

# CELTISH 2 CHRISTMAS

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3 : God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen 4 : O Come All Ye Faithful  
5 : Emmanuel 6 : What Child is This? 7 : While Shepherds Watched  
8 : Ships & Kings (Medley) I Saw Three Ships / We Three Kings / Good King Wenceslas  
9 : Dance of the Shepherds / Joy To The Word 10 : Interlude (Once in Royal)  
11 : Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence 12 : Mystery & Wonder (Medley)  
I Wonder as I Wander / Carol of the Bells / Sing We Now of Christmas / I Heard the Bells  
13 : Hark the Herald Angels Sing 14 : Postlude (Auld Lang Syne)



Recorded at Raindance Studios, Stourbridge, England | Produced by Nigel Cameron & Chris Smith

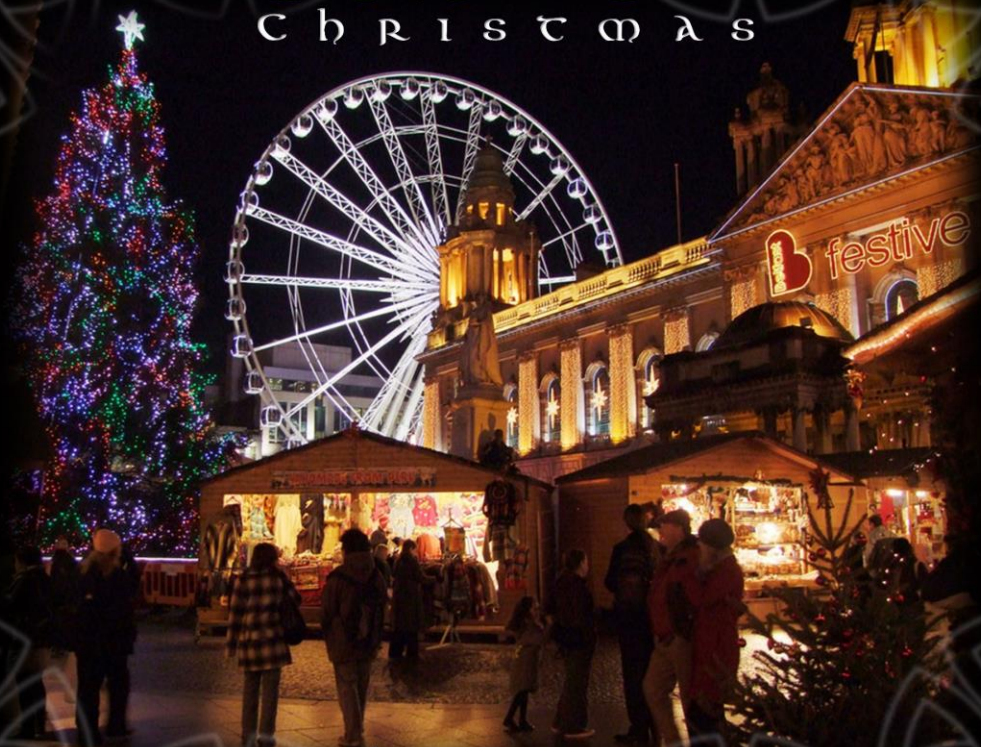
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Nigel Cameron & Julie Cameron-Hall



CELTISH Christmas 2 Nigel Cameron & Julie Cameron-Hall

# CELTISH CHRISTMAS



VOLUME TWO

Nigel Cameron & Julie Cameron-Hall



Heaven



and  
NATURE Sing!



# CELTISH 2 CHRISTMAS

by NIGEL CAMERON & JULIE CAMERON-HALL

1 : Prelude 2 : The First Nowell 3 : God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen 4 : O Come All Ye Faithful  
5 : Emmanuel 6 : What Child is This? 7 : While Shepherds Watched 8 : Ships & Kings Medley  
9 : Dance of the Shepherds / Joy To The Word 10 : Interlude 11 : Let All Mortal Flesh  
12 : Mystery & Wonder Medley 13 : Hark the Herald Angels Sing 14 : Auld Lang Syne

Engineered and Mixed at Raindance Studios, Stourbridge, England

by Chris Smith (raindance-music.com)

Drum mixes by Nic Burrows

Mastered on the Island of Skye, Scotland

by Denis Blackman (skymastering.com)

Graphic Design & Photography

by Nigel Cameron (scenesofwobder.org)

Additional Photography :

Brian Schrauger (Israel images) used by permission

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# CELTISH CHRISTMAS

VOLUME TWO

*Joy to the World!*



## *A word from Julie...*

A wholehearted celebration of the mystery, life and hope found in the nativity story has always been our motivation for creating this music. Not only that, there has been a realisation, as the music began to form, that this message isn't only for one "tribe", but for the whole world!

As well as our Irish Celtic sounds, there are fusions with the sounds of Africa, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Australia, Latin America, Norway, Spain, England, Scotland & the USA, in a joyful mix of collaborations with some world class musicians from around the globe.

May this celebration of the birth of a baby born in poverty in the Middle East help you open the door to discover something of the "Good news of great joy...which will be for ALL the people."

### MUSICIANS PLAYING ON THIS ALBUM:

*Julie Cameron-Hall* (Vocals & Fiddle)  
*Nigel Cameron* (Vocals, Whistles & Percussion)  
*Chris Smith* (Keyboards, Guitars, Bass, Ukulele & Programming)  
*Dave Bainbridge* (Electric Guitar, Bouzouki, Mandolin & Keyboards)  
*Russ Sargeant* (Bass Guitar & Double Bass) *Nic Burrows* (Drums & Percussion)  
*Hammad Baily* (Tabla, Rabab & Vocal) *Nick Metcalf* (Uilleann Pipes)  
*Epiphany* (String Quartet) *Svein Skulstad* (Spanish Guitar)  
*David Fitzgerald* (Sax & Flute) *Phil Hart* (Acoustic Guitar)  
*Dave Brons* (Mandolin & Electric Guitar) *Dave Bankhead* (Keyboards)  
*Peter Desmond* (Brass Instruments) *Geth Griffith* (Bass) *Dave Hart* (Flute)

## The first Nowell

**Lyrics:** Traditional English (13th -17th Century)  
**Music:** "Mueller" or "Luther's Cradle Hymn" (1887)  
Vocal & Fiddle: Julie | Whistles, Vocal & Shaker: Nigel |  
Acoustic Guitar, Keyboards & Programming: Chris Smith |  
Mandolin, Bouzouki & Electric Guitar: Dave Bainbridge |  
Double Bass: Russ Sargeant | Drums: Nic Burrows

## God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

**Traditional English (16th century or earlier)**  
Vocal & Fiddle: Julie | Vocal, Whistles, Spoons &  
Tambourine: Nigel | Acoustic Guitar, Keyboards &  
Programming: Chris Smith | Mandolin & Electric Guitar:  
Dave Brons | Flute: Dave Hart | Bass: Russ Sargeant &  
Chris Smith | Drums: Nic Burrows

## O come all ye faithful

**Lyrics:** St. Bonaventure, Italy (13th century) or King  
John IV, Portugal (17th) or possibly Cistercian monks  
(German, Portuguese or Spanish)  
**Music:** Nigel Cameron

## O come let us adore him

John Francis Wade, England (1743)  
**Arrangement :** Dave Bankhead (used by permission)  
Vocal & Whistles: Nigel | Vocal & Fiddle: Julie | Piano &  
Keyboards: Dave Bankhead | Keyboards, Electric Guitar &  
Programming: Chris Smith | Uilleann Pipes: Nick Metcalf |  
Drums: Nic Burrows

## Emmanuel

**Lyrics & Music:** Julie Cameron-Hall  
**String Arrangement:** Peter Richards  
Vocal: Julie | Whistle & Vocal : Nigel |  
Piano & Keyboards: Chris Smith |  
Violins: Shirley Richards & Susan  
Williamson | Viola: Richard Williamson |  
Cello: Corinne Frost

## What Child is This?

**Lyrics:** William Chatterton Dix  
England (1865)  
**Music:** "Greensleeves"  
**Traditional English (16th Century)**  
Vocal & Fiddle: Julie | Low Whistle &  
Vocal : Nigel | Acoustic Guitars: Phil Hart |  
Piano, Keyboards & Programming: Chris  
Smith | Soprano Saxophone & Flute:  
David Fitzgerald | Keyboards, Electric  
Guitar & Bouzouki : Dave Bainbridge |  
Double Bass: Russ Sargeant | Drums: Nic  
Burrows

## While Shepherds

### watched

### Their flocks

**Lyrics:** Nahum Tate, Ireland  
(17th Century)  
**Music:** "The Dawning of the Day"  
(On Raglan Road) Traditional Irish  
Vocal, Whistles, Djembe & Percussion:  
Nigel | Vocal & Fiddle: Julie | Keyboards &  
Programming: Chris Smith | Electric  
Guitar, Mandolin & Bouzouki : Dave  
Bainbridge | Uilleann Pipes: Nick Metcalf |  
Bass: Geth Griffith | Drums: Nic Burrows  
V3 Swahili lyrics 'Uutukufu kwa mungu  
aliye juu' : 'Glory to God in the highest'

## I saw Three Ships Come sailing in

**Music:** "As I Sat On a Sunny Bank"  
17th century English

## We Three Kings of Orient are

**Music:** John Henry Hopkins Jr. (1857)  
Pennsylvania, USA

## Good King Wenceslas

**Music:** "Tempus adest floridum"  
(Easter time has come) 13th-century  
Finnish Spring carol  
Whistles & Percussion : Nigel | Fiddle:  
Julie | Ukulele, Acoustic Guitar, Keyboards  
& Programming: Chris Smith | Mandolin &  
Bouzouki : Dave Bainbridge | Tabla:  
Hammad Bailey

## Dance of the Shepherds

**Lyrics & Music:** Ancient Basque Carol

### Joy to the World

**Lyrics:** Isaac Watts, England (1719)  
**Music:** "Troika" from Russian composer  
Sergei Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kijé Suite* (1934)  
**Brass Arrangement:** Peter Desmond  
Intro Vocal & Rabab: Hammad Bailey | Vocal &  
Whistles: Nigel | Vocal & Fiddle: Julie | Electric  
Guitar, Keyboards & Programming: Chris Smith |  
Electric (& Lead) Guitars, Mandolin & Bouzouki :  
Dave Bainbridge | Bass: Russ Sargeant | Drums  
& Percussion: Nic Burrows | Trumpet, Piccolo  
Trumpet, Flugelhorn, Trombone and Tuba: Peter  
Desmond

## Once in Royal David's City

**Lyrics & Music:** Henry John Gauntlett  
England (1849)  
Whistle: Nigel | Fiddle: Julie | Keyboards: Chris  
Smith

## Let all mortal flesh

### Keep silence

**Lyrics:** Greek origin (as early as AD 275)  
**Music:** "Picardy" a French medieval folk melody  
which, in modern times, Ralph Vaughan Williams set  
to a translation from the Greek by Gerard Moultrie  
Vocal: Julie | Low Whistle: Nigel | Piano & Keyboards:  
Chris Smith | Classical Guitar: Svein Skulstad | Electric  
Guitar & Mandolin : Dave Bainbridge

## Carol of the Bells

**Music:** Mykola Leontovych, Ukraine (1914)

## I wonder as I wander

**Lyrics & Music:** Originating in Appalachia, North  
Carolina, from where a song fragment was collected  
by American folklorist and singer John Jacob Niles  
(1933)

## Sing we now of Christmas

**Music:** Traditional French (15th century)

## I heard the bells

### on Christmas day

**Lyrics:** Based on the poem "Christmas Bells" by  
American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1863)  
**Music:** "Waltham" by English organist, John  
Baptiste Calkin (1848)  
Vocal & Fiddle: Julie | Vocal, Whistles, Tongue Drum &  
Burmah Bell : Nigel | Piano, Keyboards & Programming:  
Chris Smith | Keyboards & Mandolin: Dave Bainbridge

## Hark the

### herald

### angels sing

**Lyrics:** Charles Wesley &  
George Whitefield, England,  
(1754)  
**Music:** 'The Dark Island'  
Scottish pipe lament by Iain  
MacLachlan (1963)  
Vocal & Fiddle: Julie | Whistle  
& Vocal : Nigel | Piano,  
Keyboards & Programming:  
Chris Smith | Electric Guitar &  
Bouzouki : Dave Bainbridge |  
Bass: Russ Sargeant | Drums:  
Nic Burrows

## Auld Lang Syne

**Lyrics:** Scottish poem written  
by Robert Burns (1788)  
based on an older Scottish  
folk song.  
**Music:** In 1799 the words  
were set to this Scots folk  
melody, which was probably  
originally a sprightly dance in  
a much quicker tempo  
Vocal & Low Whistle: Nigel |  
Fiddle & Vocal : Julie | Acoustic  
Guitar, Mandocello & Banjo:  
Gareth Davies-Jones | Piano &  
Keyboards: Chris Smith

## A few words from Nigel...

Since Julie and I were married in 2014, we have always loved our pre-Christmas visits to Belfast, my hometown. Belfast City Hall (pictured on the album cover), where my dad worked for most of his earthly life, is the backdrop to a most excellent continental market each year, where we like to sample the Hog Roast and sip Hot Apple Punch while browsing the stalls. However, in 2020, because of the pandemic, we were sad to miss this simple tradition and, for the first time ever, I wasn't able to be with my family at Christmas time. I believe it's important to share the story of the birth of Jesus, Light of the World, at the darkest time of the year, and to come together with family, friends and community to celebrate. Even during the darkest days of *'The Troubles'* in Northern Ireland, my family have always found joy in singing Carols together and performing special Christmas music at church. May the carols on this album shine a light in these dark days and bring some comfort and hope.

There are memories attached to every one of these songs. One of my most vivid is from the 1970's, when the Sunday School Choir led by my brother, Paul, performed a version of **'Dance of the Shepherds'** complete with electric guitar solo played by my future brother-in-law, Gordon. It was the first time a guitar solo had ever been played in our church, and the coolest thing I'd ever heard, although some older members of the congregation didn't quite know what had hit them! Much to our regret, the recording of that performance was lost, but because that vivid memory has lived on in my head ever since, now seemed the appropriate time to revisit this particular tune! So, with an even more epic guitar solo played by Dave Bainbridge and 'Joy to the World' added on, sung to Prokofiev's 'Troika' melody, we have ourselves the first ever Celtic/Punk/Classical/World music fusion track! The song was originally from the 60's album 'Carols from Around the World' by the Salvation Army's pop group 'The Joystrings' whose bass guitar part inspired our Celtic riff, on which I imagined a banjo. However, a week before mixing the album, we met **Hammad Baily**, a Pakistani musician whose 'Rabab' instrument (a necked 'Zither'?) sounds not unlike a banjo and who also plays 'Tabla' (a sound I had imagined for another song) both of which he recorded for us within a few days! He also gifted us with his beautiful voice on the improvised intro, and with Rabab being the *national instrument of Afghanistan*, it feels like **'All the sky was singing'** over this part of the world. **Thankyou brother!** - the Lord in His perfect timing gave us 'the real thing' in you! Similarly He led us to trumpet player **Peter Desmond**, who at short notice, ran with a crazy idea I had and scored and played all the brass parts, giving us the little 'nod' to the 'Sally Ann' at the end of the track. **Thankyou, Pete!**

I wish to thank **all of the wonderful guest musicians** who played on this album: **Dave Bainbridge** for fitting us in (yet again) and having such a great imagination; **David Fitzgerald**, for pushing through the technical barriers and blessing us with your sound; **Svein Skulstad (Norway)** for encouragement and such exquisite playing; **Dave Bankhead** for such a gorgeous arrangement and letting us use it; **Dave Hart & Dave Brons** for putting the work in to 'get up to speed' on the reel; **Nick Metcalf (USA)** for beautiful 'icing on the cake' moments; **Russ Sargeant** for playing full-on with a damaged wrist; **Geth Griffith** for stepping in for Russ and delivering a bass part on the very day of asking; **Epiphany** for being pure class; **Phil Hart (Belfast)** for still 'coming out to play' (and record) with me 40 years on from being in our first band together.

Huge thanks also, as ever, to **Chris Smith** and **Nic Burrows** (Raindance Music) for expertise, flexibility, and friendship; to my **wonderful wife Julie**, without whose beautiful singing, playing, ideas, encouragement, patience, faith, belief and support, I would be completely lost; and finally **thank You GOD** for divine wisdom, inspiration, guidance, provision and protection at every stage along the journey. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus - **LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM!**

## The Lord Has Come!





CELTISH  
CHRISTMAS

VOLUME TWO  
NIGEL CAMERON & JULIE CAMERON-HALL

COMPACT  
disc