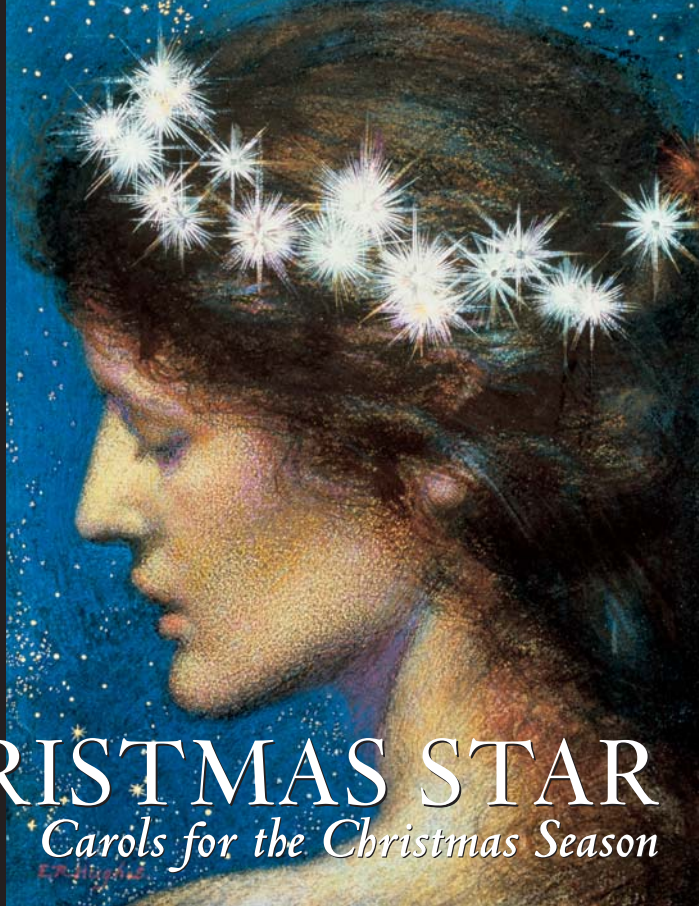


*Collegium*  
RECORDS

*The  
Cambridge  
Singers  
and  
Orchestra*

*directed  
by  
John Rutter*

**CHRISTMAS STAR**  
*Carols for the Christmas Season*





---

# CHRISTMAS STAR

*Carols for the Christmas season*



The Cambridge Singers and Orchestra  
directed by John Rutter

---

# CHRISTMAS STAR

*Carols for the Christmas season*

The Cambridge Singers and Orchestra

directed by John Rutter

Total playing time: 61' 45"

Note: Words credits are given at the end of each text.

- 1 **\*Good Christian men, rejoice** (1' 50")  
*German traditional melody*  
*arranged by John Rutter*
- 2 **\*I wonder as I wander** (2' 54")  
*Appalachian carol, coll. J. J. Niles*  
*arranged by John Rutter*
- 3 **All my heart this night rejoices** (2' 10")  
*J. G. Ebeling (1637–76)*
- 4 **\*Silent night** (3' 02")  
*Franz Gruber (1787–1863)*  
*arranged by John Rutter*
- 5 **Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming** (2' 08")  
*Old German carol*  
*harmonized by M. Praetorius (1571–1621)*
- 6 **Ding dong! merrily on high** (1' 55")  
*16th-century French melody*  
*harmonized by Charles Wood (1866–1926)*

- 7 **\*Three kings of Orient** (4' 58")  
*J. H. Hopkins (1820–91)*  
*arranged by John Rutter*
- 8 **\*How great our joy** (2' 05")  
*German traditional carol*  
*arranged by John Rutter*
- 9 **\*Angels we have heard on high** (2' 18")  
*French traditional carol*  
*arranged by John Rutter*
- 10 **†Joy to the world** (2' 48")  
*Lowell Mason (1792–1872)*  
*arranged by John Rutter*
- 11 **†Away in a manger** (2' 46")  
*J. R. Murray (1841–1905)*  
*arranged by John Rutter*
- 12 **\*Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle** (2' 28")  
*French traditional carol*  
*arranged by John Rutter*
- 13 **\*God rest you merry, gentlemen** (3' 00")  
*English traditional carol*  
*arranged by John Rutter*
- 14 **\*What child is this?** (2' 50")  
*English traditional melody*  
*arranged by John Rutter*
- 15 **\*'Twas in the moon of winter time** (1' 53")  
*French-Canadian carol*  
*arranged by John Rutter*
- 16 **\*\*O little one sweet** (2' 42")  
*Old German melody*  
*harmonized by J. S. Bach (1685–1750)*

17 **\*Go, tell it on the mountain** (3' 12")

*American folk-song*

*arranged by John Rutter*

18 **\*Away in a manger** (2' 18")

*W. J. Kirkpatrick (1838–1921)*

*arranged by John Rutter*

19 **\*Rise up shepherd, and follow** (2' 52")

*American spiritual*

*arranged by John Rutter*

20 ††**The Christmas Song** (3' 56")

*Mel Tormé and Robert Wells*

*arranged by John Rutter*

21 **\*We wish you a merry Christmas** (1' 48")

*English traditional carol*

*arranged by John Rutter*

22 †**O come, all ye faithful** (3' 58")

*J. F. Wade (c. 1710–1786)*

*arranged by John Rutter*

\*published by Hinshaw Music, Inc. (in USA), Oxford University Press (in all other countries)

\*\*Words copyright Oxford University Press †published by Hinshaw Music, Inc. ††copyright Mesquite Music Corp., Burke & Van Heusen Inc., USA, Warner/Chappell Music Ltd., London.

## The Cambridge Singers

**Sopranos:** Caroline Ashton, Jocelyn Buxton, Mary Hitch, Ruth Holton, Simone Mace, Jo Maggs, Mary Mure, Nancy-Jane Rucker, Mary Seers

**Altos:** Julia Bishop, Sharon Cooper, David Cordier, Diana Hawker, Nicola-Jane Kemp, Sara Tunnicliffe, Karen Williams

**Tenors:** Harvey Brough, Stewart Collins, David Dunnett, John Snelling, Jeremy Taylor, David Watson

**Basses:** David Cervi, Richard Craddock, Nicholas Jones, Charles Pott, Russell Watson, Philip Weller

1 **Good Christian men, rejoice**

Good Christian men, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
And he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
And man is bless'd for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!

*(Words by J. M. Neale)*

2 **I wonder as I wander**

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
How Jesus, the Saviour, did come for to die  
For poor or'nery poeple like you and like I:  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

---

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,  
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.  
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,  
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing:  
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing;  
Or all of God's angels in heaven to sing,  
He surely could have had it, 'cause he was the King!

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
How Jesus, the Saviour, did come for to die.  
For poor or'nery people like you and like I:  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

*(Words: Appalachian, collected by J. J. Niles)*

### 3 All my heart this night rejoices

All my heart his night rejoices  
As I hear, far and near,  
Sweetest angel voices:  
'Christ is born!' their choirs are singing,  
Till the air ev'rywhere  
Now with joy is ringing.

Hark! a voice from yonder manger,  
Soft and sweet, doth entreat,  
'Flee from woe and danger!  
Brethren, come! from all doth grieve you,  
You are freed; all you need  
I will surely give you.'

---

Come, then, let us hasten yonder!  
Here let all, great and small,  
Kneel in awe and wonder!  
Love him who with love is yearning!  
Hail the star that from far  
Bright with hope is burning!

Thee, dear Lord, with heed I'll cherish,  
Live to thee, and with thee,  
Dying, shall not perish;  
But shall dwell with thee for ever,  
Far on high, in the joy  
That can alter never.

*(Words translated from the German of P. Gerhardt by C. Winkworth)*

### 4 Silent night

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.

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.

*(Words by Josef Mohr, translator unknown)*

### 5 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As men of old have sung.  
It came, a flow'ret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The Rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it,  
The Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to men a Saviour,  
When half spent was the night.

*(Words 16th-cent. German, translated by T. Baker)*

### 6 Ding dong! merrily on high

Ding dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing:  
Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing.  
*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

---

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,  
And *i-o, i-o, i-o*, by priest and people sungen.

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.

*(Words by G. R. Woodward)*

### 7 Three kings of Orient

We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
Gold I bring to crown him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign:

Frankincense to offer have I,  
Incense owns a Deity nigh,  
Prayer and praising, all men raising,  
Worship him, God most high:

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

---

Glorious now behold him arise,  
King, and God, and sacrifice!  
Heav'n sings Alleluia:  
Alleluia the earth replies:

*(Words by J. H. Hopkins)*

**8 How great our joy**

While by the sheep we watched at night,  
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.  
*How great our joy!*  
*Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

There shall be born, so he did say,  
In Bethlehem a child today.

There shall the Child lie in a stall,  
This Child who shall redeem us all.

This gift of God we'll cherish well,  
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.

*(German traditional carol, translator unknown)*

**9 Angels we have heard on high**

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echo back their joyous strains.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

---

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore, on bended knee,  
Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.

*(French traditional carol, translation 19th cent.)*

**10 Joy to the world!**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns:  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground,  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love.

*(Words by Isaac Watts)*

**11 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 for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

*(Words anon., American, 1885)*

## 12 Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle

Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle,  
Un flambeau, courons au berceau!  
C'est Jésus, bonnes gens du hameau,  
Le Christ est né, Marie appelle,  
Ah! ah! que la mère est belle,  
Ah! ah! que l'Enfant est beau!

*Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella!  
Bring a torch, to the cradle run!  
It is Jesus, good folk of the village,  
Christ is born and Mary's calling,  
Ah! ah! beautiful is the Mother!  
Ah! ah! beautiful is her Son.*

C'est un tort quand l'Enfant sommeille,  
C'est un tort de crier si fort.  
Taisez-vous, l'un et l'autre d'abord!  
Au moindre bruit, Jésus s'éveille.  
Chut! chut! chut! il dort à merveille,  
Chut! chut! chut! voyez comme il dort!

*It is wrong when the Child is sleeping,  
It is wrong to talk so loud.  
Silence, all, as you gather around,  
Lest your noise should waken Jesus;  
Hush! hush! see how fast he slumbers;  
Hush! hush! see how fast he sleeps!*

Doucement dans l'étable close,  
DouceMENT, venez un moment!  
Approchez, que Jésus est charmant!  
Comme il est blanc, comme il est rose!  
Do! Do! Do! que l'Enfant repose!  
Do! Do! Do! qu'il rit en dormant!

*Softly to the little stable,  
Softly for a moment come!  
Look and see how charming is Jesus,  
How he is white, his cheeks are rosy!  
Hush! hush! see how the Child is sleeping;  
Hush! hush! see how he smiles in dreams!*

*(French traditional carol)*

## 13 God rest you merry, gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Saviour was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name:

The shepherds at those tidings rejoicèd much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway this blessed babe to find:

But when to Bethlehem they came whereat this infant lay,  
They found him in a manger where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling, unto the Lord did pray:

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace:

*(English traditional carol)*

## 14 What child is this

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;*



---

*Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.*

Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
Come peasant, king, to own him,  
The King of Kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

*(Words by W. C. Dix)*

**15 'Twas in the moon of winter time**

'Twas in the moon of winter time,  
When all the birds had fled,  
That mighty Gitchi Manitou  
Sent angel choirs instead;  
Before their light the stars grew dim,  
And wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:  
*Jesus your King is born,  
Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.*

Within a lodge of broken bark  
The tender babe was found,  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin  
Enwrapped his beauty round;  
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
The angel song rang loud and high:

---

O children of the forest free,  
O sons of Manitou,  
The holy child of earth and heav'n  
Is born today for you.  
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,  
Who brings you beauty, peace, and joy:

*(Words by Jean de Brébeuf, tr. J. E. Middleton)*

**16 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.

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.

O little one sweet, O little one mild,  
Help us to do as thou hast willed.  
Lo, all we have belongs to thee!  
Ah, keep us in our fealty!  
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

*(Words from Schemelli's Gesangbuch,  
1736, tr. Percy Dearmer)*

*Reprinted by permission of Oxford University Press*

---

**17 Go, tell it on the mountain**

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere.  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Saviour's birth.

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And brought us God's salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

**18 Away in a manger**

Text as for track 11

**19 Rise up, shepherd, and follow**

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn,  
*Rise up, shepherd, and follow,*  
It will lead to the place where the Saviour's born;  
*Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*  
Leave your flocks and leave your lambs,

---

*Rise up, shepherd, and follow;  
Leave your sheep and leave your rams,  
Rise up, shepherd and follow.  
Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow;  
Follow the star of Bethlehem,  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

If you take good heed to the angel's word,  
You'll forget your flock, you'll forget your herd;  
Leave your flocks and leave your lambs,  
Leave your sheep and leave your rams.

*(American spiritual)*

**20 The Christmas Song**

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire,  
Jack Frost nipping at your nose,  
Yuletide carols being sung by a choir  
And folks dressed up like Eskimos.  
Ev'rybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe  
Help to make the season bright.  
Tiny tots with their eyes all a-glow  
Will find it hard to sleep tonight.

They know that Santa's on his way;  
He's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his sleigh  
And ev'ry mother's child is gonna spy  
To see if reindeer really know how to fly.  
And so, I'm offering this simple phrase  
To kids from one to ninety-two.  
Altho' it's been said many times, many ways;  
"Merry Christmas to you."

*(Mel Tormé and Robert Wells)*

*Reprinted by permission of International Music Publications Ltd.*

---

**21 We wish you a merry Christmas**

We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
And a happy new year.

*Good tidings we bring to you and your kin:  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
And a happy new year.*

Now bring us some figgy pudding. . .  
And bring some out here.

For we all like figgy pudding. . .  
So bring some out here.

And we won't go till we've got some. . .  
So bring some out here.

We wish you a merry Christmas. . .  
And a happy new year.

*(English traditional carol)*

**22 O come, all ye faithful**

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:

---

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:

*(Words by J. F. Wade, tr. F. Oakeley, W. T. Brooke and others)*



### Historical Note:

**T**HIS RECORDING WAS THE FIRST to be made by the Cambridge Singers, shortly after their formation in 1981. It was destined for release in the United States, but after its initial LP pressing it disappeared from the catalogue and the master tape was believed to be lost. By good fortune, the sessions were recorded both in analogue and (experimentally) in digital format, and the hitherto unused digital master tape came to light in 1996. The sound quality of this early digital tape surpassed all expectations, and was used as the master for this first CD release of the Cambridge Singers' inaugural recording. Several tracks not included on the original LP are now heard for the first time.

Collegium  
RECORDS

CSCD 503  
Stereo/digital

Made in Great Britain

Recorded in the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral  
by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter

Producer: Andrew Cornall  
Recording engineer: John Dunkerley  
Technical engineer: Martin Atkinson

Cover picture: *Night* by E. R. Hughes  
Photograph courtesy of  
Sotheby's Picture Library, London  
Cover design: Rowie Christopher  
Layout: Nick Findell

© 1997 Collegium Records

© 1997 Collegium Records



COMPACT  
disc  
DIGITAL AUDIO