



## **Generations of Yuletide**

**Ken Elkinson**

**August Son Productions**

I guess if Christmas music isn't traditional, nothing is, and you can't really do an instrumental Christmas CD of Christmas music no one has heard of and expect to sell any, so the best thing to do is your own take on stuff people already know.

Ken Elkinson hit on a formula that works, he plays a song on piano in a recognizable fashion, then he'll give you his own improvisational take on it, then he'll return to the original to round out the piece. It's very classical sounding in approach, in that... well... that's what folks did years ago to show off their musical prowess.

He plays a style that's gentle and clean, very unobtrusive, so that people who like to hear Christmas music can enjoy it, yet it won't aggravate people who don't. He keeps away from the Sappy and does the songs pretty much "straight up." Some of his improvisations are pretty imaginative, for instance the Little Drummer Boy keeps the "drum" pattern and goes off on a tangent of its own, then restates the melody to round it out.

Also he respects the time of the song... i.e. he's not going to jazz up something from 1350 as much as he will something from 1950.

- Jerry Rabushka