

Johnny Mathis Enjoys Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By JACKIE MOE
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Peppermint extract, stockings on the mantle, bustling shopping malls and, of course, the Christmas music repertoire of Johnny Mathis are all classic standards of every holiday season.

For more than six decades,

Mathis has serenaded every holiday party across the globe with his silky vocals on "Silver Bells," "White Christmas," "Silent Night," and so on. Although the 81-year-old has had a prosperous career as a multi-Grammy Award-nominated original recording artist, he still makes time during the holiday season to actively tour and perform his seasonal favorites.

His music is known to make many reminisce of holiday memories over the years – not excluding Mathis himself. Born into a family of seven kids, Mathis said he was very close to his parents, who are now deceased, and the holiday tunes he sings in concert bring back many memories of them.

"My parents were over the moon when I had some success with Christmas songs, because that was the time of the year that meant so much to them. They were able to see their loved ones, and it was great

to hear their son's voice on the radio while they visited," said Mathis.

With more than 90 albums under his belt, Mathis has plenty of songs to choose from, which he said helps to ward off any boredom an artist can get from performing the same

tunes over and over again for decades.

Mathis' best selling Christmas album is still his 1958 album "Merry Christmas," which has sold over 5 million copies. He has six original Christmas albums, not including compilations,

including "The Sounds of Christmas" (1963), "Give Me Your Love for Christmas" (1969), "Christmas Eve with Johnny Mathis" (1986), "The Christmas Album" (2002) and his Grammy-nominated "Sending You a Little Christmas" (2013).

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