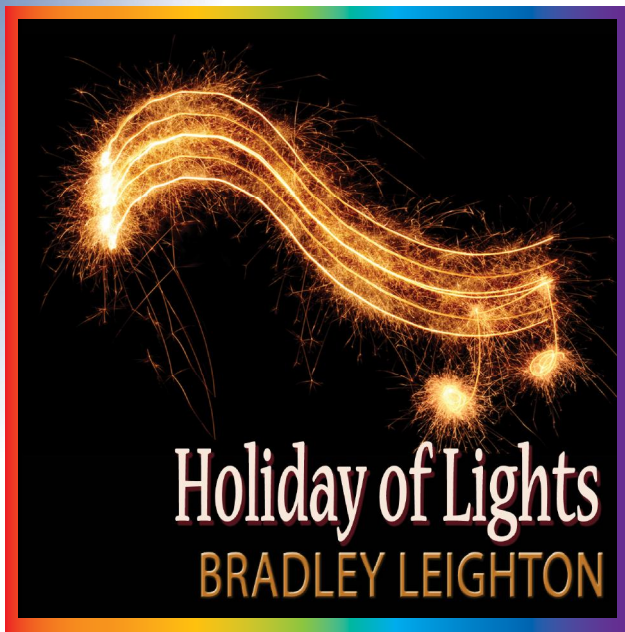


## BRADLEY LEIGHTON

### "Holiday of Lights"



A superbly crafted CD of Christmas favorites performed in a stylish fusion of modern Latin and Brazilian rhythms. These innovative, jazzy interpretations of the holiday classics add a different twist to your holiday music mix this year. Venezuelan born, Emmy® Award winner and two-time Grammy® nominee, Allan Phillips creates an authentic Latin flavor with a modern twist - while Bradley supplies the timeless melodies in a beautifully pure and heartfelt manner that is truly enjoyable! Extensive use of both the alto and bass flutes by Leighton, as well as the rich sound pallet employed by Phillips throughout, create a uniquely upbeat and harmonious collection sure to be a holiday favorite for many seasons to come.

Bradley Leighton has a unique and powerful sound bringing a fire and flair not usually heard nor expected from a flutist. His style of swing evolved from listening to the big, hi-octane bands of Kenton, Herman and Ferguson in the 60's-70's while his funkiness derives from years of listening to Tower of Power, Earth, Wind & Fire, the Brecker Brothers and countless other soul/R&B acts. With four highly respected recordings under the Pacific Coast Jazz label and numerous features on other artist's CDs, Bradley has established himself as one of the worlds premier flute players.

His recording projects Just Doin' Our Thang (2005), Back To The Funk (2006) and his most recent CD, Soul Collective (2009,) were nominated 'Best Jazz Album of the Year' by the San Diego Music Awards Academy and continue to receive national radio airplay and promotion. Bradley has performed across the US and internationally as both sideman and bandleader for over twenty-five years. Leighton has opened for the Greater Hartford Jazz Festival (featuring artists Joyce Cooling and Gerald Albright) and has headlined for the Gainesville Jazz Festival, Tacoma Wine and Jazz Festival, Rancho Mirage Art Affaire. He continuously performs at recognized clubs like Brooklyn Jazz Café in Dallas, Scat Jazz Lounge in Houston, Humphreys, Anthology and Dizzy's in San Diego along with a multitude of clubs and festivals across the United States. Summer 2010 found him performing at the Omaha Summer Arts Festival, the Takoma Park, MD Jazz Festival, Wilbert's in Cleveland and The Carlyle Club in Virginia among many others, all a part of his 'Music For Life Tour.'

For more information, please go to [www.fluteguy.com](http://www.fluteguy.com) or [www.pacificcoastjazz.com](http://www.pacificcoastjazz.com).

Artist	Bradley Leighton
Title	Holiday of Lights
Selection #	PJ24367
UPC	869166824554
Prebook date	October 4, 2011
Street date	November 8, 2011
MSRP	\$10.95
Genre	Jazz/Holiday
Run time	49:43
Box lot	100
Label	Pacific Coast Jazz
Format	CD (digipak)

1. Joy To The World (3:55)
2. Santa Claus Is Coming To Town (3:49)
3. Christmas Time Is Here (4:37)
4. Winter Wonderland (4:17)
5. The First Noel (4:06)
6. Let It Snow (4:26)
7. Little Drummer Boy (5:21)
8. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (3:58)
9. White Christmas (4:36)
10. Angels We Have Heard On High (4:31)
11. Have Yourself A Merry Christmas (4:55)
12. Silent Night (3:52)

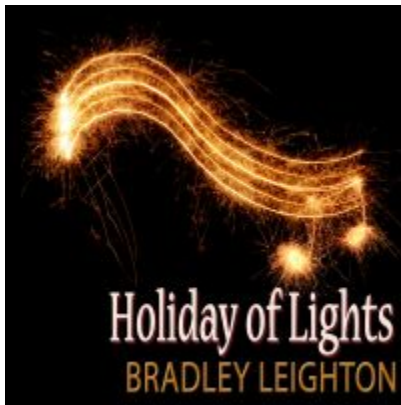
"A flutist who combines groove with soul."

~Jim Santella, *LA Jazz Scene*

"...reminiscent in ways of Herbie Mann's recordings of the 1960s."

~ Scott Yanow, *All Music Guide*

[www.fluteguy.com](http://www.fluteguy.com)



*Smooth Jazz Therapy* has been feeling in the Christmas spirit for some weeks and its latest musical stocking stuffer comes in the form of a brand new holiday album from San Diego based flautist Bradley Leighton. 'Holiday of Lights' finds him in combination with the Emmy award winning Allan Phillips and together they deliver a tranche of Christmas favourites that are re-imagined in a stylish fusion of modern Latin and Brazilian rhythms. These innovative and jazzy interpretations certainly provide a welcome addition to this year's crop of seasonal offerings and as Venezuelan born Phillips creates an authentic Latin flavour it is Leighton who, in his own beautifully pure and heartfelt manner, adds some sumptuously timeless melodies.

Opening with the mellifluous 'Joy To The World' Leighton quickly confirms how well the flute dovetails with Christmas music. His interplay with Phillips on keys and percussion is stunning while when they switch their collective attention to the comfortingly familiar 'Let It Snow' you might be excused for wishing that Christmas would come every day of the year.

On that very theme Vince Guaraldi's 'Christmas Time Is Here' is performed with a deliciously cinematic quality that would play well in any season and although a zesty, groove drenched arrangement of 'Santa Claus Is Coming To Town' takes this familiar tune to another place it is the hip swaying Latin vibe of 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' that signposts the way to where the traditional meets the contemporary in the most charming of ways.

Leighton's playing on the evocative 'The First Noel' is wonderful and he stays in what might be termed reflective mode for the magical 'White Christmas'. It proves to be a delightful diversion as first 'Winter Wonderland' and then 'Little Drummer Boy' are both characterized by the intense rhythms that Phillips routinely generates. They add considerably to these enduring tracks and as the mellow piano intro to 'Angels We Have Heard On High' briefly disguises the infectious beat on which it subsequently glides the listener is further reminded of just how refreshing this entire collection is.

Elsewhere, not only is 'Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas' an all-time personal favourite but also serves as a showcase for Leighton's fine playing on bass flute and as 'Silent Night' takes 'Holiday of Lights' to a magically restful conclusion there seems little doubt that this will be an album you will return to year after year.

~Denis Poole, *SmoothJazzTherapy.com*

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\*\*\* 1/2 (out of four) "Holiday of Lights"

Bradley Leighton Pacific Coast Jazz

Popular music is full of instruments that were once popular but no longer are ---- clarinet, accordion and banjo come to mind immediately. Tastes change.

But outside of the freakish 1970s success of rock's Jethro Tull and occasional solos by Frank Foster of the Basie band in the '50s and '60s, the flute has never really achieved much of a fan base, not even when Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw were making the clarinet cool in the late '30s and early '40s.

Yet here's San Diego's Bradley Leighton carving out a niche for himself in the smooth-jazz ranks on the flute. His first holiday release actually plays better to his instrument's strengths than his non-holiday albums ---- or at least, the flute seems more immediately familiar tackling Christmas favorites such as "Winter Wonderland," "Let It Snow" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." And on Vince Guaraldi's jazzy "Christmas Time Is Here" from the Charlie Brown Christmas TV special, Leighton absolutely shines.

Leighton has a full, warm tone on flute, and a pop sensibility to his arrangements. It all makes for a comforting take on the holiday canon.

*Bradley Leighton performs Dec. 5 at Seaport Village in San Diego.* ~ North County Times, December 1, 2010 by Jim Tregesar