

# Official Craig Chaquico Fan Club



## Gathering of the Tribes

Summer/Fall 2005

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### Message from Craig

Greetings to All!

Well, we're more than half way over with 2005, it's amazing to me how quickly this year is flying by and I'm sure you all can agree with this observation! Can't you? (I hope it's not just me, ha ha!)

I've been spending my days and nights and every second in between working on the new Holiday CD which is scheduled to be released on October 25<sup>th</sup>, and I'm very excited with this new project that will include many of the old standards (thanks for your suggestions by the way, there were so many great ones on the list) plus some original material. This has been a true labor of love and believe me when I say it wasn't easy to find a Christmas tree during this time of the year that I could put in my studio to help set the right mood, much less a reindeer who was willing to give up his summer to sit as a model for publicity shots. Reindeer are not cheap labor I can tell you!

The Holiday CD will have some very special surprises on it that I think somebody is going to like, I hope...heh heh. Seriously, I wanted to try and make an interesting Holiday CD that was hopefully a little more than the normal run of the mill Christmas songs CD. Of course, I chose many of my favorite classic Christmas songs, but with some surprise twists in the arrangements and some original songs as well. There is also a remix of "Winterflame" from my Acoustic Planet CD that has two short new songs in the front and at the end so that it tells a little more of the musical story during the holidays it's called "Ashes of the Fall/Winterflame/Embers Still Aglow," and is a medley of all three tunes that sort of all tie together and share the same theme.

I wanted to have each song have its own unique personality, so there is an up-tempo jammin' version of "Angels We Have Heard on High" that sounds like it was recorded during the "Return of the Eagle" session and the "Cafe Carnival" session with musical elements from all three, featuring piano, horns and Latin percussion along with the whole jammin' band.

There is a really romantic version of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" with the whole band and believe it or not, a bluesy almost Stevie Ray Vaughn version of "Jingle Bells" that features the whole band again. When the song feels like it's going to come to an end, the whole band and I spontaneously jump into another feel for yet another version of "Jingle Bells" but with a more groovin' up-tempo vibe that also features several other Christmas melodies that just came to me while playing and that the band riffs off of. I love these spontaneous jams when the tape is rolling! There's also some really cool piano and organ on this track and it might be my favorite song to play live!?

As well as the "band tracks," I wanted to create the feeling like I was sitting in yer living room playing just the acoustic guitar in front of yer fireplace so there are some "up close and personal" recordings of just the guitar doing some classics. Then, there are a few tracks where instead of the whole band, there are a few additional instruments that help out on a song as if a couple of the guys showed up at the door like those Christmas carolers and were invited in to play with me in yer living room all acoustic. Besides that, there are a few spontaneous little pieces that just happened in the studio after a take was done,



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**CRAIG'S "HOLIDAY" CD  
IN STORES  
October 25<sup>th</sup>!**

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and we left some of those on the CD too. One of my favorite songs is a real departure, it is a pagan song thousands of years old and the music and lyrics celebrate the change of seasons as in the form of a woman, like the original "mother nature." The coolest thing is that I got to play a LITTLE simple piano part in there along with a gorgeous harp that was played by one of the teachers at Kyle's school.

Check this out, there is a beautiful chorus written thousands of years ago sung by a few 13 year old girls in Kyle's class that really sounds so sweet and "holidayish" to me, especially when they go into a round at the end, like when the carolers who come to your door do, only better.

There is a lush 10-guitar version of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" that has all these different guitars playing together and with ascending and descending lines and harmonies and counter melodies that was a BLAST to record. It's all just guitars and is like a mini-guitar orchestra or symphony or something.

So needless to say, there is ALOT OF VARIETY on this CD starting with the full on band arrangements and going to just the simple romantic solo acoustic guitar and everything in between, but all centered around the holiday spirit played on my different guitars from steel string to nylon string to electric guitar and a specially made baritone guitar. I hope you like all this being so varied and all the different guitar textures and moods as much as I do when you hear it all this season and the next!

Oh yeah, maybe this is the COOLEST THING, there is a 3-D CD cover that has me in one of those snow globes you shake and the snow falls down. I'm holding my guitar and looking at a present in the snow, when you move the cover you can see the 3-D effect and the snow flakes falling and the light glinting off the guitar and the glass globe, and out of the present I am looking at in the snow comes an ANGEL. You can pop the cover out and use it as an ornament too if you want with a Christmas greeting by me on the back. Hey, I think it's all kinda cool!

During the time I've been writing and recording the Holiday CD, I've also been working on my new CD of original songs to be released sometime in 2006, I've had a jam-packed schedule this year with the CDs, the touring and other projects that I have going on that it's a miracle that I'm not in a straight jacket yet. Ha ha. By the way, thank you all for your title submissions for songs for the new CD as well, there have been some great titles in there, and as usual you'll have to wait and see what the other songs are that we came up with and if your suggestions have been incorporated in there.

We just finished doing a show in Phoenix, Arizona on August 28 at the Celebrity Theatre and we had a great time despite the fact that it was 113 degrees there. Luckily it was an indoor show!!! It was fun seeing all the fan club members that made it out to the show and Ozzie and I had a fun time at the meet and greet with everyone!

We'll soon be making tracks for Orlando & Fort Myers, FL and other places this year. And, of course there's the Rick Braun Cruise in November. How many of you are planning on taking in the cruise this year? It should be a total blast...a humongous floating party!!!! As long as there are no more hurricanes! We wrote Cafe Carnival on a cruise not so many many moons ago when we started a spontaneous jam session out by one of the pools. Let's hope the hurricanes that have been hitting that part of the world will take a long hiatus for our November partying!

It has been awhile since I've done a jazz cruise and I had a great time enjoying the fun times, great music, impromptu jam sessions and more. So, you never can tell what creative inspiration will come from this year's cruise? You'll have to wait and see as they say.

Well, I can hear the studio calling my name, so I guess that means I have got to get back to work, plus that reindeer sure eats a lot, my store of oats is running low, gotta go! Happy Holidays, well not quite, but almost, ha!

Craig



**President:** Lillian Duarte

**Contributing Writers/Other Credits:** Craig Chaquico, Lillian Duarte, Dorine Garcia, Brian Medoro, Mark Richards and Dr. Ron Schwartz

**Photo Credits:** Craig Chaquico, Lillian Duarte, Jason Imber Photography

## Q & A with Craig

Hi Craig, My favorite LP of all times is "From the Redwoods to the Rockies" with Russ Freeman. Is there any chance the two of you would do some sort of "sequel" LP? Or do you have any other duet plans in the near future? Blessings, Ron S.

Hiya Ron, That's one of my favorite CDs too, thanks! Ozzie, Russ, Paul Taylor, David Benoit and I all had a blast recording that. You know, half of that CD was recorded at my studio in the Redwoods of California at sea level, and the other half was recorded at Russ's studio in the Colorado Rockies near Pike's Peak at 10,000 ft. - wheeew!

Thanks for liking that CD, it's hard to believe how great a guitar player Russ is until you see him in the studio and how easy he makes it look! He's amazing, and it was an honor and a privilege to record with him (and tour with The Rippington's) in fact, their newest keyboard player, Bill Heller, helped us out on the Christmas CD.

I haven't heard a specific date, but I have heard a lot of people ask about another CD together with Russ and I, if we do, do another one I just hope we don't have to go up that high again to do it! I always felt like that pre-flight announcement "in the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure place the oxygen mask over your nose and mouth and breath normally," except there were no oxygen masks! Thanks Ron, see you soon, Craig.

Craig, I'd like to ask if since the upbeat nature of Midnight Noon, you feel inclined to create a hot jazz style album or even rock guitar album in the future. I think you sound so amazing when you 'kick it up a notch.' Brian M.

THANKS BRIAN, I wasn't sure if I was pushing the envelope too much on that CD with all the electric guitar and stuff, I think there will be a few more songs like that in the future and the new Christmas CD actually has a totally jammin version of "Angels We Have Heard on High" that rocks! I think the first time I started using more electric guitars on my CDs was the electric guitar solo that comes in on Cafe Carnival. Some people maybe thought it was a bit too much, but I LIKE it...glad you do too!

I'll let you in on a little secret and I don't want to scare the kids or anything, but live in concert we do kick it up a notch in a few places, would you believe a little Led Zeppelin in there sometimes? Hey, what's a jazz concert without a little Zep or Hendrix I always say? See ya soon Brian! Cheers, Craig.

Craig, When are you going to have a live album out? Dorine G.

Hi Dorine, Funny you should ask, but we have been planning on filming a live DVD with some of the old stories that we don't use in the show anymore along with some new ones too. Plus our favorite songs in concert, we are still trying to coordinate the filming and deciding on the best place(s) to film. Any ideas? Either way, many many thanks to you for the encouragement about a live DVD/CD or to those who have also expressed interest in any way to "get the live set on CD." Till then I guess you can just bring yer i-Pod with a mic to the next show...I DIDN'T SAY THAT! Thanks, Dorine, see ya soon...test one, two, Craig. (Security, check that girl's purse!)



**Craig Quote:** *I think the first time I started using more electric guitars on my CDs was the electric guitar solo that comes in on Cafe Carnival. Some people maybe thought it was a bit too much, but I LIKE it...glad you do too!*

## Tour Update

- October 13** CityJazz @ Universal Studios, Orlando, FL
- October 14** Jazz on the Green, Fort Myers, FL  
*(Craig only meet & greet appearance)*
- October 15** Jazz on the Green, Fort Myers, FL
- October 29** Lobero Theatre, Santa Barbara, CA  
*(Solo appearance with house band)*
- November 12-19** Rick's Braun's All-Star Caribbean Smooth Jazz Cruise  
*(Craig & Ozzie only)*
- December 2** McCallum Theatre, Palm Desert, CA
- December 17** Coach House, San Juan Capistrano, CA

**Check the website for updates!!!!**



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