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Uncuffed My Mixtape: This Christmas

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[00:00:00] **Greg:** What's up, everybody? This is Greg Eskridge, coming to you from the San Quentin side of the program, and I just want to give out a heartfelt thank you to everyone who listened to Uncuffed this season. We're going to take a few weeks off for the holidays, but before we go, we want to leave you all with a little something special.

Today I'm going to share my all time favorite holiday song, "This Christmas," by Donny Hathaway.

When the song comes on, it just has this melody, it has this rhythm to it. Every time I listen to this song, it just, it just makes me smile.

So this song reminds me of just families coming together, get togethers, eggnog, me and [00:01:00] my cousins running around the house. Those were probably some of the best years of my young life. Soon as I hear that melody, it just makes me smile. It just makes me think about my childhood. Carolling through the night... and this Christmas... will be... a very special Christmas for me...

So I'm coming up on my 30th Christmas inside a prison, and it's definitely hard, Christmas is hard because you see all the commercials on television. Listening to this song, even though it's an extremely beautiful song, it reminds me of those early years, those beautiful early years of my life. It's still, it's still some sadness because I've been removed from [00:02:00] that was beautiful moments for so long, but I still try to maintain that, that level of joy in my heart. And that song definitely does bring me that joy.

The song goes on, the memories go on, and the love is still in my heart.

So around the holidays, people in the building definitely play Christmas music. You hear it all throughout the tiers. People try to put little drawings on their door, try to have some type of

festivity. Something that just says, it's Christmas time. Like, Christmas is something that's so difficult to not acknowledge.

And so everybody wants to have some type of Christmas.

So hopefully this is my last Christmas inside of a prison. [00:03:00] So next year I'll hopefully be celebrating at home, and I'm gonna do it up. I've been away from Christmas for too long, and so I want the biggest Christmas tree possible that can fit inside the house, even if it doesn't even fit, even if we have to just bend it.

I want to see candles being lit. I want to see Christmas lights and just music blasting. And this song is definitely going to be the first song that I play for Christmas. Matter of fact, I'm going to put this on repeat.

That was "This Christmas" by Donny Hathaway, the greatest Christmas song on earth. And the rest of the Uncuffed team also want to share a few words as well.

[00:03:57] **Steve:** What up, everybody? This is Steve Brooks wishing [00:04:00] you a happy new year, wishing everybody peace this next upcoming season.

[00:04:07] **b.f.:** So what's going on, everybody? This is b.f. Thames here at Solano Uncuffed, just wishing you and yours whatever makes you happy this holiday season. Whether you listen to us on Crosscurrents, you listen to the stories we do or the podcast or the DJ program. Enjoy yourself, enjoy your life, and continue to enjoy us. Happy Holidays. That's to everybody.

[00:04:33] **Tim:** What's up, everybody? This is your host with the most, Timothy T. B. O. N. E. Hicks, coming to you at the Uncuffed studio in San Quentin. Wishing everybody joy, peace, love, and happiness for the end of the year. Happy Holidays!

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire. Have a good one, y'all. Alright, peace!

[00:04:54] **Ivy:** Hey, hey, you're here with Anthony Stick Talk Ivy. And, happy holidays. [00:05:00] Party for me, pour up, or whatever y'all do. Let's do some music and, enjoy yourself.

[00:05:05] **Brian:** This is Brian Asey. I want to wish everyone a happy holiday and a happy new year.

[00:05:10] **Jay:** This is Jay Evans from the heavens. Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, and a Happy New Year to all the listeners out there in society. Have fun and enjoy y'all self and hopefully, come to terms of peace out there in the rest of the world.

[00:05:28] **Ryan:** Hello, everyone. This is Ryan Pagan, and I want to wish everyone a Feliz Navidad and a Happy New Year.

[00:05:35] **Mazza:** This is Bryan Mazza, and from all those close to me and the Uncuffed family, we wish you a Happy Holidays.

[00:05:42] **Anthony:** This is host Coach Anthony at the Uncuffed studio saying Happy New Year and Mele Kalikimaka, which is Merry Christmas to my brothers in Hawaii.

[00:05:50] **Greg:** This is Greg Eskridge. Happy Holidays to everyone. And do me a favor, please.

Will everyone please take a bite of some sweet potato [00:06:00] pie, a piece of turkey, and a piece of ham, just for me. Happy Holidays, everybody. See you next year.

[00:06:11] **Ryan:** You can find Uncuffed on the radio at KALW 91. 7 FM, at weareuncuffed dot org. Or, subscribe to Uncuffed in any podcast player.

[00:06:22] **b.f.:** The Uncuffed crew at Solano are Anthony Ivy, me, b.f. Thames, Bryan Mazza, and my buddy, Jay Evans, from the heavens.

[00:06:30] **Ryan:** The Uncuffed Crew at San Quentin is Timothy Hicks, Anthony Caravalho, Steve Brooks, Juan Haines, Brian Asey, Greg Eskridge, and me, Ryan Pagan.

[00:06:42] **b.f.:** Thanks to the team at KALW Public Radio. That would be Ninna Gaensler-Debs, Angela Johnston, Sonia Paul, Kathy Novak, Eli Wirtschafter, James Rowlands, Ben Trefny, and our sound designer, Maserati E., also known [00:07:00] as Eric Abercrombie. Our theme music is by David Jassy.

[00:07:04] **Ryan:** And thanks to the staff at San Quentin who make this possible, Skylar Brown and Lieutenant Berry who approved this episode.

[00:07:10] **b.f.:** And thanks to the staff at Solano who make this possible, especially Lieutenant Guerrero, who approved this episode.

[00:07:18] **Ryan:** We fact checked everything to the best of our ability. Uncuffed gets support from the California Arts Council and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Thanks for listening.

[00:07:32] **Ms. Betty:** Women in prison are always overlooked, and we need to change that. We're mothers, sisters, wives, and friends, and our stories need to be told. I'm Ms. Betty McKay, pronouns she, her, queen. I spent 27 years in CIW, the California Institution for Women. Now, I'm on the advisory board for Uncuffed. I need your help bringing this program to [00:08:00] women and non-binary folks at CIW for the first time.

We are raising $50,000 to bring Uncuffed to incarcerated women. And we need your help. Go to weareuncuffed dot org and click "Donate." Thank you!