



Podcast Episode 216
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“The Top Tasty Treats, Tunes, and Traditions for Christmas According to Andy Andrews”

David Loy: Hi and welcome to the Christmas episode of *In the Loop* with Andy Andrews, I'm your host David Loy. Joined once again by Andy Andrews. Andy thanks for being with us for a fun, relaxed conversation about Christmas.

Andy Andrews: I love Christmas. I just love Christmas. It's my favorite time of the year. If I could listen to Christmas music all year long, I would and sometimes I do.

David: No way.

Andy: Yeah, yeah a lot of times.

David: Ok, this is a thought, we're just going of the top of our heads.

Andy: The Isaacs Christmas album I put on a lot.

David: I was gonna say, that one is probably the best I've ever heard.

Andy: It's the best I've ever heard.

David: You know who has a brand new Christmas album out, that I think is very good. I've heard two songs from it and they were both stunning. That acapella group of five people Pentatonix. Have you heard of them?

Andy: Pentatonix, yeah.

David: Their Christmas album is just, it's very cool.

Andy: I like Pentatonix but actually there is somebody like that, that I like better now.

David: Who's that?

Andy: Home Free.

David: Home Free, ok.

Andy: And man, you know, I've known Kenny Rogers for years and years. I mean, I knew him before his chicken places. But anyway, Kenny has, in fact we need to send this out, we need to get the video and send it out on Facebook or something or maybe to our guys here with the podcast. But that song, *Children Go Where I Send Thee*, right, well Kenny is doing this with the group Home Free. And it's totally acapella and it is awesome.

David: That sounds great. We do need to find that link and send it out in our podcast email, maybe Matt can find that.

Andy: I haven't seen Kenny in a while. We need to get Kenny on the podcast.

David: I was going to say, that would be amazing, if we could pull that off. That would be really good, we should do that. Why don't you call him?

Andy: I think I will.

David: Ok, alright, let me ask you a couple of, we're just gonna talk about favorite Christmas things. So first of all, where will you be?

Andy: You know what, wait, Kenny, in that song, *Children Go Where I Send Thee*, Kenny sounds like classic Kenny, in that song, you know *Children go where I send thee*, that growling thing. Man it is awesome.

David: That's fine. So obviously we're recording this a little bit before Christmas but where will you be at Christmas?

Andy: Home.

David: Ok. And that's you, Polly and the boys.

Andy: *I'll be home for.* Yeah

David: Let's see how many songs I can get you to sing during this podcast. That's two, we're at two right now. Alright now, you'll be at home, Polly and the boys and

Andy: It was three. I did Kenny.

David: That's true.

Andy: A little Kenny thing.

David: There you go so we're at three.

Andy: We'll be home.

David: Anybody else is going to be there with you, the other family or anything?

Andy: Well, you know, Robert, uncle Bob, Polly, the boys, and S.B.

David: Ok, she'll be joining you as well. Ok, that's great.

Andy: It's like our traditional, has become our traditional Christmas.

David: Yes.

Andy: Yes, that core group. And of course the dogs.

David: Have we talked about the new dog? I don't think we talked about the newest dog?

Andy: Do we have to now?

David: Well let's just mention that we've got Carver, everybody knows about Carver. Do you want to say anything about the new addition?

Andy: Probably not. Yeah, we got a new dog.

David: You're thrilled about it.

Andy: Oh yeah, I'm thrilled. You know, here we have Carver, who, you can go into the house and Carver is reading the Wall Street Journal or something.

David: He's the most sophisticated dog you've ever seen.

Andy: Yeah, this dog is human, I'm telling you. Our neighbors even go, good grief, Carver was sitting beside me the other day and I said, ok Carver time to go home, and he got up and went home. I mean, Carver does not shed, does not do anything wrong in the house, he doesn't steal food, he doesn't bark, he doesn't whine, he doesn't stink. I'm telling you, the dog will do what you tell him to do, he understands you, ok. He doesn't get on the furniture, he doesn't get up on the bed, he doesn't wake you up. It is the most unbelievable. You walk into our house, Carver is on his high legs and will shake your hand, it's like, good to see you. And so here we had it as good as it could possibly be. But no, we had to get, and Carver is a standard poodle, we didn't trim him in odd ways, in fact, in the wintertime he grows out, he looks like a bear cub. But no, they said, why should we have a dog that's no trouble, let's get something that is the total opposite. So what do we have now? We also now have a black and tan coonhound.

David: Named?

Andy: Daisy. Quit laughing David. It ain't funny.

David: I wish everybody could see your face as you're telling this story.

Andy: Oh my gosh.

David: Alright.

Andy: I'll tell the Daisy story later.

David: Ok, we'll do that down the road but Carver and Daisy will be joining you for Christmas. Alright let's keep going, any favorite Christmas memories that come to the top of your mind?

Andy: Oh man, they're all, I have so many Christmas memories. You know, when Polly's mom was alive, one of the greatest, you know how crazy Robert is? And this is The Robert D. and the best recording of Rudolph The Rednose reindeer is The Temptations, they do actually three of the best recordings of traditional songs you ever heard. The Temptations *Silent Night* will blow your mind. And their Rudolf is by far the best. And it's a jazzy thing and one of my greatest memories is when they started that *wow wow wow Rudolph The Rednose Reindeer*. And Robert grabbed Polly's mom and started his, and Robert dances like Gilmer Powell and so he's like doing all this shaking. So we got it on video and we play it every now and then and it is just funny.

David: We're up to four songs by the way.

Andy: Oh ok. My sister and I, you know obviously we have great memories of Christmas. We would go to granddaddy and memes for Christmas, and that house seemed so big. I went into that house recently and I thought, I used to think this house was massive, but it was not, we were just little. If you see the picture on *The Socks for Christmas* book, that picture was taken, in fact there is a picture in that book of meema and granddaddy's living room, Christmas tree in meema's and grandpa's living room. And we have always had Jesus's birthday party on Christmas eve.

David: Yes, I remember you talking about that.

Andy: And so that has always been a tradition. And now the boys, even today, they write a letter to Santa Claus. And Adam comes up with the craziest questions. Now he comes up with the crazier questions then he did when he was little. Those are things that we always do.

David: Right, what about food? Any favorite food or any least favorite food, at Christmas?

Andy: Yeah, I mean, I don't know why I go negative right away but please God, English pea casserole, just shoot me. I mean, just shoot me. I mean, English pea casserole is like, they must serve that in Siberian gulags.

David: Is there anyone in your family that likes?

Andy: My wife, Robert.

David: Then I'm staying away for now.

Andy: So I actually have to see it every year.

David: Do the boys eat it?

Andy: Oh no, no, they're normal.

David: Ok, any favorite Christmas foods?

Andy: Oh yeah, we always, we smoke turkey, we smoke turkey every year.

David: Oh yeah, on a Kamado Joe.

Andy: Oh yeah.

David: That sounds great.

Andy: It is awesome. Polly makes the best dressing. Now this is not stuffing, this is cornbread dressing type of thing. And it's the same recipe that my mom, my grandmother and her mother and her grandmother used. And man, I mean, we have it at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and man, it is unbelievable. And one more thing that I have to tell you, is Patsy, Polly's mom, made a sweet potato casserole that, now everybody had that kind of sweet potato thing with sprinkle some pecans and little marshmallows on top, that is not this, ok. I'm telling you, if the truth were known, had Polly been ugly and mean, I would've still married her after eating this sweet potato casserole. It is the most unbelievable thing. And we also have, it's kind of a jello stuff, and it's kind of a green with pecans and something in it.

David: Is this the same that you talked about at Thanksgiving?

Andy: Yeah. We really kind of, it's the same menu.

David: I was gonna call it whomp.

Andy: No, that's cranberry whomp, I make that.

David: Oh you're just talking about green.

Andy: This is green. We call this green. And so that's kind of what we have.

David: Ok, what about favorite movies. Are there any, I know what you're going to say it's your favorite. Oh stop.

Andy: Yeah, I love a Christmas Story.

David: Of course you do.

Andy: I love a Christmas Story.

David: Oh interesting trivia about a Christmas Story.

Andy: Tell me, tell me.

David: Ralphie is in the movie Elf. Do you know the Will Ferrell movie Elf?

Andy: Yeah, we like that too.

David: He is, which I think is hilarious, he is a store elf, he plays an actual elf, but at the, I believe it's in the store, Matt do you remember if it's in the store or is it at the North Pole? I forget what scene it's in. But grown up Ralphie. Yes, I think it's in the mall.

Andy: Really?

David: Yes, but grown up Ralphie is in the movie Elf, just for a brief, it's a little cameo thing.

Andy: Wow that's great.

David: So I know you love a Christmas Story.

Andy: I really do,

David: It's just not, a movie that I like.

Andy: Oh you're just wrong. You are wrong, you're corrupted, you're a sinner.

David: I understand those things, which is probably why I would say that Christmas Vacation is my favorite Christmas movie.

Andy: No, no.

Matt: It's in Santa's workshop.

David: Oh it's Santa's, Matt is telling us that Ralphie is in Santa's workshop in the movie Elf. So there you go, there's some trivia for you.

Andy: Remember the elves from Rudolph?

David: Yes.

Andy: *Herby wants to be a dentist.* Remember how he, all *I wanted was to be a dentist.*

David: Ok, any movie that you're tired of?

Andy: Christmas Vacation, I'm tired of Christmas Vacation.

David: Of course you're going to say that.

Andy: Not really, but I just. That I'm tired of? I know this is like sacrilegious to say but I am really tired of that The Charles Dickens thing, that's been done to death.

David: It has been done quite a few times.

Andy: It's not only been done to death as its own thing, it's been done to death on every sitcom in the world.

David: A Christmas Carol, right.

Andy: Yeah, a Christmas Carol. I mean, golly, Mork goes to sleep and then has a ghost of Christmas. I mean, Archie Bunker goes to sleep and then Gilligan goes to, I mean, it's every single dadgum, just drives me crazy. But there are some great television episodes, in fact I wish somebody would come up with a DVD with nothing but the Christmas episodes from great sitcoms.

David: Like what? Which one are you talking about?

Andy: Well one of my favorites was the Andy Griffith one, I love the Andy Griffith one. They only did one, ok. Only did one Christmas episode in all that time and it is really good one. I loved, Mary Tyler Moore did a couple of good ones. Bob Newhart did a great one when the show was Newhart, when it was at the end in Vermont. And you know how Bob Newhart has that halting delivery, right. And he's the only one that show has halting delivery. And so, and I can't find this, this is driving me crazy because I want the boys and Polly to see it, but he, they... and so it's Christmas Eve and his wife says, well Bob, that's it, I can't believe we've rented every room for Christmas Eve. And so, with the snowstorm coming, I guess is good that everybody is off the road. So they're about to go to bed and Bob turns off the lights and then there's a knock at the door. And he comes to the door and they go, hi. And he says, come in, come in out of the cold. And the guy says, man, we're kind of in trouble, we're trying to get to so and so, and he says, we're stuck out here, my wife is out there, we need a place to stay. And Bob says, we're full, so sorry. And the guy say, man, I really, my wife is pregnant. And Bob goes, I hate to tell you on this night of all nights but there's no room at the Inn. And the guy, I

understand. And Bob says, maybe I can call around for you? What's your name? My name is Joe. Oh ok, Joe. And of course the woman in the car, her name is Mary. And Bob's like, yeah, would've hardly believe that. But then at some point Larry, Darryl and Darryl come in, ok, and they said, we just came to see if you saw, there is a big star out there. But the way it ends is, that there are three brothers that come and they're looking for a place too. And they've just come from a Jewish thing and they're three brothers and their last name is Wiseman.

David: That is great. Alright any favorite Christmas books? Other than that, you can't say *Socks for Christmas*, I will say *Socks for Christmas*. That's a great Christmas book, but do you have any other favorite Christmas books or stories?

Andy: Christmas books, you know night before Christmas Polly reads that to the boys, I think of that as a Christmas book, and every Christmas Eve she reads that to the boys. They pile up in Adam's bed and it's always Adam's bed. Adam's on the left, Austin's on the right and Polly reads this old book, she's got the old book from her childhood and she reads that. Trying to think of any other real Christmas type stories. I love when normal novels set something around Christmas, maybe because I like Christmas so much. You know, in *The Heart Mender* I did that, the climactic scene happens during Christmas, because they're getting Danny a pocketknife when the bad guy races them. But I can't really think, can you think of any books?

David: No, I was thinking about *The Night Before Christmas* and *Socks* for sure. Oh and I'll use this time as a shameless plug but for anyone who hasn't seen the free e-book that we have on your website, andyandrews.com, it's called *Family Traditions*. It is, we call it an inspiring little story that will help you create unforgettable memories with your family during this Christmas season.

Andy: It's free.

David: It is, absolutely. It is something easy to download, easy to read to the family and actually *The Temptations* are referenced in that book. It's in the first couple of pages. So that's the first one that popped in my head. What about any other favorite songs?

Andy: My favorite, I have a bunch of favorite songs. My absolute favorite Christmas album is The Isaacs. And I'm not sure if they have more than one Christmas album but if you look at the Isaacs, it's the one that's white, it is the white cover. But I'm telling you, every cut on that CD, it is awesome. It is awesome. And it also contains what I think is one of the best Christmas songs ever done. If you're into a traditional Christmas there is, in fact I've always loved *Mary did you know*, and I know obviously Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene are friends of mine, Mark wrote the words, Buddy wrote the music. And I've always thought that was just an incredibly, just God given song. But one day, Mark called me and said, oh my gosh, you should hear the song that the Isaacs are recording. It maybe the best Christmas song I've ever heard. And I said, really, now coming from you, that's pretty big. And he says, I'm telling you. And the song is called *Labor of Love*.

David: That's right, yes, I think I've heard that.

Andy: And it's about the birth of the baby Jesus, it's a real, I mean, and man Becky sings on that. But the way that thing starts, it's about the real event. I think the first line of the song was, *It was not a silent night*. And I just, second verse where it talks about noble Joseph by her side, callused hands and weary eyes, shafts of moonlight on his face, but the baby in the womb was the maker of the moon. I mean, I'm just telling you, it's an unbelievable song.

David: And you're right, it is a white cover, it's called The Isaacs Christmas. So that would definitely be one worth picking up. Alright I know we're just about out of time here, any other last favorite?

Andy: Wilson Pickett - *Silver Bells*.

David: Ok, that's a classic.

Andy: I mean, if you're used to hearing *Silver bells, silver bells*.

David: I'm not talking Bing Crosby here.

Andy: *Silver bells, silver bells*. I mean but this is, I mean, Wilson Pickett *Silver Bells*, oh baby, that's it.

David: Alright anything else? Before we shut down?

Andy: I guess we wish you a Merry Christmas.

David: Of course. Well it's always fun to just talk about favorites and enjoy, I know this is your favorite time of year. And hope everyone out there who's listening has an amazing Christmas and also thank you for sticking with us through this entire year. We're up over 200 episodes, almost 1.5 million downloads. And people continue to share the podcast with their friends. So Andy thank you for pouring out your heart and your thoughts, and for helping people. And we're excited about some new and different things we'll be doing in 2016 and look forward to talking with you again next year.

Andy: Me too you. Man I appreciate you David and you Matt. This has been a great year and I want you guys to have an awesome Christmas too.

David: Fantastic, alright we'll talk to you next week.

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Would you like to run something by Andy? Contact us and your question might be featured on the show!

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