



Albums help holiday spirit

By Mike Freeman
Emerald Contributor

It is destined to be yet another eventful Christmas gathering with the family.

That overcooked, leather-clad turkey, baked ham with some kind of jellied goop on top, and the thought of even having it on the same plate as everything else is enough to cause dry heaves.

And if that weren't enough, everyone is in such a jolly-good mood that nothing can stop Uncle Pinky when he bounds to the stereo to crank out those irrepressible songs of the season. How spiffy!

The Osmonds crooning "Jingle Bells", "White Christmas", and "Winter Wonderland."

'Tis the season to grab a hammer and smash.

But ho! All is not lost among a plethora of sickeningly sweet songs and cantankerous carols. Thanks to the ghost of Christmas Cynics, a special listing of unorthodox X-mas albums has been prepared with the sole purpose of keeping you from doing something you might regret.

A recent album, adding to the expanding list of various artists combining their efforts, is *A Very Special Christmas*.

With talent ranging from Bryan Adams doing a reggae

tune, to Madonna sounding like Betty Boop on "Santa Baby," this is an album to satisfy a variety of preferences.

For the ultimate in Christmas music of the 90s, *Christmas Rap* offers artists Run DMC, and Derek B. with the original "Chillin' With Santa." Grandma Sophie's gonna be in for a big surprise when this hits the air and she's expecting hmmm, maybe Johnny Mathis?

If none of the above have set those wheels of mischief turning as to when to slip the album on the turntable for the greatest impact, *Dr. Demento's Christmas Album* will get it all going. Just about every outrageous holiday tune ever uttered in someone's drunken stupor is on this terrific album.

However, if it happens that you just don't have the family that has the stomach for these alternatives to those tired, old yuletide melodies, you can always go for *The New Kids on the Block Christmas*— a crowd pleaser at any gathering. Sure.

Please rest assured that if the Carpenter's Christmas album or Bing Crosby is more what you and your family are accustomed to, that's just peachy.

But every once in a while you just have to nip them in the bud to make sure that there's no one napping at the table, y'know what I mean?

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