



This CD is named "Christmas in the Alleghenies" because that is where I grew up. The Allegheny Mountains are a part of the Appalachian Mountains that runs from West Virginia through Pennsylvania. This was the place where a "White Christmas" was always a sure thing, and Christmas was a celebration of the birth of Christ and not a commercial free-for-all for retailers and shoppers. People treated each other with a little more respect and kindness this time of a year, rather than displaying the short tempers that are so common in other parts of the country.

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The Christmas tradition is very much alive in this part of the country, and it was always a magical time of the year for me, both as a child and as an adult. There were always seasonal foods to eat and drink, sled riding, midnight mass, trying to stay awake for Santa's visit, and people on the street singing carols. I used to enjoy watching the classic Christmas movies on television, as well as the cartoon shorts such as "Hardrock, Coco & Joe." I loved to listen to Christmas Carols, and enjoyed all sorts of music, from gospel choir to folk & western singers such as Gene Autry and Burl Ives to crooners such as Andy Williams and Bing Crosby.

With this CD, it is my wish to share my love of traditional Christmas customs with my love of jazz music. I've included a variety of styles that I hope will please all tastes, and it is my wish that you all have a "very Merry Christmas!"