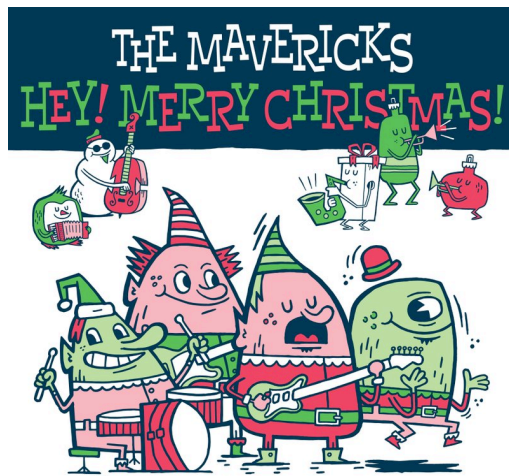


## Get in the holiday mood with Diana Ross, John Legend, more

Scott Stroud November 20, 2018



The Mavericks, “Hey! Merry Christmas!” (Mono Mundo)

If you could only choose one new album to mingle in with the classics at your holiday party, you could do a lot worse than the Mavericks’ “Hey! Merry Christmas!” It’s the sound of a great band with a unique style leaning into the holiday season with gusto.

The Mavericks have evolved in all the right ways over the years — adventurous, ambitious and not bound by formulaic thinking. Led by Raul Malo’s dynamic vocals, they pour folk, swing, jazz, rockabilly and Latin sounds into one big pot of gumbo.

And it turns out their holiday stew has some kick.

This collection includes eight original compositions and two familiar tunes, both far enough from heavy rotation to fit in well here: “Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)” and “Happy Holiday.”

And while some of the new songs sound derivative — you’ll hear echoes of Springsteen’s “Santa Claus Is Comin’ to Town” on “Santa Does,” for example — the common element is fun.

No gimmicks or fakery here — just straight-ahead party songs made-to-order for the party season.