

The United States Air Force Band and Singing Sergeants

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Colonel Lowell E. Graham, Commander/Conductor



*A Celebration of
International Music of the Season*



FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS, **The United States Air Force Band** has had the privilege of spreading good will, fostering understanding and bringing joy to every corner of our world as “America’s International Musical Ambassadors.” It is with this proud heritage in mind that we invite you to join us on a musical journey to places near and far, and sample the joy of this special time of year in many lands, languages and cultures.

OUR TRAVELS BEGIN RIGHT HERE AT HOME. **Joy to the World** is certainly one of the most beloved holiday classics that the United States has given the world. Although sung to a melody thought to be penned by George Frideric Handel, it was Lowell Mason, an American, who set the Isaac Watts text to this tune, making it a distinctly American carol.

CROSSING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, we make our way to the Emerald Isle. This jaunty little tune, **Christmas in Killarney**, was first introduced in 1951 by popular Irish tenor, Dennis Day.

ONE OF THE WORLD’S BEST LOVED CHRISTMAS CAROLS comes to us from sunny Italy. Written in 1917 by Italian organist, Pietro Yon, **Gesu Bambino** tells of the Holy Child, born in the humble countryside, whom the world will worship and adore.

COMBINING AN ANCIENT RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS CAROL with musical elements of both the Eastern Orthodox Church and original thematic material, American composer, Dr. Alfred Reed, created this powerful picture of the jubilant Christmas season, aptly titled **Russian Christmas Music**.

WE TURN SOUTHWARD NOW to the warmth of the Mediterranean and present a medley of three classic carols from Spain. The ancient tune **Ríu, Ríu, Chíu** uses a nightingale as a metaphor for God’s powerful protection, while **A La Nanita Nana** speaks of the nightingale singing a lullaby to soothe the baby Jesus. The sprightly **Fum, Fum, Fum!** imitates plucked instruments to celebrate the December 25 festivities.

AS THIS NEXT SET DEMONSTRATES, “Merrie Olde England” is the source of many of the world’s most familiar carols, ranging from boisterous songs of celebration to beautiful hymns and lullabies. First is renowned composer and arranger Peter Knight’s unique setting of **God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**, followed by our Top Brass Quartet’s distinctive rendition of **What Child is This?** and **Deck the Halls**.

BEST KNOWN FOR HIS BALLET *Giselle*, 19th century French composer, Adolphe Adam, contributed one of the most beautiful songs of the season. Known in English as “O Holy Night,” we present **Cantique de Noël** with its original French text.

THE BELOVED AUSTRIAN CAROL, **Stille Nacht**, or Silent Night, is sung throughout the world, yet the story of its unlikely origin is relatively unknown. Listen to the narrative during Floyd Werle’s masterful arrangement and discover how necessity really is the mother of invention.

THE JEWISH FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS known as Hanukkah marks the Hebrew people’s victory in battle in 164 B.C., and the subsequent re-sanctification of the temple in Jerusalem. The **Hanukkah Prayer** and **Maoz Tzur** are sung during the lighting of the Menorah on each of the eight nights of this holy festival, while the lively song **O Hanukkah** describes the festive atmosphere during this season of miracles.

WELL-KNOWN ACTOR AND COMPOSER Jester Hairston spent time in his youth working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean where he became friends with some of his Jamaican co-workers. This experience prompted him to write a special Christmas song especially for them. **Mary’s Little Boy Child** was later recorded by Harry Belafonte. Although written by an American, this catchy calypso quickly became a favorite throughout the West Indies, and then the entire western hemisphere.

THIS NIGERIAN CHRISTMAS SONG uses the characteristic chants and spirited, infectious rhythms of African music to ask, “Where was Jesus born?” The answer, of course, is Bethlehem or **Betelehemu**. Sung in its original Yoruba dialect, this song is accompanied by authentic African percussion instruments.

SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS CAROLS in the world come from the North American mountain range known as the Appalachians. While the roots of such folk ballads can often be traced to the British Isles, after more than two centuries of isolated development, these **Three Appalachian Carols** have become uniquely American in character.

ACCORDING TO CHRISTIAN LEGEND, at the stroke of midnight on the evening Jesus was born, every bell on earth suddenly began to peal. Actually, many such legends can be found throughout the world, for if there is a common denominator among our diverse cultures and religions, it is the use of bells to accompany our most festive occasions. We round out our musical journey with a medley of international favorites titled **Ring Christmas Bells**.

AS YOU LISTEN TO THIS RECORDING, we ask you to remember that there are thousands of Americans, both military and civilian, serving overseas, far from the ones they love. Their selfless dedication and steadfast determination protect not only our precious freedoms, but bring a measure of holiday cheer and peace to countless others around the globe. The men and women of **The United States Air Force Band** ask you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers as you listen to our final selection, **Let There Be Peace on Earth**.

As always, we extend to you and your loved ones our warmest wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

UNITED STATES

1 | Joy to the World 3:09

ISAAC WATTS/LOWELL MASON
arr. Peter Knight

IRELAND

2 | Christmas in Killarney 3:16

FRANK WELDON/JAMES CAVANAUGH
*arr. TSgt Robert Thurston**
Remick Music Corporation (Warner Chappell Music Inc.)
Range Road Music Inc. (Carlin America Inc.)
Quartet Music Inc. (Leiber & Stoller)

ITALY

3 | Gesu Bambino 4:20
MSgt Jennifer Henley, *alto*

PIETRO A. YON
*arr. TSgt Alfred Newman****
Belwin Mills Publishing Corporation
(Warner Chappell Music Inc.)

RUSSIA

4 | Russian Christmas Music 15:02

ALFRED REED
Sam Fox Publishing Co. Inc.

SPAIN

5 | Ríu, Ríu, Chíu 3:20
A La Nanita Nana
Fum, Fum!

*arr. Noah Greenberg/
Floyd A Werle**/CMSgt Michael Davis**

SMSgt Julianne Turrentine; TSgt Kimberly Haering, *soprano*; MSgt Jennifer Henley;
TSgt Angela Burns, *alto*; TSgt Russell Collieran; TSgt Geoffrey Parrish, *tenor*;
MSgt David Nokes; TSgt David Farwig, *bass*

ENGLAND

- 6 | God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen 3:13** *arr. Peter Knight*
7 | What Child is This? 1:57 *arr. Leroy Anderson*
8 | Deck the Halls 2:31 *arr. TSgt Lance LaDuke**

Top Brass

MSgt William Adcock, *trumpet*; TSgt Andrew Wilson, *trumpet*; TSgt Lance LaDuke, *euphonium*; TSgt Christopher Quade, *tuba*

FRANCE

- 9 | Cantique de Noël 4:15** ADOLPHE ADAM
TSgt Alexis Defranchi, *tenor* *arr. Floyd Werle***

AUSTRIA

- 10 | Stille Nacht (Silent Night) 4:15** JOSEPH MOHR/FRANZ GRUBER
CMSgt Glenda Shepela, *narrator* *arr. Floyd Werle***

ISRAEL

- 11 | Hanukkah Prayer 5:47** *arr. TSgt Alfred Newman****
O Hanukkah *MUCM Jerry Brubaker+*
Maoz Tzur
MSgt Kerry Wilkerson, *bass*

WEST INDIES

- 12 | Mary's Little Boy Child 2:29** JESTER HAIRSTON
SMSgt Patricia Wolfe, *alto* *arr. TSgt Alfred Newman****
Schumann Music Co. (Bourne Music Inc.)

Steel Drum Band

MSgt Aubrey Adams, MSgt Patrick Shrieves; TSgt Thomas Maloy, TSgt Lance LaDuke; TSgt Christopher Quade, TSgt Erica Kadison

NIGERIA

13 | Betlehemu 3:49

MICHAEL BABATUNDA OLATUNJI

arr. Wendell Whalum

Lawson-Gould Music Publishers Inc.

UNITED STATES

14 | Three Appalachian Carols 5:13

The Cherry Tree Carol

Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head

I Wonder as I Wander

SMSgt Julianne Turrentine, *soprano*

*arr. Floyd Werle**/*

*CMSgt Michael Davis**

G. Schirmer Inc.

INTERNATIONAL

15 | Ring, Christmas Bells 4:27

*arr. CMSgt Michael Davis**

The Bells Of Christmas

ANNE CROSWELL / EDWARD THOMAS

Croswell Productions (Anne Croswell)/ Somat Music

Carol of the Bells

M.L. HOHMAN / M. LEONTOVICH

Carl Fischer Inc.

I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW /

JONNY MARKS

St. Nicholas Music Inc.

16 | Let There Be Peace on Earth 5:21

SY MILLER / JILL JACKSON

*arr. TSgt Larry MacTaggart**

Jan-Lee Music

Total Time 72:26

*Member, **Former member, The United States Air Force Band

***Member, The United States Air Force Heritage of America Band

+Member, The United States Navy Band

Gesu Bambino

Nel l'umile capanna, nel freddo e poverta'
e noto il santo pargolo che il mondo adorera
Osanna cantano con giubilante cor I tuoi
pastori ed angeli.
Re di luce e amor.
venite adoriamo, Gesu Redentor.

Ríu, Ríu, Chíu

Ríu, ríu, chíu, la guarda ribera:
Dios guardó el lobo de nuestra cordera.
El lobo rabioso la quiso morder,
mas Dios poderoso la supo defender;
quisola hazer que no pudiesse pecar,
ni aun original esta Virgen no tuviera.

A La Nanita Nana

A la nanita, nana nanita, nana nanita eia,
Mi Jesus tiene sueño bendito sea,
bendito sea.
Fuentecilla que corres Clara y sonora,
Rruiseñor q'en la selva cantando lloras.
Callad mientras la cuna se balancea. A la
nanita nana nanita eia.

Baby Jesus

In the humble countryside, in cold
and poverty
is born the holy child that the world
will worship.
Your shepherds and angels sing hosannah
with jubilant hearts,
Oh King of light and love.
Oh come let us adore him, Jesus
the Redeemer.

Ríu, Ríu, Chíu*

Ríu, ríu, chíu, guard of shore:
God protects our lamb from the wolf.
Raging mad, the wolf tried to bite her
but God, more powerful, knew how to
defend her.
He desired to make her so she could
not sin.
Even the original sin this Virgin did
not carry.
**the sound of a nightingale*

To My Little One, a Lullaby

To my little one, a lullaby.
My little Jesus is sleepy, blessed be
His name.
Little fountain flowing clear and sonorous,
nightingale who in the woods sings a
crying song,
stay quiet while the crib gently rocks.
To my little one, a lullaby.

Fum, Fum, Fum!

Veinticinco de Diciembre,
Fum, Fum, Fum!
Nacido por nuestro amor, El niño Dios
Hoy de la virgin Maria en esta noche
tan fria.
Fum, Fum, Fum!
Estrellitas de los cielos,
Fum, Fum, Fum!
Que Jesus mirais llorar y no llorais,
Alumbrad la noche oscura con v-
estra luz clara y pura,
Fum, Fum, Fum!

Cantique de Noël

Minuit Chrétien, c'est l'heure solennelle
où l'homme Dieu descendit jusq'ua nous,
Pour effacer la tâche originelle
et de son père arrêter le couroux.
Le monde entier tressaille d'espérance
A cette nuit qui lui donne un sauveur.
Peuple, a genoux, Attends ta délivrance!
Noël! Noël! Voici le Rédempteur.

Le Rédempteur a brisé toute entrave,
la terre est libre et le ciel est ouvert,
il voit un frère où n'était qu'un esclave;
L'amar unit ceux qu'enchaînait le fer.
Qui lui dira nôtre reconnaissance?
C'est pour nous tous qu'il naît, Qu'il
souffre et meurt.
Peuple debout, Chante ta délivrance!
Noël! Noël Chantons le Rédempteur

Fum, Fum, Fum!*

The twenty-fifth of December,
Fum, Fum, Fum!
Born for our love, the little God Child,
of the Virgin Mary, on this night so cold.
Fum, Fum, Fum!
Little stars in the heavens,
Fum, Fum, Fum!
which Jesus gazes toward without crying,
illuminate the dark night with your pure
and clear light.
Fum, Fum, Fum!
**an imitation of plucked instruments*

O Holy Night

Midnight Christians, this is the solemn
hour when the son of God descended
down to us to erase the original sin and
stop his Father's wrath.
The whole world trembles with hope
on this night that gives it a Savior.
People, on your knees, wait for your
deliverance!
Noel! Noel! This is the Redeemer.

The redeemer broke all chains,
the earth is free and the sky is open,
he sees a brother where once there was
only a slave.
Love unifies hope that iron had in chains.
Who will tell him of our gratefulness?
It is for us all that he is born, suffers
and dies.
People arise, sing your deliverance
Noel! Noel! Let us sing of the Redeemer.

Stille Nacht

Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft einsam wacht.
Nur das traute hoch heilige paar,
holder knabe im lockigen haar,
schlaf in himmlischer ruh, schlaff
in himmlischer ruh.

Chanukkah Prayer

Baruch Atta Adonaye,
Eloheynu Melech Ha'Olam,
Asher Kid'shanu B'mitzvotav,
V'tseevanu, l'hadleek nair shel
Chanukkah.

O Chanukkah

Yi mey Hachanukah, chanu kat
mikda sheynu
B'gil uv'simcha m'malim et libeynu
Laila vayom s'vivoneynu yisov
Li vi vot nochal bam larov.
Haeroo haleekoo neyrot chanukah rabim
Al haneesim v'alhaniflaot ahsher chol'lu
hamaccabim.

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night,
All is asleep, lonesome and on guard.
Only the wedded, highly hallowed pair,
winsome boy in curly hair,
sleep in heavenly rest, sleep in
heavenly rest.

Hanukkah Prayer

Praised are you, Lord our God,
King of the universe,
who has sanctified us by your law
commanding us to kindle the
Hanukkah lights.

Oh Hanukkah

The days of Hanukkah, the dedication
of our temple
with joy and gladness fill our hearts.
Night and day our dreidels will spin,
many latkes (potato pancakes) will we eat.
Light up, fire up many Hanukkah candles
because of the miracles and wonders
created by the Macabees.

Maoz Tzur

Maoz tzur y'shuatee,
l'cha nae l'shabeah.
L'et tachin matbeah
meetsar ham'nabeah.
Az egmor b'shir mizmor
Chanukkat hamizbeah

Betelehemu

Awa yio ri Baba gbojule,
Awa yoi ri Baba fehinti.
Nibo labi Jesu, Nibo labe bii.
Betelehemu ilu ara,
Nibe la bi Baba o daju.
Iyin, Iyin, Iyin nifun o.
Adupe fun o, Adupe fun o,
Adupe fun ojo oni,
Baba oloreo.
Iyin fun o Baba, Iyin fun o Baba,
Iyin fun o Baba anu,
Baba toda wasi.

Rock of Ages

Fortress, rock, my salvation
praise your saving power.
Furious they assailed us,
but your arm availed us
and your word broke their sword
when our own strength failed us.

Bethlehem

We are glad that we have a Father to trust.
We are glad that we have a Father to
rely upon.
Where was Jesus born? Where was
He born?
Bethlehem, the city of wonder.
That is where the Father was born for sure.
Praise, praise, praise be to Him.
We thank thee, we thank thee, we thank
thee for this day,
Gracious Father.
Praise, praise, praise be to you oh Father.
Merciful Father.

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE CONCERT BAND

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Soprano

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*Section Leader

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For information about The United States Air Force Band and its components, or to receive its newsletter, contact Director of Public Affairs, The United States Air Force Band, 201 McChord Street, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. 20332-0202.

The United States Air Force Band Home Page is available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.bolling.af.mil/band/band.htm>

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