

## TUNES FOR HOLIDAY REVELRY

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2018

DECEMBER 2018

One of the don't-miss releases of 2018 is *Hey! Merry Christmas!* (Mono Mundo; 31:12 ★★★★★) by The Mavericks. Infectious Yuletide spirit informs the smooth, superb lead singing of Raul Malo and his eclectic Americana band. Malo has a gift for composing melodious, high-quality songs, none better than "Christmas Time Is (Coming 'Round Again)," a rush of sublime '60s-ish pop. Disparate elements animate the Mavericks' compelling sound: Tex-Mex, country twang, *Elvis' Christmas Album*, 1950s r&b, jazz, Roy Orbison's pop and *A Christmas Gift For You From Phil Spector*.