

Choral Treats - Christmas 2020

Here is a double album of choral treats for the holidays. The program here has notes, links, and lyrics to follow. Apologies to my non-Christian friends, but I'm not well versed in the practice and music of other faiths. I also regret not giving you all a YouTube playlist but the à la carte will give you a chance to spend time with the carols individually and clear the ads before you roam around. Links below.

Album I

- Sing We Noel - arr. Greene/Sametz
- O Magnum Mysterium - arr. Lauridsen
- Myn Lyking. - arr. R.R.Terry
- How Shall I Fitly - J.S.Bach (Christmas Oratorio)
- Hear, King of Angels - J.S.Bach (Christmas Oratorio)
- The Lamb - John Taverner
- Sussex Carol - arr. Sir David Willcocks
- A la Nanita Nana - arr. Luboff/Criado
- E Belen Tocan a Fuego - Conrad Susa
- Alleluia fr Brazilian Psalm
- A Merry Christmas - arr. Arthur Warrell

Album II

- Somerset Wassail - traditional
- Nativity Carol - words and music John Rutter
- Ding Dong - arr. Chas. Wood
- Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Sir David Willcocks
- Hymne a La Vierge - Villette translation
- Salve Regina arr. Poulenc
- Unto Us is Born a Son - arr. SDW
- Ave Maria - arr. Biebl text
- Deck the Halls - arr. SDW
- The Christmas Song - Torme
- Jingle Bells - King Singers
- Shepherd's Cradle Song - arr. MacPherson
- Bleak MidW - arr. Harold Darke

Notes and Links

Album I

- Sing We Noel - arr. Greene/Sametz
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoiNrUUkeHk>
- O Magnum Mysterium - arr. M. Lauridsen
Nordic Chamber Choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nn5ken3RJBo>
- Myn Lyking - arr. R.R.Terry
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFy4PGYw5Lk>
- How Shall I Fitly - J.S.Bach (Christmas Oratorio)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiNIq5JPs-Y>
- Hear, King of Angels - J.S.Bach (Christmas Oratorio. Part 3 complete)
Did you ever want to sing tenor? Give it a go. Practice first.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Q4tRim0i9c>
And now, up to speed and in German. Hang on to the end of Part 3 where we get another chance. I sang the duet "Lord, Thy Mercy" in 1985 with my good friend and fine soprano Katherine De Boer.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ITcKeBmfvM>
- The Lamb - John Taverner
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-mSmEfLmZc>
- Sussex Carol - arr. Sir David Willcocks
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cmfCq8iKgY>
King's College Choir

These next two evoke a strong connection I feel with the movie "Carol for Another Christmas." (1964, Mankewicz dir., Serling writer). Scrooge is taken to visit a refuge camp and a pitiable existence that we Americans have been revisiting since 2016. Catch the movie sometime.

- A la Nanita Nana
Traditional, arr. Luboff/Criado
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSleYeLEshU>
- E Belen Tocan a Fuego - Conrad Susa
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gzRR6jOstU>
- Alleluia from Brazilian Psalm
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZ9G83Jqg-E>

- A Merry Christmas - arr. Arthur Warrell
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4OODYhdJP4>

Album II

- Somerset Wassail - traditional
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWgZGsGLNUk>
- Nativity Carol - words and music John Rutter
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tq8mgyBUJgk>
- Ding Dong Merrily on High - arr. Chas. Wood
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-47zCXSynSY>
- Infant Holy, Infant Lowly - arr. Sir David Willcocks
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZSNia4Uipk>
- Hymne a La Vierge - Vilette
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xbn1SJXyWL4>
- Salve Regina arr. Poulenc
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thcLH7jf7FU>
- Unto Us is Born a Son - arr. Willcocks
A slow tempo, but the fourth verse raises the roof.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WL7n3c6GxN0>
- Ave Maria - arr. Biebl text
I could not pick just one of these – Help!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7C-VXZVSTw>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycAtH_b7PnI
- Deck the Halls - arr. Willcocks
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Umfctybz-o>
- The Christmas Song - Torne and Wells
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PL3O_q7VLc
- Jingle Bells - The King's Singers
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4iqxr8RJvM>

We end this collection as we began, contemplating the Great Mystery, the Magnum Mysterium, and these last two carols cause me to reflect on our own responsibilities in carrying a better world beyond Christmas, into 2021, and beyond.

- Shepherd's Cradle Song - arr. MacPherson
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5-mVMOKqhk>

- In the Bleak Midwinter - arr. Harold Darke
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3FwwnLvELw>

Lyrics

Myn Lyking

I saw a fair maiden sitten and sing,
 She lullèd a little child, a sweetè lording:
 Lullay, myn lyking, my dear son, my sweeting,
 Lullay, my dear heart, mine own dear dearling.

That same lord is He that made allè thing,
 Of allè lordis He is Lord, of allè kingis King.
 Lullay...

There was mickle melody at that childës birth,
 All that were in heav'nly bliss, they made mickle mirth.
 Lullaby...

Angels bright sang their song to that child:
 "Blessid be Thou and so be she, so meek and so mild".
 Lullay...Salve Regina arr. Poulenc
 Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
 our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
 To you we cry, the children of Eve;
 to you we send up our sighs,
 mourning and weeping in this land of exile.
 Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
 your eyes of mercy toward us;
 lead us home at the beginning
 and show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus:
 O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Little Lamb Who Made Thee? Taverner

Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? Gave thee life, and bid thee feed, By the stream and o'er the mead; Gave thee clothing of delight, Softest clothing, woolly, bright; Gave thee such a tender voice, Making all the vales rejoice? Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee, Little Lamb, I'll tell thee: He is called by thy name, For he calls himself a Lamb. He is meek, and he is mild, He became a little child; I, a child, and thou a lamb, We are called by his name. Little Lamb, God bless thee! Little Lamb, God bless thee! - William Blake

A la Nanita Nana

Come, let's sing a little lullaby,
come, let's sing a little
My baby girl is sleepy,
blessed be, blessed be
Little spring running
clear and loud
Nightingale that in the forest
Sings and weeps
Hush, while the cradle rocks
Come, let's sing a little lullaby
Come, let's sing a little

E Belen Tocan a Fuego

In Bethlehem they touch fire,
the flames come out of the Portal,
because they say that
the Redeemer of souls has been born .

Salve Regina arr. Poulenc

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To you we cry, the children of Eve;
to you we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this land of exile.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
your eyes of mercy toward us;
lead us home at the beginning
and show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus:
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Shepherd's Cradle Song

O sleep, thou heaven-born treasure, thou
Sleep sound, thou dearest child.
White angel wings shall fan thy brow
With breezes soft and mild.

We shepherds poor are here to sing
A simple lullaby to our King.

Lullaby, lullaby
Sleep, sleep softly, lullaby.

See Mary has with mother's love
A bed for thee outspread.
While Joseph stoops him from above
And watches at thy head.
The lambkins in the stall so nigh
That thou may sleep
Have hushed their cry.

And when thou'rt big and art a man
Full woe's in store for thee;
For cruel men thy death will plan
And hang thee on a tree.
So sleep, my baby, whilst thou may.
'Twill give thee rest against that day.