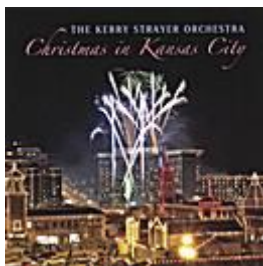


Mp3 Kerry Strayer Orchestra - Christmas In Kansas City



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Big Band arrangements of music from the Plaza Lighting Ceremony 15 MP3 Songs JAZZ: Big Band, JAZZ: Swing/Big Band Details: Kerry Strayer Orchestra w/special guests Ron Gutierrez, Lisa Henry, Kelly Hunt and Kevin Mahogany From the liner notes: In 1926 innovative real estate developer J. C. Nichols turned a swampy south Kansas City area into the first retail shopping and office development designed for automobile traffic, thereby giving birth to the Country Club Plaza and the worlds first shopping center. That same year a business strung a single strand of lights over its doorway for the holiday season. More businesses soon followed, and in 1929 the first Plaza Lighting Ceremony was held. More than 75 years later the tradition continues, now with more than 80 miles of lights illuminating one of the countrys premier shopping districts. As the Plaza and Kansas City have grown, so has the annual Thanksgiving Plaza Lighting Ceremony. What once started as an attraction to draw customers to a new shopping district, the Plaza Lighting Ceremony has grown to an internationally-acclaimed family entertainment program that signals the start of the Holiday Season throughout the Midwest. A key element in the growth of the Plaza Lighting Ceremony was the addition of a large-scale holiday musical program in 1990 designed to reflect the magnitude of this annual Midwest tradition. Since 1996 Kerry Strayer, a well known and accomplished musician and band leader, has worked with the Plaza Staff and Pat Riha Productions, the producers of the Lighting Ceremony, to put together a music and entertainment program that reflects the diversity of Kansas City culture, its people and musical tastes. Over the years the program has included holiday and inspirational songs in styles ranging from jazz and big band to reggae and rock. Performances have included gospel choirs, national recording artists, pop singers and even ballet artists. In Christmas in Kansas City: Music from the Plaza Lighting Ceremony, Kerry Strayer captures the music and essence of the Plaza Lighting Ceremony that has been enjoyed by millions of people in person or on television. The

selection of music reflects the variety of programs Kerry has directed over the years. It is a collection that you and your family will enjoy for many years to come. Patrick and Kate Riha Producers Plaza Lighting Ceremony Ten years ago Pat Riha asked me if I had interest in becoming Music Director for The Plaza Lighting Ceremony. This recording celebrates my tenth anniversary of serving in that capacity and documents a portion of that work. It has been an honor and a pleasure to be part of such a wonderful Holiday tradition. It has afforded me the opportunity to work with many wonderful musicians, many of whom I would not otherwise have had the opportunity to work with, and to rekindle the Christmas spirit within my own heart. Each year working on the show brings back fond memories of the Christmases of my youth and creates new Christmas memories for the future. I hope listening to this music does the same for you. God Bless, Kerry

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