



## Zone Music Reporter

Where it's still about the music...

### **Ken Elkinson**

### ***Christmas Ambient (part of the ambient holidays series)***

Ken Elkinson made a name for himself as a talented visionary of unique solo piano in the new age music genre, but lately he has turned his attention to synthesizers and waded into the waters of ambient and electronic music (with success, I might add). The Christmas version of his "ambient holidays" series is appropriately titled Christmas Ambient and the emphasis here is firmly on ambient, folks. This CD makes Jonn Serrie's assorted holiday spacemusic recordings sound like Lawrence Welk! That's not to say this is unpleasant, but more to convey that these sixteen selections are awash with layers of synthesizer, chorals, and ambient textures that sometimes mask the carol's main melody unless you really strain to hear it. If you are looking for a combination of star-gazing ambience with Christmas classics, this is your ticket to holidays among the cosmos. Christmas Ambient gets my vote as one of the more unusual, but not annoyingly so, holiday music releases in recent years.

- Bill Binkelman