



## ANN KITTREDGE – “YOU SLEIGH ME”

Posted by [Tulis McCall](#) | Dec 5, 2025 | [Reviews](#)



By Tulis McCall

I feel as though I am the one person on the planet who has never heard Ann Kittredge.

Silly me. THAT is about to change.

Kittredge is a treasure and a pleasure. This is evidenced by her performance which is flawless: a soprano who fills her voice with color and vibrancy. Her generosity and popularity are also evidenced by the many, many guests who donated their

talents to this performance on December 3 at [Chelsea Table + Stage](#). [Karen Mason](#) got

things started after Kittredge welcomed us with story and song. Mason gave us a code red version of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town", waking us out of a winter slow down and rocketing us smack into the rafters. Mason was followed by her talented husband/composer, [Paul Rolnick](#), singing one of his own compositions, "It'll Be Christmas Before You Know It (I have always been a fan of composers singing their own songs – Irving Berlin and Stephen Sondheim come to mind – and Rolnick did not disappoint). Other extraordinary talents included [Brent Barrett](#) who sang a song, "Christmas Mornings" written at top speed by his husband, [Bernard Blanks](#). [Jeff Harner](#) gave us a sweet rendition of "[The Little Drummer Boy](#)". Both he and Barrett followed up their solos with duets with Kittredge that were perfection.

In addition to singers, Kittredge welcomed musical directors to the piano. In particular there was [Alex Rybeck](#) accompanying Kittredge on the song "Snow" made famous by [Bing Crosby](#) in the film "White Christmas." What none of us knew was that this early composition by [Irving Berlin](#) started out life as "Free" in the musical "[Call Me Madam](#)" but was cut because it was too controversial. Originally it was called "Free" and the opening lyrics are

Free. The only thing I want on this earth is to be Free.

You see, Kittredge is not just a pretty face – she is a marvel of a messenger. You can listen to the song here: <https://youtu.be/8vIhvEf8dRI> – I cannot find it anywhere else on the web. But it is a Cold War Gem that is sadly applicable today.

All in all, it was a stellar evening that, in case you were not feeling full of whatever holiday is your fancy, will provide the warmth and spice and reassurance that we don't notice is missing until it shows up.

Mention MUST be made of the trio backing Kittredge: Musical Director [Christopher Denny](#) on piano, who doubled as lyric coach when needed, [Mary Ann McSweeney](#) on bass and [Rex Benincasa](#) on drums. The evening was directed by [Barry Kleinbort](#). This show was a celebration of Kittredge's newest album "[You Sleigh Me](#)." You would not go wrong grabbing this one to give to a chum who loves beautiful music and will appreciate these tunes as a light in on our collective path.

The Album is produced by award-winning songwriter and record producer **Paul Rolnick**, and will be available on all digital platforms. For more information, visit [www.jazzheads.com](http://www.jazzheads.com)

Be on the lookout for Kittredge – she will be back!!!

**REVIEW**

95%

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