



For our annual Christmas release this year, we present another familiar tune in an unfamiliar style: Jingle Bells as a Bulgarian rachenitza. This folk dance, an up-tempo seven, fits the melody of Jingle Bells and gives listeners a challenge on the dance floor (hint: the beat pattern is 4+3).

The track opens with a tuba vamp originated by the legendary Anthony "Tuba Fats" Lacen and borrowed from the Treme Brass Band's 1995 recording of "Food Stamp Blues." After one time down, Matt Schreiber (accordion) and Ben Schenck (clarinet) give lengthy ad lib solos on

different makams (Turkish scales), energy building, until at last the band finally breaks into 4/4 (cue the sleigh bells). Then, with the return to the top, once again in seven, it somehow feels this time like the right way to celebrate Christmas.

Credits:

Recorded October 13, 2015 at Listen Up! Studios, New Orleans, LA

Ben Schenck - Clarinet, Sleigh Bells

Aurora Nealand - Alto Saxophone

Charlie Halloran - Trombone

Matt Schreiber - Accordion

Patrick Mackey - Tenor Guitar

Steve Glenn - Tuba

Doug Garrison - Drums

Produced by Ben Schenck

Music arranged by Ben Schenck

Recorded, edited and mixed by Michael Seaman at Listen Up! Studios, New Orleans, LA

Mastered by Lu Rojas at Oak Street Recording, New Orleans, LA

graphics by Charlie Zeleny

Cover photo by Greg Miles