



**Ken Elkinson**

**Generations of Yuletide (2008)**

Second record in 2008 for the American pianist who, after having reinterpreted some songs from the last 40 years in "Borrowed Tracks", now reworks 16 Christmas-related songs from different places and times, ranging from a 13th century French piece ("O Come, O Come, Emmanuel") to "Christmas Time is Here", copyrighted in USA in 1966.

Interestingly, Ken Elkinson decided to order the pieces in this record by date. So, after having survived the shock of seeing inside the CD box a picture of the artist in a short sleeved T-shirt (well, he lives in Los Angeles California, and anyway we couldn't expect him to dress up like Santa Claus) and having read his nice, interesting self-interview in the booklet, we can dip into the music.

Ken Elkinson is known to us for a very quiet style, close to New Age. In this record, though, the pianist partially leaves aside that style - very nice anyway - for more lively and sometimes even cheerful passages. His mastery as a composer emerges - maybe unexpectedly - especially in his version of the one that maybe is the most widely known composition in this CD, "Silent Night" (or rather, "Stille Nacht"), in which Elkinson at first plays with only minimum variations the world-famous theme to then launch into a splendid variation.

A really worthy album, to be listened to - in any season.

- Reviewed by Marco Piva