals; Armen Donelian, piano; Ira Coleman, bass; Rich Syracuse, bass; Peter Einhorn, guitar; Jeff Siegel, drums



and Dannie Richmond and his recent band Ornettiquette played music inspired by Ornette Coleman and Don Cherry.

That last seems to stand in some contrast to this proposition. It's a Christmas album which doesn't look to be ironic about its subject and opens with a fine but reserved vocal arrangement. Will it do enough jazz? Track two shifts up a gear, with a bright tempo, a buoyant two-feel and open trumpet in the lead before Pasin launches into a confident and engaging solo. We start to relax. Donelian confirms with some delicious Tynerish suspensions in a little tag added to the original sequence and a strong solo before Coleman takes a brawny bass break and trades with drums.

It gets even better. We Three Kings takes advantage of its minor mode to add more Tynerish embellishment. Coltrane didn't do Three Kings, but it would have sat well with Love Supreme on this evidence, Pasin on flugel flowing fluently over a challenging one-chord modal setting (Woody Shaw, anyone?) and Donelian tearing it up on piano. Emmanuel is a beautiful, open-ended trumpet and piano duet. And so it continues, recasting the season in proper jazz image, tinsel conspicuously absent. This is what a jazz Christmas should be. For more detail and ordering, go to [planetarts.org](http://planetarts.org).

### ***Jazz Weekly*, George W. Harris**

Chris Pasin brings his trumpet and flugelhorn to a wide variety of Natal settings on this collection of traditional tunes. A gorgeous duet with vocalist Patricia Fennell delivers "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and with pianist Armen Donelian "Greensleeves," glows like Christmas tree bulbs. A quartet with guitarist Peter Eihorn gives gentle swing to "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "Christmastime is Here" and with Donelian "We Three Kings" and "The Christmas Song" are as tasty as egg nog.

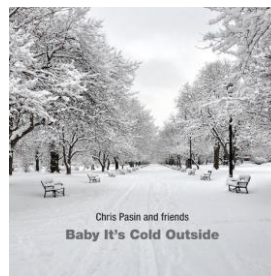
### Music Review: Chris Pasin and Friends – 'Baby It's Cold Outside' ***Highlands Magazine*, Jean-Pierre Schricke**

Chris PASIN, trompettiste originaire de Chicago a étudié la trompette à New York dès ses neuf ans, en compagnie de l'illustre Carmine CARUSO. Il obtient un double baccalauréat au New England Conservatory. Il fait partie du MEDIUM RARE BIG BAND et joue avec Dizzy GILLESPIE, George RUSSEL, Buddy RICH, Toshiko AKIYASHI..., il sera également un sideman de studio très demandé, avant une pause de plusieurs années afin d'élever ses enfants. Il est de retour avec BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE composé de onze titres, dont le fil conducteur et l'hiver et Noël. Pour ce faire il s'est entouré de virtuoses musicaux de la scène de New York. Armen DONELIAN au piano (Sonny ROLLINS, Chet BAKER), des bassistes Ira COLEMAN (Freddie HUBBARD, Herbie HANCOCK) et Rich SYRACUSE (MOSE ALLISON). Le batteur Jeff SIEGEL (Ron CARTER, Jack DEJOHNETTE), la chanteuse Patricia DALTON FENNEL (Dave HOLLAND) le guitariste Peter EINHORN jouant avec Placido DOMINGO.



# Reviews: *Baby It's Cold Outside*

Chris Pasin, trumpet; Patricia Dalton Fennell, vocals;  
Armen Donelian, piano; Ira Coleman, bass; Rich Syracuse,  
bass; Peter Einhorn, guitar; Jeff Siegel, drums



Chris PASIN est un as de l'instrument, un véritable chef étoilé de la trompette sur cet album, même s'il est sans surprise, mais d'une très bonne tenue en jazz traditionnel. Comment ne pas être sous son charme dès la première écoute de Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas où il accompagne à la sublime trompette le chant divin et sensuel de Patricia DALTON FENNEL possédant sa propre formation THE JAZZ COLLEAGUES. Elle place sa voix également sur le piano très présent.

Ce titre aussi détendu que plein de nostalgie est un véritable classique. Interprété la première fois par Judy GARLAND. Trompette partant en solo sur Santa Claus Is Coming To Town, un véritable standard de Christmas Song, déjà repris mainte fois par SINATRA, THE SUPREMES, BEACH BOYS et récemment par Kylie MINOGUE.

Un véritable festival de jazz où la contrebasse et la batterie délivrent des prestations festives.

Chris PASIN partage le chant avec la belle Patricia sur le titre éponyme, en une sorte de dialogue questions/réponses, en mode soft jazz conventionnel, un classique de 1944. We Three Kings Of Orient Are, enlevé, où Armen DONELIAN se démène au piano, la batterie allant de l'avant, la trompette tout en énergie ne manque pas de charme. La guitare de Peter EINHORN illumine de beauté It Came Upon A Midnight Clear, la trompette étant remarquable. Chris joue un rôle primordial sur tout l'album, sans l'aide d'aucun saxophone. La guitare revient sur Christmas Time Is Here où Chris, sur un titre cool, écrit pour la série tv de 1965 à Charlie BROWN CHRISTMAS avec une véritable leçon de trompette. Patricia, de retour sur Greensleeves offre toujours cette voix remarquable et sensuelle. Un titre déjà repris par John COLTRANE accompagné seulement du piano. Jazz en toute intimité avec The Christmas Song où la basse part en solo sur la trompette remarquable, titre joué à chaque Noël aux USA dont une des premières interprétations est due à Nat KING COLE. Du jazz classique, à écouter au moment des fêtes ainsi que tout le long de l'année.

(Chris PASIN, trumpet player from Chicago studied trumpet in New York at the age of nine, accompanied by the illustrious Carmine CARUSO. He obtained a double bachelor's degree at the New England Conservatory. He is part of the MEDIUM RARE BIG BAND and plays with Dizzy GILLESPIE, George RUSSEL, Buddy RICH, Toshiko AKIYASHI ..., he will also be a sideman of studio very requested, before a break of several years in order to raise his children.

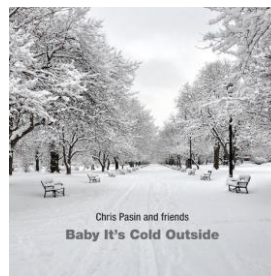
He is back with BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE composed of eleven titles, including the thread and the winter and Christmas. To do this he surrounded himself with musical virtuosos of the New York scene. Armen DONELIAN on piano (Sonny ROLLINS, Chet BAKER), Ira COLEMAN bassists (Freddie HUBBARD, Herbie HANCOCK) and Rich SYRACUSE (MOSE ALLISON). Drummer Jeff SIEGEL (Ron CARTER, Jack DEJOHNETTE), singer Patricia DALTON FENNEL (Dave HOLLAND) guitarist Peter EINHORN playing with Placido DOMINGO.

Chris PASIN is an ace of the instrument, a true starred chef of the trumpet on this album, even if it is not surprising, but a very good performance in traditional jazz. How not to be under his spell when you first



## Reviews: *Baby It's Cold Outside*

Chris Pasin, trumpet; Patricia Dalton Fennell, vocals;  
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bass; Peter Einhorn, guitar; Jeff Siegel, drums



listen to Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas where he accompanies to the sublime trumpet the divine and sensual singing of Patricia DALTON FENNEL owning his own training THE JAZZ COLLEAGUES. She also places her voice on the very present piano.

This title, as relaxed as it is full of nostalgia, is a real classic. First performed by Judy GARLAND. Trumpet solo on Santa Claus Is Coming To Town, a true standard Christmas Song, already repeated many times by SINATRA, THE SUPREMES, BEACH BOYS and recently by Kylie MINOGUE.

A true jazz festival where bass and drums deliver festive services.

Chris PASIN shares the song with the beautiful Patricia on the title track, in a kind of dialogue questions / answers, in conventional soft jazz mode, a classic of 1944. We Three Kings Of East Are, kidnapped, where Armen DONELIAN struggles to the piano, the battery going forward, the trumpet while energy does not lack charm. Peter EINHORN's guitar illuminates with beauty It Came Upon A Midnight Clear, the trumpet being remarkable. Chris plays a pivotal role on the entire album, without the help of any saxophone. The guitar returns to Christmas Time Is Here where Chris, on a cool track, writes for the 1965 TV series Charlie BROWN CHRISTMAS with a real trumpet lesson. Patricia, back on Greensleeves still offers this remarkable and sensual voice. A title already taken up by John COLTRANE accompanied only by the piano. Jazz intimate with The Christmas Song where the bass solo on the remarkable trumpet, a title played every Christmas in the US which one of the first interpretations is due to Nat KING COLE. Classical jazz, to listen to during the holidays and throughout the year.)

<http://ginalovesjazz.com/tis-season-turkey-tinsel/>

*'Tis The Season For Turkey And Tinsel*

"... Also worth a mention is the Christmas album by trumpeter Chris Pasin which features a very funny version of "Baby It's Cold Outside" with Chris also on vocals with Patricia Dalton Fennell."

**Kev Rowland, 28.09.2017**

(<https://mlwz.pl/recenzje/reviews-in-english/19103-pasin-chris-and-friends-baby-it-s-cold-outside>)

Pasin, Chris And Friends - Baby It's Cold Outside

So, in July I get sent a Christmas jazz record that isn't actually going to be available until October. That's okay by me though, as in December it will be warm as it's our summer in the Southern Hemisphere and when I was sent this we had already had six inches of snow so was quite appropriate! Now, Chris recorded his debut CD as long ago as 1987 but he is probably best known for working with others in the



## Reviews: *Baby It's Cold Outside*

Chris Pasin, trumpet; Patricia Dalton Fennell, vocals;  
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live environment, spending a few years with Buddy Rich as the jazz trumpet soloist as well as performing with the likes of Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Mel Torme, Sarah Vaughn, Nancy Wilson, and Ray Charles. For this album he has brought in Patricia Dalton Fennell (vocals), Armen Donelian (piano), Ira Coleman (bass), Rich Syracuse (bass), Peter Einhorn (guitar) and Jeff Siegel (drums).

It is a mixture of instrumentals, led mostly by Chris' pure clear trumpet, and some with vocals and is a combination of well-known Christmas standards, all given a melodic arrangement to make them into something a little different to the norm. The highlight for me is the title cut, which has been turned into a two-way conversation between Patricia and Chris – I have heard many different versions of this song over the years, but this has to be the only one that oozes sex. Patricia often proves her vocal skills on other numbers, but here her spoken voice is like warm velvet and combined with the muted trumpet in the background and the laid-back feel of the arrangement makes this something quite extraordinary. Overall this is a beautifully conceived and performed album that is easy to listen to and totally enjoyable from start to end.