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KING'S SINGERS CHRISTMAS

 *the colour of song*
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SIGCD502

CHRISTMAS

1	Veni, veni Emmanuel (Trad. arr. Lawson)	[3:05]
2	Angelus ad Virginem (Trad. ed. the KS)	[1:58]
3	This is the truth sent from above (Trad. arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams)	[2:39]
4	Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern (Praetorius)	[1:46]
5	Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen (Praetorius)	[2:44]
6	There is no rose (Anon. ed. Stevens)	[2:25]
7	Coventry Carol (Anon.)	[2:45]
8	Nowell sing we now (Bo Holten ed. the KS)	[3:53]
9	Remember, O thou man (Ravenscroft)	[3:10]
10	In dulci júbilo (Trad. harm. J.S.Bach)	[0:56]
11	Lullay my liking (Philip Lawson)	[4:27]
12	Bogoroditsye Dyevo (Arvo Pärt)	[1:04]
13	The Lamb (John Tavener)	[3:23]
14	Maria durch ein' Dornwald ging (Trad. arr. Lawson)	[3:40]
15	O little one sweet (Trad. harm. J.S.Bach)	[2:12]
16	Bethlehem Down (Peter Warlock)	[3:59]
17	The Crown of Roses (Tchaikovsky arr. Lubbock)	[3:12]
18	To us in Bethlem City (John McCabe)	[2:48]
19	Szczoz to za prediwo (Trad. arr. Barwinski)	[2:23]
20	There is a flower (John Rutter)	[3:54]
21	La Peregrinación (Ramirez arr. Knight)	[3:09]
22	Away in a manger (Melody W.J.Kirkpatrick arr. Lawson)	[2:33]
23	Noël nouvelet (Trad. arr. Lawson)	[2:23]
24	Stille Nacht (Gruber arr. Rutter)	[3:17]
25	Born on a New Day (David arr. Knight/Lawson)	[2:49]
	Total running time:	[70:49]

KING'S SINGERS

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KING'S SINGERS CHRISTMAS

We began the search for music for this recoding by reminiscing on the carol services of our childhood—since it was here we were first exposed to most of these gems. Celebrated carols like *Away in a manger* and *Veni, veni Emmanuel* needed new arrangements to make them suitable for us, but we resolved to preserve their simple beauty in our new interpretations. Other old works are recorded in their original forms: the *Coventry Carol* remains most poignant in its authentic 16th Century version, and the beloved *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* (recognised by many as *A Great and Mighty Wonder*) by Praetorius needs no embellishment. As the list of pieces grew, the question of where and how to record it became easier to answer: we needed natural acoustics with no technical trickery. Having grown accustomed to purpose-built studios and six separate microphones, we felt a renewed connection to our English choral roots as we stood around a stereo pair in the nave of St Michael's, Highgate, ready to begin.

Even though nearly every piece on this disc could be heard in an English church carol service, the variety of musical styles within is immense. Five centuries and seven languages are represented, in works which encompass all the themes of Christmas, from the piety of the Virgin Mary to the joy of that birth on Christmas morning, and the agony of the innocents slaughtered by Herod shortly after.

As a group that spends much of its life on the road, we are fortunate to be able to gather music from many cultures and traditions beyond our own. Several pieces collected on our travels have found their way on to this playlist, including *La Peregrinación* by the Argentinian Ariel Ramirez, and the Polish-Ukrainian song *Szczoz to za prediwo*, which we first heard performed by a choir from Warsaw at a King's Singers workshop. Anyone who has thumbed through the carol books popular with English choirs, or who has listened to the annual broadcast from King's College, Cambridge will know that English is far from the only language of English Christmas music. The French carol *Noël nouvelet* is set to an instantly recognisable French melody, while Gruber and Mohr's *Stille Nacht* is perhaps the most popular Christmas tune in the world.

For several of the leading choral institutions in England, the commissioning of new carols has become a familiar part of Christmas. Consequently the twentieth century saw a number of carols written by the leading composers of the day: Britten, Walton, Howells, Tippett, Maxwell Davies, McCabe and Rutter amongst others. We have chosen pieces by Peter Warlock, John McCabe, John Rutter, Bo Holten and our very own Philip Lawson to represent this living tradition, as well as two works commissioned for the Christmas broadcast

from King's College: *Bogoroditsye Dyevo* by Arvo Pärt, and *The Lamb* by John Tavener.

Finally, we have included two works that stand in categories of their own. *The Crown of Roses*, by Tchaikovsky, has been cleverly transformed by the great jazz arranger Jeremy Lubbock into the

version presented here. And to conclude matters, we present a new version, with Christmas words by Philip Lawson, of the perennial King's Singers favourite *You are the New Day*, sung to the accompaniment of a string quartet.

The King's Singers

KING'S SINGERS CHRISTMAS

Wir begaben uns auf die Suche nach Musik für diese Aufnahme, indem wir zunächst in der Erinnerungskiste an die Weihnachtsgottesdienste unserer Kindheit kramten—denn hier hörten wir die meisten dieser herrlichen Lieder zum ersten Mal. Einige berühmte Weihnachtslieder wie *Away in a manger* und *Veni, veni Emmanuel* wurden für unsere Stimmen neu arrangiert, doch wir haben Wert darauf gelegt, ihre schlichte Schönheit zu wahren. Andere ältere Werke wurden in ihrer ursprünglichen Form aufgenommen: das *Coventry Carol* bleibt nach wie vor in seiner authentischen Version aus dem 16. Jahrhundert am eindruckstärksten, und das beliebte Lied *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* von Praetorius—das viele unter dem Namen *A Great and Mighty Wonder* kennen—bedarf keiner Ausschmückung. Mit der anwachsenden Liste von Gesangsstücken wurde die Antwort auf die Frage, wo und wie die Aufnahme stattfinden sollte, immer einfacher: wir benötigten eine natürliche Akustik ohne technische Finessen. Als wir—die wir an zweckgebaute Studios und

sechs separate Mikrofone gewöhnt sind—dann für die Aufnahme um zwei Stereomikrofone im Schiff der Londoner St. Michael's Kirche, Highgate, herumstanden, fühlten wir uns erneut mit unseren Wurzeln in der englischen Chormusik verbunden.

Obwohl man fast alle Stücke auf dieser CD in Weihnachtsgottesdiensten der englischen Kirche hören könnte, ist die Vielfalt der hier vertretenen Musikstile enorm. Die Werke umspannen fünf Jahrhunderte, sieben Sprachen und alle Themen der Weihnachtsgeschichte, von der Frömmigkeit der Jungfrau Maria bis zu dem Jubel über Christi Geburt am Weihnachtsmorgen und dem Schmerz über den Kindermord des Herodes kurz danach.

Da wir als Gruppe meistens auf Tournee sind, befinden wir uns in der glücklichen Lage, Musik aus verschiedensten anderen Kulturen und Traditionen zusammentragen zu können. Mehrere der auf unseren Reisen gesammelten Stücke sind in dieser Auswahl enthalten, darunter *La*

Peregrinación von dem Argentinier Ariel Ramirez und das polnisch-ukrainische Lied *Szczo to za prediwo*, das uns das erste Mal von einem Chor aus Warschau bei einem Workshop der King's Singers vorgetragen wurde. Jeder, der jemals die beliebtesten Gesangsbücher englischer Chöre durchblättert oder die jährliche Rundfunksendung des King's College in Cambridge gehört hat, weiß, dass Englisch bei weitem nicht die einzige Sprache der englischen Weihnachtsmusik ist. Das französische Weihnachtslied *Noël nouvelet* hat eine unverkennbar französische Melodie, und Gruber und Mohrs *Stille Nacht* ist wahrscheinlich die populärste Weihnachtsmelodie der Welt.

Bei mehreren führenden Chorinstitutionen in England gehört es zur Tradition, neue Lieder für die Weihnachtszeit in Auftrag zu geben. Folglich wurden im 20. Jahrhundert zahlreiche solcher Lieder von namhaften Künstlern verfasst, darunter Britten, Walton, Howells, Tippett, Maxwell Davies,

McCabe und Rutter. Wir haben Stücke von Peter Warlock, John McCabe, John Rutter, Bo Holten und unserem eigenen Kollegen Philip Lawson ausgewählt, um einen Einblick in diese lebende Tradition zu bieten, sowie zwei Werke, die für die Weihnachtssendung vom King's College in Auftrag gegeben wurden: *Bogoroditsye Dyevo* von Arvo Pärt und *The Lamb* von John Tavener.

Schließlich haben wir zwei weitere Werke in unsere Auswahl aufgenommen, die beide in ihrer Art einmalig sind. *The Crown of Roses* von Tchaikowski wurde von dem großen Jazzarrangeur Jeremy Lubbock raffiniert zu der hier dargebotenen Version umgeschrieben. Und abschließend stellen wir eine neue Version des 'Lieblingsschlagers' der King's Singers *You are the New Day* vor, mit einem weihnachtlichen Text von Philip Lawson, gesungen unter Begleitung eines Streichquartetts.

The King's Singers

KING'S SINGERS CHRISTMAS

Nous avons commencé à chercher la musique de cet enregistrement par des évocations des messes de Noël de notre enfance, car c'est là que nous avons découvert la plupart de ces gemmes. Pour pouvoir les utiliser, il nous a fallu adapter les chants de Noël célèbres comme *Away in a manger* et *Veni, veni Emmanuel*, mais nous avons décidé de préserver leur simple beauté dans notre nouvelle

interprétation. D'autres oeuvres anciennes sont enregistrées dans leur forme originale : le *Coventry Carol* n'est jamais plus poignant que dans sa version authentique du XVIème siècle et le chant tant aimé *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* (que beaucoup reconnaissent comme l'inspiration de *A Great and Mighty Wonder*), de Praetorius, ne requiert aucun ornement. Au fur et à mesure que

la liste s'allongeait, il est devenu plus facile de décider où et comment procéder à l'enregistrement. Il était clair qu'il nous fallait une acoustique naturelle sans aucun artifice technique. Habitué comme nous le sommes devenus aux studios spécialisés et à six micros séparés, se retrouver groupés autour d'une paire de micros stéréo dans la nef de St Michael à Highgate, prêts à commencer, nous a ramené aux sources de notre tradition chorale anglaise.

Bien que la quasi-totalité des œuvres de ce disque puisse faire partie du répertoire ordinaire des messes de Noël de l'église anglicane, la variété des styles musicaux est immense. Cinq siècles et sept langues sont représentés dans des œuvres qui traitent de tous les aspects de Noël, de la piété envers la Vierge Marie à la joie de la nativité le matin de Noël et à l'agonie des innocents massacrés par Hérode peu de temps après.

En tant que groupe passant le plus clair de sa vie sur les routes, nous avons la chance de pouvoir faire appel à des œuvres venues d'un grand nombre de cultures et de traditions au-delà de la nôtre. Plusieurs œuvres recueillies au cours de nos pérégrinations ont été incluses dans cette liste, y compris *La Peregrinación* de l'Argentin Ariel Ramirez et le chant polonais-ukrainien *Szczo to za prediwo*, que nous avons entendu pour la première fois interprété par un chœur de Varsovie au cours d'un atelier de chant donné par les King's Singers. Quiconque a feuilleté des livres de chansons de Noël contenant les œuvres favorites des chorales anglaises ou a écouté le programme radiophonique annuel de King's College, Cambridge, sait fort bien

que l'anglais est loin d'être la seule langue de musique chorale de Noël. Le chant de Noël français *Noël nouvelet* est écrit sur une mélodie que tout le monde reconnaît instantanément et *Stille Nacht* de Gruber et Mohr est peut-être le chant de Noël le plus populaire au monde.

Pour un grand nombre des principales institutions chorales d'Angleterre, la commande de chants originaux est devenue une tradition de Noël. C'est la raison pour laquelle au XX^{ème} siècle, un certain nombre de chants de Noël ont été écrits par les plus grands compositeurs de l'époque, Britten, Walton, Howells, Tippett, Maxwell Davies, McCabe et Rutter entre autres. Nous avons choisi des œuvres de Peter Warlock, John McCabe, John Rutter, Bo Holten et de notre compositeur attitré, Philip Lawson, pour représenter cette tradition bien vivante, ainsi que deux œuvres commandées pour le programme de chants de Noël diffusé par King's College : *Bogoroditsye Dyevo* de Arvo Pärt et *The Lamb* de John Tavener.

Finalement, nous avons inclus deux œuvres qui appartiennent à des catégories à part. *The Crown of Roses* de Tchaïkovski, a été astucieusement transformé par le grand arrangeur de jazz, Jeremy Lubbock, auteur de la version que nous présentons ici. Et en guise de conclusion, nous offrons une nouvelle version, avec des paroles de Noël de Philip Lawson et l'accompagnement d'un quatuor à cordes, de l'éternelle chanson favorite des King's Singers *You are the New Day*.

The King's Singers

Veni, veni Emmanuel

Veni, veni Emmanuel
Captivum solve Israel,
Qui gemit in exilio
Privatus Dei filio.
Chorus: Gaude! Gaude!
Emmanuel nascetur pro te Israel.

Veni, o Jesse virgula
Ex hostis tuos ungula,
Despectum tuos tartari
Deduc et antro barathri.
Chorus

Veni, veni o Oriens
Solare nos adveniens;
Noctis depelle nebulas
Dirasque noctis tenebras.
Chorus

Veni, clavis Davidica
Regna reclude caelica;
Faciter tutum superum
Et claude vias inferum.
Chorus

Angelus ad Virginem

Angelus ad Virginem subintrans in conclave.
Virginis formidinem demulcens, inquit 'Ave!
'Ave regina virginum, caeli terraeque Dominum
Concipies, et paries intacta, salutem hominum,
Tu porta caeli facta, medela criminum.'

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
Redeem thy captive Israel,
That into exile drear is gone,
Far from the face of God's dear son.
Chorus: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou branch of Jesse, draw
The quarry from the lion's claw,
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.
Chorus

O come, O come, thou dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.
Chorus

O come, thou Lord of David's key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heav'nward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.
Chorus

The angel came secretly to the virgin's chamber
And, soothing her fear, he said, 'Hail!
'Hail, Queen of women; you, untouched by man,
Will conceive and bear the Lord of heaven and earth,
The salvation of mankind.
You have been made the gate of heaven, the
redemption of sin.'

Quomodo conciperem, quae virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringerem quod firma mente vovi?
'Spiritus sancti gratia, perficiet haec omnia;
Ne timeas, sed gaudeas secura quod castimonia
Manebit in te pura Dei potentia.'

'How may I conceive, since I have not known a
man?
How may I break the promise which I made with
firm intent?'
'The grace of the Holy Spirit will bring about all
these things.
Fear not, but rejoice in the knowledge that your
virtue will remain pure,
Through the power of God'.

This is the truth sent from above

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love;
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate,
Is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I'll tell,
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run:
That he would redeem us by his Son.

And at this season of the year
Our blest Redeemer did appear,
And here did live, and here did preach,
And many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern
Voll Gnad und Wahrheit von dem Herrn,
Die süße Wurzel Jesse.

Du Sohn Davids aus Jakobs Stamm,
Mein König und mein Bräutigam,
Hast mir mein Herz besessen.

Lieulich, freundlich, schön und herrlich,
Groß und ehrlich, reich an Gaben,
Hoch und sehr prächtig erhaben.

How brightly beams the morning star
With truth and blessing from the Lord,
The sweet root of Jesse!

Thou, David's son of Jacob's stem,
My king and my bridegroom,
Hast bewitched my heart.

Lovely, kindly, bright and glorious,
Great and righteous, rich in blessings,
High and most richly exalted.

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen aus einer Wurzel zart,
Als uns die Alten sungen: von Jesse kam die Art.
Und hat ein Blümlein bracht mitten im kalten
Winter
Wohl zu der halben Nacht.

Das Röslein, das ich meine, davon Jesajas sagt,
Hat uns gebracht alleine Marie, die reine Magd.
Aus Gottes ew'gem Rat hat sie ein Kind geboren,
Welches uns selig macht.

O Jesu, bis zum Scheiden aus diesem Jammertal
Laß Dein Hilf uns geleiten hin in den Freudensaal,
In Deines Vaters Reich, da wir Dich ewig loben.
O Gott, uns das verleihe.

A spotless rose is growing, sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foretelling, of Jesse promised fruit.
Its fairest bud unfolds to light amid the cold, cold
winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The rose which I am singing, whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing in Mary, purest maid;
Th rough God's great love and might the blessed babe
she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

O Saviour, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
Saviour, king of glory, who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length, we pray,
To the bright courts of heaven and to the endless day.

There is no Rose

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu.
Alleluia.
For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space.
Res miranda.
By that rose we may well see
That He is God in persons three.
Pares forma.

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gaudeamus.
Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth.
Transeamus.
Alleluia, res miranda,
Pares forma, gaudeamus,
transeamus.

Coventry Carol

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By, by, lully 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 do sing,
By, by, lully lullay?

Herod, the king,
In his raging,
Chargèd he hath this day
His men of might,
In his own sight,
All young children to slay.

That woe is me,
Poor child for thee!
And ever morn and day,
For thy parting
Neither say nor sing
By by, lully lullay!

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By, by, lully lullay.
Thou little tiny child,
By, by, lully lullay.

Nowell sing we now

In Bethlehem, in that fair city,
A child was born of a maiden free,
That shall a Lord and Prince be
Alleluia.

A solis ortus cardine
Jam lucis orto sidere
Hic jacet in praesepio
Qui regnat sine termino.

O Lord and prince of high degree,
Alleluia, Alleluia.

And children were slain full great plenty,
Hostes Herodes impie,

O Jesu for the love of Thee,
Wherefore here soulès savèd be.

Herod, the king, in his raging,
Chargèd he hath this day
His men of might, in his own sight,
All young children to slay.

Nowell sing we now all and some,
For *Rex Pacificus* is come,
O lux beata trinitas.
Alleluia.

(texts used simultaneously)

Remember, O thou man

Remember, O thou man,
O thou man, O thou man!
Remember, O thou man,
Thy time is spent.
Remember, O thou man,
How thou art dead and gone,
And I did what I can:
Therefore repent!

Remember Adam's fall,
O thou man, O thou man!
Remember Adam's fall
From heaven to hell!
Remember Adam's fall,
How we we re condemnèd all,
In hell perpetual, there for to dwell.

Remember God's goodness,
O thou man, O thou man!

Remember God's goodness,
And his promise made!
Remember God's goodness;
How he sent his Son, doubtless,
Our sins for to redress:
Be not afraid!

In Bethlehem he was born ,
O thou man, O thou man!
In Bethlehem he was born ,
For mankind dear;
In Bethlehem he was born ,
For us that we re forlorn,
And there fore took no scorn
Our sins to bear.

In dulci jubilo

In dulci jubilo, nun singet und seid froh!
Unsers Herzen Wonne leit *in praeseptio*,
Und leuchtet als die Sonne *matris in gremio*.
Alpha es et O!

In dulci jubilo, let us our homage show!
Our heart's joy reclineth *in praeseptio*,
And like a bright star shineth *matris in gremio*.
Alpha es et O!

Lullay my liking

Refrain:
Lullay my liking,
My dear son, my sweeting;
Lullay my dear heart,
My own dear darling.

I saw a fair maiden
Syttén and sing:
She lullèd a little child,
A sweete lording.
Refrain

That eternal Lord is he
That made allè thing;
Of allè Lordes he is Lord,
Of allè Kingès King.

Refrain

There was mickle melody
At that childès birth:
Although they were in heaven's bliss
They made mickle mirth.

Angels bright they sang that night
And saiden to that child:
'Blessed be Thou and so be she
That is so meek and mild.'

Refrain

Pray we now to that child,
As to his mother dear,
God grant them all his blessing
That now maken cheer.

Refrain

Bogoroditsye Dyevo

Богородице Дево, радуйся,
Благодатная Марие,
Господь с тобою.
Благословенна Ты в Женах
благословен плод чрева
Твоего,
яко Спаса родила еси душ
наших.

Virgin Mother of God,
Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
Blessed are you among women,
And blessed is the fruit of your womb,
For you gave birth to the saviour of our souls.

The Lamb

Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life & bid thee feed,
By the stream & 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 & 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!

Maria durch ein' Dornwald ging

Maria durch ein' Dornwald ging,
Kyrie eleison!
Maria durch ein' Dornwald ging,
Der hatte in sieb'n Jahr'n kein Laub getrag'n.
Jesus und Maria.

Mary walks amid the thorns,
Kyrie eleison!
Mary walks amid the thorns
Which seven years no leaf have borne.
Jesus and Mary.

Was trug Maria unter ihrem Herzen?
Kyrie eleison!
Ein kleines Kindlein ohne Schmerzen,

What 'neath her heart doth Mary bear?
Kyrie eleison!
A little child doth Mary bear,

Das trug Maria unter ihrem Herzen.
Jesus und Maria.

Da haben die Dornen Rosen getragen.
Kyrie eleison!
Als das Kindlein durch den Wald getragen,
Da haben die Dornen Rosen getragen.
Jesus und Maria.

Wer soll dem Kind sein Täufer sein?
Kyrie eleison!
Das soll der Sankt Johannes sein,
Der soll dem Kind sein Täufer sein.
Jesus und Maria.

Wie soll dem Kind sein Name sein?
Kyrie eleison!
Der Name der soll Christus sein
Das war von Anfang der Name sein.
Jesus und Maria.

Wer hat erlöst die Welt allein?
Kyrie eleison!
Das hat getan das Christkindlein,
Das hat erlöst die Welt allein.
Jesus und Maria.

O little one sweet

O little one sweet, O little one mild,
Thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled;
Thou cam'st from heav'n to mortal ken,
Equal to be with us poor men.
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

Beneath her heart he nestles there.
Jesus and Mary.

Lo! Roses on the thorns appear,
Kyrie eleison!
And as the two are passing near,
Roses on the thorns appear.
Jesus and Mary.

Who should baptise the child?
Kyrie eleison!
That should indeed Saint John be,
Who should baptise the child.
Jesus and Maria.

What should the child be named?
Kyrie eleison!
His name should be Christ,
As his name has been from the beginning.
Jesus and Mary.

Who alone has redeemed the world?
Kyrie eleison!
That indeed is the Christchild,
Who has alone the world redeemed.
Jesus and Mary.

O little one sweet, O little one mild,
With joy thou hast the whole world filled;
Thou camest here from heav'n's domain,
To bring men comfort in their pain,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

Bethlehem Down

'When he is King we will give him the Kings' gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes', said the young girl to Joseph,
Fair with her firstborn on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight,
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When he is King, they will clothe him in
gravesheets,
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary,
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here he has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music,
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

The Crown of Roses

When Jesus Christ was yet a child,
He had a garden small and wild,
Wherein he cherished roses fair,
And wove them into garlands there.

Now once as summertime drew nigh,
There came a troop of children by,
And seeing roses on the tree
With shouts they plucked them merrily.

'Do you bind roses in your hair?'
They cried in scorn to Jesus there.
The boy said humbly 'Take I pray
All but the naked thorns away.'

Then of the thorns they made a crown,
And with rough fingers pressed it down
Till on his forehead fair and young
Red drops of blood like roses sprung.

To us in Bethlem City

To us in Bethlem City
Was born a little son;
In him all gentle graces
Were gathered into one.
Eia! Eia!
Were gathered into one.

And all our love and fortune
Lie in his mighty hands;
Our sorrows, joys, and failures,
He sees and understands.
Eia! Eia!
He sees and understands.

O Shepherd, ever near us,
We'll go where thou dost lead;
No matter where the pasture
With thee at hand to feed.
Eia! Eia!
With thee at hand to feed.

No grief shall part us from thee,
However sharp the edge:
We'll serve and do thy bidding,
O take our hearts in pledge!
Eia! Eia!
Take thou our hearts in pledge!

Szczo to za prediwo

Szczo to za prediwo, w switi nowyna
Szczo Maryja Diwa Syna rodila
A jak wona porodyla,
Todi wona powidala:
Susie! synu mij.

What a surprise, such news in the world,
That Mary the virgin gave birth to a son.
And when she gave birth,
she was filled with joy:
Jesus! My own dear son.

Josif staruszk w łolobi stoit'
Susowi Chrystowi peleny stroit'
A Maryja pelenaje,
do serdethka pryhortaje
Preczysta Diwa.

Joseph, the old man, stays close by her side,
Making a bed for Jesus, the Christchild.
Mary is swaddling him,
and holding him close,
Holy Virgin, Mother mild.

There is a flower

There is a flow'r sprung of a tree,
The root thereof is called Jesse,
A flower of price;
There is none such in paradise.

This flower is fair and fresh of hue,
It fadeth never, but ever is new;
The blessed branch this flow'r on grew
Was Mary mild that bare Jesu;
A flower of grace;
Against all sorrow it is solace.

The seed hereof was Goddes sand,
That God himself sowed with his hand,
In Nazareth, that holy land,
Amidst her arbour a maiden found
This blessed flow'r
Sprang never but in Mary's bower.

When that fair flow'r began to spread
And his sweet blossom began to bed,
Then rich and poor of ev'ry land
They marvelled how this flower might spread,
Till kinges three
That blessed flower came to see.

Alleluia

Angels there came from heaven's tower
To look upon this freshele flow'r,
How fair he was in his colour
And how sweet in his savour,
And to behold
How such a flow'r might spring in gold.
There is a flow'r sprung of a tree,
The root thereof is callèd Jesse,
A flower of price;
There is none such in paradise.

[sand = gift, bed = bud]

La Peregrinación

A la huella, a la huella, José y Maria,
For las pampas heladas, cardos y hortigas.
A la huella, a la huella, cortando campo,
No hay cobijo ni fondas, sigan andando.

Follow on, follow on, Joseph and Mary
Through thistles, nettles, long grass.
Follow on, follow on, across the land
Neither shelter nor inn is found, keep moving.

Florecita del campo, flores del aire,
Si ninguno te aloja, adonde naces?
Donde naces florecita que estas creciendo,
Palomita asustada, grillo sin sueño.
*A la huella, a la huella, José y Maria,
Con un Dios escondido ... nadie sabia!*

A la huella, a la huella, los peregrinos.
Presterme una tapera, para mi niño.
A la huella, a la huella, soles y lunas,
Dos ojitos de almendra, piel de aceituna.

Ay, burrito del campo! Ay, buey barcinol
Que mi niño ya viene, haganle sitio
Un ranchito de quinchá solo me ampara
Dos alientos amigos, la luna clara.
*A la huella, a la huella, José y Maria,
Con un Dios escondido ... nadie sabia!*

Away in a manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed;
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where
he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Little flower of the field, blossom in the wind,
If no one will house you, where will you be born?
Where will you be born, little bud that is
Growing, frightened little dove, sleepless cricket?
Follow on, follow on, Mary and Joseph,
With the hidden God ... and nobody knew!

Follow on, follow on, and travel you pilgrims
Loan me a cabin for my baby boy.
Follow on, follow on, like suns and moons,
Almond-shaped eyes and dark olive skin.

O little country donkey! O ruddy ox!
My child is coming, make room, make room.
Just a stable of rushes and mud protects me,
two friendly breaths and the clear cold moon.
Follow on, follow on, Mary and Joseph,
with the hidden God ... and nobody knew!

Noël nouvelet

Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici;
Dévotes gens, crions à Dieu merci.
Chantons Noël pour le roi nouvelet,
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

D'un oiselet après le chant ouïs
Qui aux pasteurs disait: 'Partez ici;
En Bethléem trouverez l'agnelet.'
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

En Bethléem Marie et Joseph vis
L'âne et le boeuf, l'enfant couché parmi;
La crèche était au lieu d'un bercelet.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

L'étoile y vis qui la nuit éclaircit.
Qui d'Orient dont elle était sortie
En Bethléem les trois rois conduissant,
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

L'un porte l'or, l'autre le myrrhe aussi,
L'autre l'encens qui faisait bon sentir.
Du Paradis semblait le jardinier
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

Stille Nacht

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar,
Holder Knab' im lockigen Haar.
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh',
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh'.

Noël nouvelet, sing we a new Noël;
Thank we now our God, and of his goodness tell;
Sing we Noël to greet the newborn King;
Noël nouvelet, a new Noël we sing!

Then a tiny bird ceased joyous song to say
Unto certain shepherds: 'Haste you now away!
In Bethlehem the newborn Lamb you'll see.'
Noël nouvelet, a new Noël sing we!

Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem they found,
Where the infant lay, with ox and ass around,
And for a crib, their manger full of hay.
This new Noël sing we: Noël nouvelet!

The star I saw that turned darkness to light,
Which from orient skies, where it rose one night,
To Bethlehem guided those wise men three.
Noel nouvelet, a new Noel sing we.

One carries myrrh, another gold bears,
The third offers incense, which perfumed the air.
Like a heavenly garden the place seemed to be.
Noel nouvelet, a new Noel sing we.

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright.
'Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild;
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht.
Hirten erst kundgemacht
Durch der Engel Hallelujah,
Tönt es laut von Fern und Nah:
Christ der Retter ist da,
Christ der Retter ist da.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund',
Christ in deiner Geburt,
Christ in deiner Geburt.

Born on a new day

You are the new day.
Meekness, love, humility
Come down to us this day:
Christ your birth has proved to me
You are the new day.

Quiet in a stall you lie,
Angels watching in the sky
Whisper to you from on high
'You are the new day'.

When our life is darkest night
Hope has burned away,
Love, your ray of guiding light,
Show us the new day.

Love of all things great and small
Leaving none, embracing all,
Fold around me where I fall,
Bring in the new day.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born.
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

This new day will be
A turning point for everyone.
If we let the Christ-child in, and
Reach for the new day.

Christ the Way, the Truth, the Life;
Healing sadness, ending strife;
You we welcome, Lord of life,
Born on a new day.
You are the new day.

THE KING'S SINGERS

Counter tenors: David Hurley and Robin Tyson
Tenor: Paul Phoenix
Baritones: Philip Lawson and Gabriel Crouch
Bass: Stephen Connolly

Drum (track 2): Gary Lovenest
String quartet (track 25): Sally Jackson - violin,
Claire Ashby - violin, Joel Hunter - viola, Chris
Worsey - cello.

For thirty-five years The King's Singers have been delighting audiences around the world with charm, wit, and incomparable musicianship. From medieval to renaissance, romantic to contemporary, folk and pop, their repertoire is all-encompassing. As well as performing in many of the world's major concert halls the list of venues at which they have appeared is equally diverse, including many European cathedrals, the Hollywood Bowl, Shea Stadium (home of the New York Mets), and Windsor Castle (a private concert for the Royal Family). They have joined forces with many famous orchestras, including the LSO, the



BBC Concert Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and recently the Cincinnati Pops, with whom they have released a Beatles album on the Telarc label featuring arrangements by the Beatles' original producer, George Martin. In addition there have been collaborations with many solo musicians, most notably Kiri te Kanawa, George Shearing, Evelyn Glennie, Emanuel Ax, Dudley Moore and even Bruce Johnston of The Beach Boys. These have often resulted in recordings to add to the group's large discography of over 70 albums.

Started in 1968 by six Choral Scholars from King's College, Cambridge, The King's Singers quickly became a prominent musical force in the UK. The rest of the world soon followed so that today

the group's engagements are spread throughout the four corners of the globe. Since their debut concert The King's Singers have commissioned works from many well-known composers including Krystof Penderecki, Luciano Berio, Peter Maxwell Davies, Ned Rorem and Gyorgy Ligeti. This branch of their repertoire now comprises well over 200 pieces.

Renowned for their commitment to blend, balance and intonation in their own performances, they are keen to pass on their knowledge through

Seit fünfunddreißig Jahren bezaubern die King's Singers Zuhörer in der ganzen Welt durch ihren Charme, ihren Witz und ihr unvergleichliches musikalisches Können. Ob Mittelalter oder Renaissance, Romantik oder zeitgenössische Musik, Folk oder Pop—ihr Repertoire ist unerschöpflich. Ebenso breit gefächert sind ihre Auftrittsorte. Sie haben nicht nur in vielen der größten Konzerthallen der Welt gesungen, sondern auch in zahlreichen Kathedralen Europas, dem Hollywood Bowl, dem Shea Stadium (Heimat der New York Mets) und in Windsor Castle (anlässlich eines Privatkonzerts für die königliche Familie). Sie sind mit zahlreichen berühmten Orchestern aufgetreten, wie dem London Symphony Orchestra, dem BBC Concert Orchestra, dem Chicago Symphony Orchestra und vor kurzem den Cincinnati Pops, mit denen sie ein Beatles-Album auf dem Telarc-Label herausgebracht haben, das Arrangements des ehemaligen Beatles-Produzenten George Martin vorstellt. Ferner haben sie mit zahlreichen Solointerpreten zusammengearbeitet, darunter Kiri te Kanawa, George Shearing, Evelyn Glennie, Emanuel Ax, Dudley Moore und sogar Bruce

Johnston von den Beach Boys. Daraus sind häufig Aufnahmen entstanden, und die Diskographie der Gruppe umfasst heute über 70 Alben.

Die King's Singers, die 1968 von sechs Chorstudenten des King's College, Cambridge, gegründet wurden, erwarben sich schnell einen bedeutenden Ruf in der britischen Musikszene. Es dauerte nicht lange, bis sich der Rest der Welt dieser Begeisterung anschloss, und heute verteilen sich die Engagements der Gruppe über den ganzen Erdball. Die King's Singers haben Werke bei zahlreichen Komponisten in Auftrag gegeben, wie Krystof Penderecki, Luciano Berio, Peter Maxwell Davies, Ned Rorem und Gyorgy Ligeti. Dieser Teil ihres Repertoires umfasst nun über 200 Stücke.

Die King's Singers sind bekannt für die sorgfältige Mischung, Ausgewogenheit und Intonation ihrer musikalischen Darbietungen und legen großen Wert darauf, ihre Kenntnisse durch Bildungsarbeit weiterzuvermitteln. Sie bieten regelmäßig Masterclass-Kurse beim Schleswig-Holstein Musikfestival an und sind seit 1996 das 'Prince

Consort Ensemble-in-Residence' am Royal College of Music in London. Es ist jedoch vor allem ihre unverhohlene Freude an dem, was sie tun, durch die die King's Singers die Herzen ihres weltweiten Publikums erobert und ihre Spitzenposition in der

Pendant trente-cinq ans, les King's Singers ont enchanté leur public partout dans le monde par leur charme, leur esprit et leur art musical incomparable. Du Moyen Age à la Renaissance, de l'Époque romantique à l'Époque contemporaine, de la musique pop à la musique populaire traditionnelle, leur répertoire englobe tous les genres. Leurs tournées les ont amenés non seulement dans la plupart des grandes salles de concert mondiales, mais aussi dans un grand nombre de cathédrales européennes, à Hollywood Bowl, Shea Stadium (résidence du New York Mets) et à Windsor Castle (en concert privé pour la famille royale). Ils ont collaboré avec un grand nombre d'orchestres renommés, y compris le LSO, le BBC Concert Orchestra, le Chicago Symphony Orchestra et récemment le Cincinnati Pops, avec lequel ils ont enregistré un album de chansons des Beatles sous le label Telarc contenant des adaptations par le producteur original des Beatles, George Martin. Ils ont également collaboré avec un grand nombre de solistes, notamment Kiri te Kanawa, George Shearing, Evelyn Glennie, Emanuel Ax, Dudley Moore et même Bruce Johnston des Beach Boys. Ces collaborations diverses ont souvent conduit à des enregistrements qui se sont ajoutés à la vaste discographie du groupe, riche aujourd'hui de plus de 70 albums.

Musikwelt über dreieinhalb Jahrzehnte gehalten haben. Wie *die Times* (London) so treffend bemerkt hat, sind sie 'nach wie vor musikalisch und unterhaltungsmäßig nicht zu übertreffen'.

Créé en 1968 par six Choral Scholars de King's College, Cambridge, les King's Singers sont rapidement devenus une force de premier plan dans la vie musicale du Royaume-Uni. Le reste du monde n'a pas tardé à suivre et aujourd'hui les tournées du groupe les amènent aux quatre coins du globe. Depuis leur premier concert, les King's Singers ont pour tradition de commander des œuvres originales à un grand nombre de compositeurs de renom tels que Krystof Penderecki, Luciano Berio, Peter Maxwell Davies, Ned Korem et Gyorgy Ligeti. Cette partie de leur répertoire compte maintenant plus de 200 œuvres.

Renommés pour la diversité, l'équilibre et la qualité de leurs performances, les King's Singers désirent ardemment transmettre leurs connaissances artistiques par des initiatives pédagogiques. Ils donnent régulièrement des classes de maître au festival de musique de Schleswig-Holstein et en 1996, ils ont été nommés Prince Consort Ensemble-in-Residence au Collège Royal de musique de Londres. Mais c'est avant tout la joie sincère et simple avec laquelle ils abordent toutes leurs interprétations qui a capturé l'imagination du public et a permis aux King's Singers de se maintenir au premier rang de leur spécialité pendant trente-cinq ans. Comme un critique l'a écrit dans *The Times* (Londres), ils sont 'toujours sans égal par leur musicalité et leur capacité fondamentale à enchanter et à divertir'.

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For more information on The King's Singers please visit www.kingsingers.com

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