

vitasonic

music for the
**Christmas
Season**

The Madrigal Singers of Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
under the direction of Richard Chapline

Photo by Nick Wartella

MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Madrigal Singers of Wilkes College, Directed by Richard Chapline

Side 1

LOBT GOTT IHR CHRISTEN ALLZUGLEICH

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

By Permission of Mercury Music Corporation
(Sung in German)

Praise Him who watches o'er us all from
heaven's highest throne,
His Son He gave to save us all and for
our sins atone.

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

By Permission of Mercury Music Corporation
(Sung in Latin)

Unto us is born a child, born of Mary,
Mother mild:
Shepherd of our souls to be, to rule our
hearts eternally.
In a manger lowly, lies the Babe all holy,
Sheep and oxen, hov'ring near,
acknowledge Him their Master dear.
Hearts in exaltation, sing in jubilation!
Sing, adoring earthly host, to Father, Son
and Holy Ghost!

LO, HOW A ROSE

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

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Lo, how a rose upspringing on tender root
has grown:
A rose by prophet's singing to all the
world made known.
The rose 'midst winter's cold a lonely
blossom bearing.
In former days foretold
This rose then of my story Isaiah did
proclaim.
What God ordain'd in glory, by Blessed
Mary came.
The Child the Virgin bore, the world's
salvation bringing
Through Him for evermore.
The rosebud small and tender gives
fragrance every day.
And by its brilliant splendor makes darkness
pass away.
True God, true Man, we pray help us in
every sorrow,
And guard us on our way.

SCENES FROM THE HOLY INFANCY

according to Saint Matthew
Virgil Thomson (1896-)

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I. Joseph and the Angel

Now the birth of Christ was in this wise:
When as his mother Mary was espoused to
Joseph, before they came together, she was
found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then
Joseph her husband, being a just man, and
not willing to make her a publick example,
was minded to put her away privily. But
while he thought on these things, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in
a dream, saying, Joseph, thou Son of David
fear not to take unto thee Mary, thy wife:
for that which is conceived in her is of the
Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son,
and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he
shall save his people from their sins. Now all
this was done, that it might be fulfilled
which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet,
saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child
and bring forth a son, and they shall call
his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted
is, God with us: Then Joseph being raised
from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had
bidden him, and took unto him his wife.
And knew her not till she had brought forth
her first-born son: and he called his name
Jesus.

First voice - Robert Sokoloski, baritone
Second voice - John Hyer, baritone

II. The Wise Men

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of
Judaea in the days of Herod the King, be-
hold there came wise men from the east to
Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born
King of the Jews? for we have seen his star
in the east, and are come to worship him.
When Herod the King had heard these things,
he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him
And when he had gathered all the chief

priests and scribes of the people together,
he demanded of them where Christ should
be born. And they said unto him, In Bethle-
hem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the
prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land
of Juda, art not the least among the princes
of Juda: for out of thee shall come a gover-
nor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then
Herod, when he had privily called the wise
men, enquired of them diligently what time
the star had appeared. And he sent them
to Bethlehem, and said, Go, and search dili-
gently for the young child; and when ye have
found him, bring me word again, that I may
come and worship him also. When they had
heard the King, they departed; and lo, the
star, which they saw in the east, went before
them; till it came and stood over where the
young child was. And when they were come
into the house, they saw the young child with
Mary his mother, and fell down, and wor-
shipped him: and when they had opened
their treasures, they presented unto him
gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.
And being warned of God in a dream that
they should not return unto Herod, they de-
parted into their own country another way.

Tenor soloist - Eugene Kelleher
Baritone soloist - John Hyer

III. The Flight into Egypt

And when they were departed, behold, the
angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in
a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young
child and his mother, and flee into Egypt,
and be thou there until I bring thee word:
for Herod doth seek the young child to de-
stroy him. When he arose, and took the
young child and his mother by night, and
departed into Egypt: And was there until
the death of Herod: That it might be ful-
filled which was spoken of the Lord by the
prophet saying, Out of Egypt have I called
my son. Then Herod, when he saw that he
was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding
wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the
children that were in Bethlehem, and in the
coasts thereof, from two years and under,
according to the time which he had dili-
gently enquired of the wise men. Then was
it fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy
the prophet, saying: In Rama there was a
voice heard, lamentation, and weeping and
great mourning, Rachel weeping for her
children, and would not be comforted, be-
cause they are not. But when Herod was
dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appear-
eth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying,
Arise, and take the young child and his
mother, and go into the land of Israel: for
they are dead which sought the young child's
life. And he arose and took the young child
and his mother, and came into the land of
Israel. But when he had heard that Archelaus
did reign in Judaea in the room of his father
Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwith-
standing, being warned of God in a dream,
he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:
And he came and dwelt in a city called
Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which
was spoken by the prophets, He shall be cal-
led a Nazarene.

First voice - Robert Sokoloski, baritone
Second voice - John Hyer, baritone

DECK THE HALL

Welsh Carol

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Deck the hall with boughs of holly,
'Tis the season to be jolly,
Don we now our gay apparel,
Tro'th the ancient Christmas carol.
See the blazing Yule before us,
Strike the harp and join the chorus,
Follow me in merry measure,
While I tell of Christmas treasure.
Fast away the old year passes,
Hail the new ye lads and lasses;
Sing we joyous all together,
Heedless of the wind and weather.

WASSAIL SONG

English Carol

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Here we come awassailing among the leaves
so green,
Here we come awand'ring, so fair to be seen.
Love and joy come to you, and to you your
wassail too,
And God bless you and send you a happy
new year.

We are not daily beggars that beg from
door to door,
But we are neighbors' children whom
you have seen before. Refrain.
Good Master and good Mistress, while you
sit by the fire,
Pray think of us poor children who wander
in the mire. Refrain.
God bless the master of this house, likewise
the mistress too;
And all the little children that round the
table go. Refrain.

THE BOAR'S HEAD CAROL

English Carol

(Queen's College, Oxford, Version)
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The boar's head in hand bear I, bedecked
with bays and rosemary;
And I pray you, my masters be merry,
quot estis in convivio:
Caput apri defero, reddens laudes Domino.
The boar's head, as I understand, is the
rarest dish in all the land,
Which thus bedecked with a gay gar-
land, let us serve cantico: Refrain.
Our steward hath provided this in honor of
the King of bliss.
Which on this day to be served is,
in Regimensi affrio: Refrain.

Side 2

BEHOLD A HELPLESS, TENDER BABE

Music by Frederick Silver

Words by Robert Southwell

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Behold a helpless tender Babe in freezing
winter night,
In homely manger trembling lies, alas, a
piteous sight.
The inns are full; no man will yield this
little pilgrim bed,
But forced is He with silly beasts in crib
to shroud His head.
Weigh not His crib, His wooden dish,
Nor beasts that by Him feed.
Weigh not His mother's poor attire, nor
Joseph's simple weed.
This stable is a prince's court, This crib
a chair of state.
The beasts are parcel of His pomp, The
wooden dish His plate,
The persons in that poor attire His royal
liv'ries wear,
The prince Himself has come from heaven,
His pomp is prized there,
With joy approach, oh Christian men, do
homage to your King,
And highly praise His humble pomp, which
He from heav'n doth bring.

SLEEP, LITTLE DOVE

Alsation Carol

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"Sleep, little Dove of mine, sleep while the
stars shine",
Thus to her Babe the Virgin sings.
"I will watch o'er Thee; May dreams restore
Thee
Visions of heav'n on seraph wings".
Sing, choirs of angels, and lull to rest
The Christ-child sleeping on Mary's breast.
Sing, choirs of angels, Sweet lullabies;
Our Infant Redeemer in slumber lies.
In stable lowly our Lord most holy
Found with His Mother shelter kind.
Outside lay danger, But in the manger
Warm lay they safe from the winter wind.

Sleep, fairest Flower, Heav'n's highest
Dower,
Hope of my heart, now close Thine eyes.
Rose of the Morning, Pearl, all-a-dorning,
Sleep and dream sweetly of Paradise.
Refrain.

COME, GOOD CHRISTIANS ALL

French Carol

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Come, good Christians all, and join our
caroling,
Lift up your voice, give thanks to God and
sing!
Sing we Noël to hail our newborn King. Noël.

Said the angel bright, "O haste, ye
shepherds all,
In Bethlehem go seek a lowly stall,
There on your knees before the Saviour
fall". Noël.
Soon there came three Kings, led by the
guiding star.
From the Orient they each had journey'd far,
Bringing their gold, their frankincense and
myrrh. Noël.
To the kingly Babe be now and ever praise,
That He came on earth our souls from
death to raise:
Sing we our joy upon this day of days.
Noël.

FEAR NOT, FOR BEHOLD I BRING GOOD TIDINGS

Francis F. Hagen (1815-1907)

Moravian Motet for Soprano Solo and Chorus

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Fear not: for, behold, I bring good tidings
of joy, which shall be unto all people. For
unto you is born this day a Saviour, Christ
the Lord in the city of David.
O joyful, joyful day when the Spirit of
God returns.
To us, the fallen sinners, a Saviour
appears.
A Saviour, a Saviour, O joyful, joyful
tidings.
For God has giv'n Himself to man
through his one begotten Son.
The Word of God made Flesh, The
Saviour of the world.
Child, whose great name is known unto all,
Jehovah.
O blessed seed, of Mary's womb be ye
praised!
Thou Hope of all the fathers, Thou Shield
of Abraham,
Thou Slayer of the serpents and David's
Lord and Son.
Soprano Soloist - Barbara Liberasky

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE

English Carol (harmonized by Sir John Stainer)

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Good Christian men, rejoice With heart, and
soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!
'Jesus Christ is born today:
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in
the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
Good Christian men, rejoice With heart,
and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath oped the heav'nly door, And
man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born
for this!
Good Christian men, rejoice With heart,
and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave. Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, To gain His
everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born
to save!

COVENTRY CAROL

English Carol

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Lullay, Thou little tiny Child, By, by, lully,
lullay;
Lullay, Thou little tiny Child, By, by, lully,
lullay.
O sisters too, how may we do For to
preserve this day
This poor Youngling for whom we sing
By, by, lully, lullay?
Herod the king, in his raging, Charged he
hath this day
His men of might in his own sight All
children young to slay.
Then woe is me, poor Child, for Thee,
And ever morn and day
For Thy parting nor say nor sing
By, by, lully, lullay.

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

English Carol

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The holly and the ivy, When they are both
full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, The
holly bears the crown:
The rising of the sun And the running of
the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, Sweet
singing in the choir.
The holly bears a blossom, As white as
lily flow'r,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, To
be our sweet Saviour. Refrain.
The holly bears a berry, As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, To do
poor sinners good. Refrain.
The holly bears a prickly, As sharp as
any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ On
Christmas day in the morn. Refrain
The holly bears a bark, As bitter as any
gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ For to
redeem us all. Refrain.
The holly and the ivy, When they are
both full grown.
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown. Refrain.

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Christmas Spiritual
Arr. by Olive J. Williams in
"Songs of All Time"

Published by Cooperative Recreation Service,
Delaware, Ohio
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Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills
and everywhere!
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ
is a born!
When I was a sinner I prayed both night
and day:
I asked the Lord to help me and He
showed me the way. Refrain.
When I was a seeker I sought both night and
day:
I asked the Lord to help me and He taught
me to pray. Refrain.
He made me a watchman upon the city
wall;
And if I am a Christian, I am the least
of all. Refrain.

THE SINGERS

Sopranos Janet Ainsworth, '65
Iris Collins, '65
Carole Cronauer, '68
Gloria Dolbear, '68
Barbara Liberasky, '67
Elaine Weber, '68

Altos Janis Hughes, '68
Barbara Lewis, '66
Arlene Mezanko, '67
Jane Morris, '65
Carol Sutton, '67

Tenors James Eitel, '66
Eugene Kelleher, '66
Edwin Pashinski, '67

Basses John Ferguson, '68
John Hyer, '65
John Liskey, '65
Basil Russin, '68
Robert Sokoloski, '67

* * *

Gordon J. Roberts, accompanist

Harpsichord made by Robert Goble,
Headington, Oxford, England

Recorded in the First Presbyterian Church
of Wilkes-Barre, Jan. 31, 1965