

PJ Parker

The First Christmas Without You

Inspired by the Family of Joey DeMarco
In Remembrance of John R. Cramer
and

Dedicated to Tao Shen Parker Bowman and all our Angel Babies

PJ Parker: Vocals/Arrangement
Ben Bishop: Instrumentation/Recording
Bill Bowman: Mixing/Mastering



The First Christmas Without You” emerged in late July, 2009, two short months after the passing of musician Joey DeMarco, “my biggest fan,” according to his wife and my friend, Carol. It was Carol’s birthday and after I had spoken with her, I thought about that “first” milestone without her beloved Joey, and how much more poignant the special times become in the face of such immeasurable loss. A birthday, absolutely. But then Christmas ... And so, “The First Christmas Without You” was born.

From note one, the song evolved “Country” and try as I did to “Jazzify” it, its nature won out, and so I hesitated to produce it myself. It sat for three years until I met Ben Bishop in Nashville, who encouraged this Jazz singer to record it anyway, and with his versatile musical and engineering talent (and boundless patience) it came to life.

The mastering was to be completed by my equally talented and patient husband, Bill Bowman, during the course of a very serious 24/7 illness of our sweet little Shih Tzu boy, Tao Shen; a devastating storm named Sandy, and the sudden passing of another dear friend, all of which led us to consider postponing the release until next year. Exhausted, electrically challenged, emotionally drained and time-squeezed, we did get a lot done in between nursing our little boy through to his 17-and-a-half-year birthday on December 6, 2012. He got to hear one of “Mommy’s songs” on a primetime TV show that night, one of his favorites that I had just sung to him that afternoon. We held him and rocked him. He took his last earthly breath at 1:10 a.m. on December 7.

We knew we had to finish this now for him, as we lived our first Christmas without him.

Wishing you a Christmas to cherish those you love, however near or far.

Reviewers Across the US and Europe Continue to Embrace PJ Parker:

It’s Christmas is “a recording of distinctive sound, arrangement and virtuosity ... Her collection of mostly traditional fare is best enjoyed with a few props – a glass of brandy, a crackling fire, and a close confidante.” – *Jazz Police*

“Her vocal renderings of old standards and new compositions is unique and instantly personal.” Her voice is a “powerful but well-restrained instrument.” – *Skope Magazine*

“PJ Parker has one voice but several personalities on *Dreams Are Meant For Two*, and each of them lights the dynamite which leaves every track on the album shaken and stirred. Parker is no timid jazz vocalist; she tackles each composition with fiery passion and striking self-confidence ... the level of comfort that Parker has with these classic songs is impressive in its depth. She knows them inside and out and is keenly aware of how to make them seem new again.” – *All About Jazz*

“She is in command, slowly drawing the listener in with an attitude of majestic surrender ... accolades do go to her own ‘Love’s A Logistical Thing’

The catchy lyrics and charming, lightly swinging vocal are a pleasure. ‘Dreams Are Meant For Two’ is a lovely song, full of genuine emotion. She does it justice in her soft, rich voice.” – *JazzReview.com*

“Stunning ... with *Dreams Are Meant For Two*, PJ Parker has issued a definitive statement of intent: to challenge the heart, to unlock memories, to reinvent the familiar, to entertain. And to do so on her own terms, with her own voice.” PJ’s original songs “suggest PJ Parker has the potential to be a significant songwriter.” – *Jazz Police*

Intimate “is an ‘exercise without a net,’ from which she emerges with much mastery and grace.” – *Jazz Hot; Paris, France*

Accolades:

- **Blues Nominee:** 2012 Hollywood Music in Media Awards
- **Honorable Mention:** 2010 Seventeenth Annual Billboard Worldwide Song Contest
- **Jazz Nominee:** ISSA Song Contest 2009
- **Top 10 Finalist–Best International Artist:** Australia’s 9th Annual Music Oz Awards
- **Jazz Nominee:** 2009 Hollywood Music in Media Awards
- **Semi-Finalist:** 2009 UK Songwriting Contest

Discography:

Intimate (2006)

It’s Christmas (2007, 2012)

Dreams Are Meant For Two (2008)

Film Credits:

PJ Parker may also be heard in the Golam Mustofa/Christopher Rinaman film and soundtrack, *A Drop Of Love*, which has garnered five prestigious awards at the 2012 American International Film Festival.

Television Credits:

PJ’s music has been included in episodes of *Parenthood* (NBC), *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* (CBS), and *The Vampire Diaries* (CW).

Producers: PJ Parker & Bill Bowman

Label: PJB Creatives, Inc.

Available Through: pjparker.net, iTunes, CDBaby

Release Date: 12/7/2012

Format: CD

Genre: Country Vocal

Catalog Number: PJBCD0005

Suggested List: \$.99

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