



Courtesy photo

**Mike Conley of Fort Wayne** has a song on “The Sounds of Christmas, Volume 2” CD.

Published: October 31, 2010 3:00 a.m.

## Conley joins impressive lineup on CD

**Steve Penhollow | The Journal Gazette**

The best gift anyone can give is a gift that keeps on giving.

Last Christmas, a popular gift in these parts was Mike Conley’s inaugural Christmas CD, “It’s a Conley Christmas.”

Conley says he sold 600 copies in a five- or six-week period.

This year, the CD has given a gift back to Conley.

The owner of a California record label called SOCMusic who had long been a fan of Conley’s music, called and asked whether Conley would donate a Christmas track for use on a charity compilation.

The compilation, “The Sounds of Christmas, Volume 2,” was recently released and Conley was astounded to see what company he is keeping these days.

Conley’s song, a rendition of Vince Guaraldi’s “Christmastime is Here,” shares space on the CD with tracks by Belinda Carlisle of the Go-Go’s, Kathy Sledge of Sister Sledge, Dave Stewart of the Eurythmics and such bands as Deep Blue Something and Vertical Horizon.

“I guess when you work out in California, you just brush elbows with those sorts of people,” Conley says. “In downtown Fort Wayne, I keep looking for these people, and I haven’t had much luck.”

Conley says proceeds from the sale of the CD will go to a cause he very much believes in, an organization called Sweet Relief.

It provides financial assistance to musicians who are suffering serious illness or infirmities related to the aging process.

“There are a lot of musicians who, at the end of the day, don’t have a lot to show for their efforts,” Conley says. “They don’t have enough money for health insurance.”

Conley says the CD is only available online for now via such music retailers as Amazon.com and CDBaby.com.

It is going for \$16.99 at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Conley says it amazes him how many blessings his Christmas recording project continues to generate.

"Somebody up there is looking out for me," he says. "I get up every morning and say, 'Thank my lucky stars.' I feel so fortunate. I never take it for granted."