

You say he's a "buddy." Do you go fishing? Bowling? Henry nor I do any of those things. [Laughs] Henry takes his camera and a backpack, and disappears for months at a time. God knows where he goes. When he comes back, he doesn't know anybody, except me. He comes to [watch] *Monday Night Football* here in Los Angeles, and we have a grand time.

Shatner Claus is actually your second album this year, after the country collection *Why Not Me?* Do you feel people have come around to your unique way with a song?

I've got to say that this album is the epitome of what I can do. When I finished it, and listened to it, I said, "Is this as good as I think it is?" But until the audience tells you, you don't know whether it's any good or not.

What are you doing next?

Well, I've been asked to do a blues album. I'll be doing that!



MAVERICKS: DAVID MCCLUSTER; SHATNER: SANTIAGO FELLIPE/GETTY IMAGES; MORTON: PITCH PERFECT MEDIA

Bouncing Boughs

Maroon 5 keyboardist **PJ Morton**'s first Christmas LP is a fun, unexpected spin on the usual holiday fare. He chats with EW about creating this year's surprise stocking stuffer. **BY ALEX SUSKIND**

NEW ORLEANS IN JULY ISN'T the first place you'd think to record a holiday album. Unless you're musician PJ Morton, whose new record, *Christmas With PJ Morton*, injects his hometown's patented bounce beats, plus a little funk and reggae, into the old Santa-approved usual suspects. "There's so many good standard Christmas albums, I didn't really see the purpose of doing that," says Morton, keyboardist for Maroon 5. "I knew that it had to be different."

Different was Morton taking a set of holiday classics—like "Winter Wonderland," "All I

Want for Christmas Is You"—and adding some soulful, head-bobbing grooves. He did the same for the album's two original tracks, "Do You Believe," a duet with Yolanda Adams, and "Peyton's Lullabye," named for his daughter.

Speaking of family, Morton can't wait for the rest of his clan—he's the son of two pastors—to hear his take on the songs he grew up listening to. "All my family's musical, so Christmas music was a big deal in my household," he says. "My parents are my number-one fans.... I know they'll love it."



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