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Press Kit for Chris Hassett

Singer • Songwriter • Entertainer

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Summary

Chris Hassett entertains every crowd using his considerable gifts: a warm expressive baritone, a relaxed and witty demeanor, the ability to turn on the power and then just as quickly retreat to a whisper, and most importantly the unrelenting desire to share his love for music through masterful singing. Chris now has five albums (available through iTunes and other e-retailers) and he continues to expand his circle of musical collaborators and genres.

As much as Chris loves songwriting and recording, he would be the first to agree that performing for a live audience tops his list of favorite things. His website comprises a treasure trove of music, photos, videos, and amusing blog posts, often created on his back deck. www.chrishassett.com

My Musical Journey

So what do you do when, at age four, you already know that singing is the greatest joy in life. Well, I decided to just keep singing. And I have kept it up for over six decades now.

Although I wasn't technically writing songs at age four, the few songs that I did know, I sang with great conviction. Singing with an open heart has become one of my trademarks. I didn't write "Bring Him Home" from Les Miserables or "Could I Leave You" from Follies — but I try to sing those songs like I scribbled those notes and words myself.

I grew up with AM radio and heard a lot of incredible music at every stage of growing up. I still love singing those songs (and even some of the commercials!) from that era — it was the music of Elvis and Buddy Holly and Bobby Rydell and Tommy Roe and Ray Charles and Guy Mitchell and Marty

Robbins and, yeah, some girls in there, too — Patsy Cline, Leslie Gore, Brenda Lee, Connie Francis. And then there were the groups: The Coasters, Drifters, Beach Boys, Temptations, Ronettes, Chiffons, Chirelles, . . . I know, it's all coming out in torrents. And all of this was pre-Beatles, mind you. The arrival of those four lads marked another watershed moment in popular culture. And then there was Woodstock. And the California sound. And, and, and — a constant barrage of life-giving music that shaped my young life.

There's another major influence that I can now bring up ('cause we're friends, right?) — and that would be showtunes. What a cliché! Well, Dad was a fantastic singer and a bit of an ham, so he brought home all the cast albums of the great musicals: Oklahoma, Carousel. My Fair Lady, The Music Man, Man of la Mancha. These shows had so many great songs that were filled with story and emotion and character. Everything wonderful that music can be in a young boy's life was there for me. All of these influences (along with a moderate dose of Classical albums that Mom picked up at the grocery store) are now manifest in my eclectic musical personality.

Fast forward to college and I'm playing and singing in stairwells with buddies and loving it all over again but now I'm making the music! Another epiphany: Music isn't just FOR us, it's BY us. As an adult, I've sung nearly continually (ask my friends) -- a million-plus songs, written a few, done some concerts, brought some fun and tears to some audiences and now — it's all I want to do.

The Friends & Lovers Concert series — from 1987 through 1996 — raised thousands of dollars for AIDS support organizations and other community-based nonprofits and they gave me a chance to collaborate with so many fantastic musicians in San Diego — Mary Barranger, Kenny Ard, Peggy Watson, Kay Etheridge, and many more.

With the 2009 release of my first CD, *Bring Love Home*, I embarked on a new chapter in my musical journey — one that put music at the very center of my life. This album project also solidified my enduring collaboration with Drew Massicot. The ten originals on the *Bring Love Home* CD address topics of interest to the community I live in. They have a decidedly progressive point of view and I hope that the music can reach hearts and change minds on some of the critical issues of our day — homelessness, mental illness, marriage equality, loss of loved ones, and more.

Since that first CD launch, I have now recorded four more albums:

- ***December*** (2011) — My holiday album. The musical treatments on the carols are often minimal, focusing attention on the wonder and magic of the season. I've also mixed in some pop classics as well as three of my own compositions. Accompaniment by Drew Massicot.
- ***This I Promise You*** (2012) — Eleven original love songs, covering the gamut from puppy love to idealized love, love in the real world, failed love, unrequited love ... you know, the various emotional states than consume our lives. This album means a lot to me and comes closest to revealing who I am as an artist and human being.

- *Just in Time* (2013) — Pop and jazz classics with some very good musicians backing me up. I have always loved the American Songbook and I honestly feel that I've brought something new to each of the revered tunes that I tackle here.
- *All of Me* (2016) — My latest and in some ways my most ambitious album. Again, a collection of pop and jazz classics this time backed (on 8 of the 13 tracks) by astonishingly good jazz musicians — Danny Green and the Danny Green Trio as well as Peter Sprague. I am so lucky to work with these guys. I squeezed in two of my own compositions, too. I've mixed in some Sondheim and Cohen tunes (accompanied by my talented friend and longtime music partner Drew Massicot). This is a great album and, I think, it showcases some of my best work ever.

With each CD project, I continue to stretch, to collaborate with more musicians, and to feel more and more committed to being the music man I've chosen to become.

Press Clips

*Since who knows when, Chris Hassett has been performing at small venues and special showcases. And over the last several years he has quietly been releasing disks. San Diego is lucky to have this fine talent. Simply put, Hassett is a masterful crooner who is gifted with a rich baritone voice. He has a refreshingly light approach. On stage, he is a gracious performer with a good-natured wit. His latest release, **All of Me**, is a baker's dozen of mostly jazz and American Songbook standards that delighted me from beginning to end.*

Whatever the song may be—a ballad, a swing tune, or a Broadway show tune—Hassett has the ability to evoke perfectly the tenor or emotional content of the lyric. With a lighthearted and swinging delivery he displays the playful flirtatiousness of the title track, “All of Me,” and just as readily in the very next tune he taps into the dreaminess and devotion of “The Very Thought of You.”

*If anything, Hassett is a balladeer. Not only is this his strongpoint, but he also cleans the clock of other balladeers. ... If you have a chance, do catch one of his performances. You will not be disappointed. He puts on a fine show. You can also get his CDs; they're all great. And this one, **All of Me**, may be the best one yet.*

San Diego Troubadour (August 2016)

*If you like the old standards, or if you simply like to hear a great crooner in top form, then **Just in Time** certainly deserves a listen or two. And if you're not yet a fan of this talented singer, this package of 12 gems from the American Songbook should turn you into one.*

If anything, Hassett is a mature artist, capable of conveying a great deal of emotion with his phrasing and delivery. This suits him well to interpret just about any ballad.

San Diego Troubadour (April 2014)

All in all, this album (Just in Time) presents Chris Hassett in a new light for many of his fans – as a world-class crooner with an intelligent and heartfelt approach to song interpretation. Fans looking forward to a second and third album of standards are likely to have their expectations satisfied, judging by Hassett's own fondness for the genre and his current pace of album releases.

- LGBT Weekly (June 12, 2014)

It's only recently that I've become familiar with Hassett How could I have been unaware of him for so long? He is simply one of the best male singers here in San Diego. A baritone with strength and clarity, he just nails the notes and phrases. ... Hassett also has a way of settling in and getting comfortable with a tune, giving songs a beguilingly easy delivery.

*Hassett wrote all of the songs on **Promise**, 11 in all. ... The two tunes that particularly caught my ear are "I Cried For You," a sweet tune in the mold of one of Patsy Cline's torch songs, and the song in which he channels Andrew Lloyd Webber, "Give Me Your Arms."*

— San Diego Troubadour (June 2012)

*... why should local singer/songwriter Chris Hassett give us **December**, his new CD of carols and Christmas songs? For one, Hassett is a marvelous singer, possessing a rich baritone with a great deal of substance. Those Broadway musicals and show tunes that your grandparents play on their phonographs, Hassett was born to sing those songs.*

Hassett offers three songs of his own on this disk: "December," "Take Time for a New God," and "Little Yellow House" "Little Yellow House" is in particular quite moving, as the lyrics focus on the themes of acceptance and letting go.

*The real keeper on the disk, the song that Hassett absolutely nails, is "Christmas Time Is Here," the beautiful Vince Guaraldi composition from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. The spare arrangement and Hassett's contemplative delivery sweetly bring out the song's qualities of reflection, tranquility, and quiet joy.*

— San Diego Troubadour (December 2011)

*Chris Hassett is a songwriter with a conscience as well as a keen sense of the universal things in life that resonate for us all. **Bring Love Home** is a diverse collection of poignant songs that could be standards in a new American Songbook.*

— San Diego Troubadour (June 2010)

Video Links

YouTube channel

<http://www.youtube.com/chrishassettmusic>

Video Performances

Hallelujah (Leonard Cohen): [http://youtu.be/BnEWJZenBPM?](http://youtu.be/BnEWJZenBPM?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

[list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA](http://youtu.be/BnEWJZenBPM?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

The Nearness of You (Hoagy Carmichael): [http://youtu.be/tlgEJIB_-ZM?](http://youtu.be/tlgEJIB_-ZM?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

[list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA](http://youtu.be/tlgEJIB_-ZM?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

No One Is Alone (Sondheim): [http://youtu.be/h6GgBCuSMHQ?](http://youtu.be/h6GgBCuSMHQ?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

[list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA](http://youtu.be/h6GgBCuSMHQ?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

Give Me Your Arms (Hassett): [http://youtu.be/J9CFkdhN_J0?](http://youtu.be/J9CFkdhN_J0?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

[list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA](http://youtu.be/J9CFkdhN_J0?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

El Centro (Hassett): [http://youtu.be/I3JghyR2ER4?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-](http://youtu.be/I3JghyR2ER4?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

[VwBK72s_NA](http://youtu.be/I3JghyR2ER4?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

A Woman Is My Friend (Hassett): [http://youtu.be/lHVUKj2WOcE?](http://youtu.be/lHVUKj2WOcE?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

[list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA](http://youtu.be/lHVUKj2WOcE?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

Smile (Chaplin): [http://youtu.be/ydcO9QUGwVk?](http://youtu.be/ydcO9QUGwVk?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

[list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA](http://youtu.be/ydcO9QUGwVk?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

For booking agents and club owners

Banter / Sampler Reel: [http://youtu.be/uONrpQbDV6c?](http://youtu.be/uONrpQbDV6c?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

[list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA](http://youtu.be/uONrpQbDV6c?list=PLlEtVcJQZhKqfD8cqI2tPi-VwBK72s_NA)

High-resolution Pictures





