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What's Hot!: Best list gets blasted

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CHRISTMAS CAROL CHORUS: Whenever we foist our views of what's best upon our faithful readership, we always expect total acceptance, and, so we're always shocked and saddened when a reader or two bolts from the flock, as was the case with a few fallers-away on the heels of our 10 Best Christmas Songs, 2006 Edition.



Tim Grobaty

Rev. Jerry Lossner, pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bellflower, regularly scans this space for signs of heresy and rampant secularism and believes he found it in the list, on which, he says, he was saddened to see "not one song that celebrated the birth of Jesus, which is what Christmas is all about."

Well, we're saying Rev. Lossner hasn't heard all the songs on our list, else he would have blessed us for the inclusion of The Band's "Christmas Must Be Tonight."

Told/sung from the point of view of a shepherd a couple of thousand years ago, it's pretty much all about the birth of Jesus and includes such lines as, just to snatch one from the third verse, "I heard a voice saying `fear not come rejoice. It's the end of the beginning, praise the newborn king.'"

Also on our list was Neil Young's "Star of Bethlehem," which isn't so straightforward, but it always seemed like a Jesus-y

song to us.

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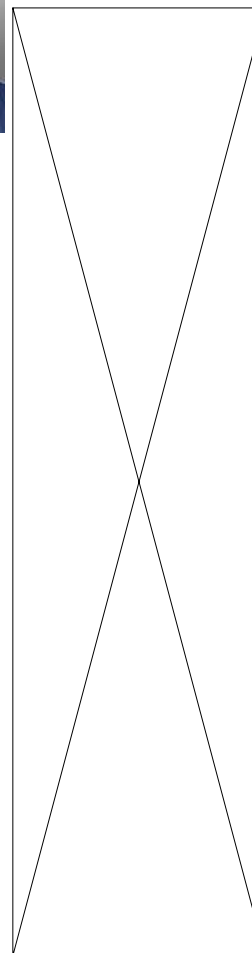
DUDES ONLY: Craig Newnes, another student of this space, writes: "This is weird. I'm starting to agree with you.

Lennon's Xmas song is definitely No. 1, but wake up" - and here he takes issue with our inclusion of The Pretenders' Chrissie Hynde's "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" - "Anything by the Pretenders is crap," he writes. "Chicks don't belong in rock 'n' roll."

Newnes suggests we give an honorable mention to the Kinks' "Father Christmas."

We suggest we give honorable mention to chick-rockers Madonna for "Santa Baby," or (and this request goes out to listener Rev. Lossner of Bellflower) Stevie Nicks' "Silent Night."

DON'T WOP: Getting no consideration from us at all comes "the best Christmas rendition of a standard ever recorded," according to a chick who doesn't want her name used. Ms. No Name says that song is "White Christmas" by the Drifters. Sorry, but we don't do doo-wop. Those PBS specials make us go out in the yard to join Jimmy at howling at stuff that hurts our ears.



NO-EL NOVELTIES: We should note here that we take our Christmas music darned seriously, which is why we don't clutter our annual list of carols with Patsy & Elmo, or various head-bangers.

In fact, here's Our Bottom Five Christmas Songs for 2006:

1. "All I Want for Christmas Is a Smurf Hat," The Smurfs
2. "I Tawt I Taw Ol' Tanty Claus," from "Have Yourself a Looney Tunes Christmas"
3. "The Little Drummer Boy," Bing Crosby
4. "The Little Hooters Girl," from "White Trash Christmas"
5. "Leroy the Redneck Reindeer," from "Christmas Classics, Redneck Style"

And now comes Lawrence Savell, of the decidedly novel LawTunes series of funny songs regarding the lawyering profession, disingenuously professing to be "dismayed to see no mention of LawTunes' unique once-again genre-defining indie release, `Merry Lexmas From the Lawtunes."

For just \$17.99 (Too much? Bill the client.) you get such not-quite classics as "Another Billable Christmas," and "Down the Halls of Nussbaum, Hanley."

The CD, should you desire it, is available for \$17.99 from www.lawtunes.com and the makers claim that the tunes reflect the influence of Coldplay, the Beach Boys, Bachman-Turner Overdrive and Elvis.

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