



JOHN MORRIS RUSSELL • CINCINNATI POPS ORCHESTRA

with Rodrick Dixon, tenor; Brian Stokes Mitchell; New York Voices: Peter Eldridge, Lauren Kinhan, Darmon Meader & Kim Nazarian; May Festival Chorus, Robert Porco, director; Winton Woods High School Varsity Ensemble, David Bell, director

JOHN MORRIS RUSSELL CINCINNATI POPS ORCHESTRA



1. Deck the Halls [2:12]
(Traditional/arr. Hershy Kay; Chorus Adaptation by John Morris Russell) Boosey and Hawkes, Inc. (ASCAP)
May Festival Chorus & Winton Woods Varsity Ensemble
2. O Holy Night [4:12]
(Adolphe Charles Adam/arr. David Snyder)
Rodrick Dixon, tenor
3. We Three Kings [2:18]
(John Henry Hopkins, Jr./arr. orch. Arthur Harris)
Edwin F. Kalmus & Co. (ASCAP)
4. I Believe [3:25]
(William Schermerhorn/Wesley Whitley/arr. David Hamilton)
Fuzzy Muppet Songs c/o Walt Disney Music Company (ASCAP)
May Festival Chorus & Winton Woods Varsity Ensemble
5. Jolly Old St. Nicholas/
Santa Claus is Comin' to Town [4:07]
(Traditional/John Frederick Coots & Haven Gillespie/
arr. David Snyder/Vocal Arrangement by Darmon Meader)
EMI Feist Catalog, Inc. (ASCAP)
New York Voices
6. Angel's Dance [4:29]
(Steven Amundson)
Lauren Keiser Music Publishing (BMI)
7. Home for the Holidays [3:33]
(Robert Allen/Al Stillman/arr. Joseph D. Price)
Charles Deitcher Productions, Inc. (ASCAP)
May Festival Chorus

The Cincinnati Pops is grateful to the George & Anne P. Helden Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation for their tremendous support in honor of Pops Conductor John Morris Russell's inaugural season.

8. Go Tell it on the Mountain [4:12]
(Traditional/arr. Steven Reineke)
Rodrick Dixon, tenor; May Festival Chorus & Winton Woods Varsity Ensemble
9. Ave Maria [2:50]
(J.S. Bach/Charles Gounod)
Timothy Lees & Gabriel Pegis, violins
10. Farandole from *L'Arlesienne* [3:27]
(Georges Bizet)
11. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus
(Nimrod from *Enigma Variations*) [3:42]
(Edward Elgar) Adapted by John Morris Russell
Brian Stokes Mitchell & Alma Russell, narrators
12. Sleigh Ride [2:53]
(Leroy Anderson/arr. Julie Spangler)
Woodbury Music Company (ASCAP)
Julie Spangler, piano
13. A Winter Miracle
(Winter/Hanukkah O Hanukkah) [4:21]
(Antonio Vivaldi/Trad.; arr. Timothy Berens)
Timothy Lees, violin
14. Parade of the Wooden Soldiers [4:18]
(Leon Jessel/arr. Morton Gould)
Edward B. Marks Music Company (BMI)
15. We Wish You a Merry Christmas [2:10]
(Traditional/arr. Arthur Harris)
May Festival Chorus

Total Playing Time [52:58]

FC-001





JOHN MORRIS RUSSELL CINNINNATI POPS ORCHESTRA

Holiday Greetings from the Cincinnati Pops

The holiday season is all about tradition and memory. For me the holidays conjure thoughts of Aunt Machie's bourbon fruit cake, the magic of winter's first snow, the smell of a hardwood fire in the hearth, and the gentle crackling of the *Goodyear* or *Firestone* LP on the hi-fi. An eclectic blend of familiar standards, these albums featured an exceptionally diverse collection of the era's most esteemed performers framed in brilliant orchestral arrangements echoing the angels' proclamations two millennia ago, "Peace on earth, goodwill to ALL people!"

As a kid these recordings seemed to be the ultimate representation of the rich panoply of the American musical experience and everyone in the Russell family savored each soulful, playful, groovy and crystalline note. Dad would pick up the annual installment when getting the snow tires mounted on our Plymouth Satellite; his arrival home with record in hand would herald the true beginning of the Christmas season. The newest album and its dozen or so counterparts from years past would play while we set up our tree, decorated cookies, entertained friends and neighbors, ripped open presents and sipped egg nog on New Year's Eve. These albums were the soundtracks to our holiday celebrations and are the essence of this recording we bring to you, featuring the beloved Cincinnati Pops Orchestra.

In my first recording with the Pops, *Home for the Holidays*, we bring together old favorites and many sensational new arrangements that celebrate the spirit of the season, and showcase the versatility and sheer virtuosity of the Pops. George Bizet's classic *Farandole* and Leon Jessel's *Parade of the Wooden Soldiers* in a wildly original arrangement by Morton Gould, are fantastic orchestral showpieces.

Credits:

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The Cincinnati Pops 2011-12 Series Sponsor is PNC.

Recorded in Music Hall, Cincinnati, Ohio, December 12, 2011

Recording Producer: Elaine Martone for Sonarc Music

Recording Engineer: Michael Bishop for Five/Four Productions, Ltd.

Assistant Engineer: David Marchione

Editors: Michael Bishop and Thomas C. Moore for Five/Four Productions, Ltd.

Production Assistance: Robert Treviño

Additional Recording:

Rodrick Dixon, "Go Tell it on the Mountain" and "O Holy Night" recorded at Clonick Hall Studio, Oberlin, Ohio on January 26, 2012

Recording Engineer: Michael Bishop

Brian Stokes Mitchell, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus" recorded at Brorby Studios, Brooklyn, NY on March 13, 2012

Recording Engineer: Michael Brorby

New York Voices, "Jolly Old St. Nicholas/Santa Claus is Comin' to Town" recorded at Brorby Studios, Brooklyn, NY on March 13, 2012

Vocal Track Producer: Darmon Meader

Recording Engineer: Michael Brorby

Cover Designer and Photo Illustration: Trish Carmichael

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JOHN MORRIS RUSSELL, conductor
Louise Dieterle Nippert & Louis Nippert Chair
Erich Kunzel, Founder and Conductor Emeritus

Robert Treviño, Associate Conductor
David G. Hakes & Kevin D. Brady Chair
William White, Assistant Conductor

FIRST VIOLINS

Timothy Lees
Concertmaster
Anna Sinton Taft Chair
Rebecca Culnan
Associate Concertmaster
Eric Bates
Acting First Assistant
Concertmaster
Serge Shababian Chair
Kathryn Woolley
Acting Second Assistant
Concertmaster
Anna Reider
Sylvia Samis
Assistant Concertmaster Emeritus
Mauricio Aguilar †
Minyoung Baik
James Braid
Michelle Edgar Dugan
Rebecca Kruger Fryxell
Gerald Itzkoff
Lois Reid Johnson
Sylvia Mitchell
Jo Ann & Paul Ward Chair
Luo-Jia Wu

SECOND VIOLINS

Gabriel Pegis
Principal
Al Levinson Chair
Catherine Lange-Jensen *
Harold B. & Betty Justice Chair
Scott Motzlin**
Kun Dong
Cheryl Benedict
Drake Crittenden Ash †
Harold Byers
Ida Ringling North Chair
Chun-Teng Cheng
Denise Doolan
Chika Kinderman
David Moore
Hye-Sun Park
Paul Patterson

VIOLAS

Stacey Woolley
Amy Kiradjeff §
Yun-Ting Lee §
Christian Colberg
Principal
Louise D. & Louis Nippert Chair
Paul Frankendorf*
Grace M. Allen Chair
Julian Wilkison**
Marna Street
Principal Emeritus
Sari Eringer-Thoman †
Stephen Fryxell
Denisse Rodriguez-Rivera
Steven Rosen
Joanne Wojtowicz
Kevin Boden §
Belinda Burge §
Heidi Yenny §
CELLOS
Ilya Finkelshteyn
Principal
Irene & John J. Emery Chair
Daniel Culnan *
Ona Hixon Dater Chair
Norman Johns **
Karl & Roberta
Schlachter Family Chair
Matthew Lad †
Susan Marshall-Petersen
Theodore Nelson
Tao Ni
Alan Rafferty
Dana Rusinak
Charles Snavely

BASSES

Owen Lee
Principal
James Lambert *
Matthew Zory, Jr. **††
Wayne Anderson †
Boris Astaliev

CONTRABASSOON

Ronald Bozicevich
Rick Vizachero
Deborah Taylor §

FRENCH HORNS

Gillian Benet Sella
Principal
Cynthia & Frank Stewart Chair

FLUTES

Randolph Bowman
Principal
Charles Frederic Goss Chair
Jasmine Choi *
Leah Arsenaault +
Jane & David Ellis Chair

PICCOLO

Joan Voorhees

OBOES

Dwight Parry
Principal
Josephine I. & David J.
Joseph, Jr. Chair
Lon Bussell *
Richard Johnson

ENGLISH HORN

Christopher Philpotts
Principal
Dorothy & John Hermanies Chair
Samuel Schlosser **

CLARINETS

Jonathan Gunn
Acting Principal
Emma Margaret &
Irving D. Goldman Chair
Ixi Chen
Corey Mackey §

BASS CLARINET

Ronald Aufmann
Marc Gurnow §
Principal
BASSOONS
William Winstead
Principal
Emalee Schavel Chair

CONTRABASSOON

Ronald Bozicevich
Rick Vizachero
Deborah Taylor §

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Corey Mackey §

BASS CLARINET

Ronald Aufmann
Marc Gurnow §
Principal
BASSOONS
William Winstead
Principal
Emalee Schavel Chair

PERCUSSION

David Fishlock
Principal
Susan S. & William A.
Friedlander Chair
Richard Jensen
Acting Associate Principal
Marc Wolfley ††

KEYBOARDS

Julie Spangler ††
James P. Thornton Chair
ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL
Walter Zeschin, Director
Scott Motzlin, Assistant

LIBRARIANS

Mary Judge
Principal
Lois Klein Jolson Chair
Christina Eaton *

STAGE MANAGERS

Joseph D. Hopper
Ralph LaRocco, Jr.
John D. Murphy

† Begins the alphabetical listing of players who participate in a system of rotated seating within the string section.
* Associate Principal
** Assistant Principal
+ One-Year Appointment
§ Additional Musician
†† Cincinnati Pops rhythm section

The warmth and intimacy of the orchestra is heard in Gounod's **Ave Maria**, played in a gorgeous setting by violinists Timothy Lees and Gabriel Pegis, and the delicate rhythmic lilt of Steven Amundson's **Angel's Dance** creates an enchanting variation on "Angels We Have Heard on High." There are tried-and-true arrangements such as Hershy Kay's **Deck the Halls**, as well as a brilliant new work, **A Winter Miracle** that cleverly combines Vivaldi's "Winter" from *The Four Seasons* with "Hanukkah O Hanukkah." The Liberace-inspired treatment of Leroy Anderson's **Sleigh Ride**, features Pops keyboardist Julie Spangler, both as soloist and arranger, and is an absolute delight.

The incredible New York Voices add a jazzy twist to two old time favorites, **Jolly Old St. Nicholas** and **Santa Claus is Comin' to Town**; Darmon Meader's vocal arrangement and scat solo are superb. Our version of **O Holy Night**, conceived as a tribute to the legendary tenor Mario Lanza, features vocal powerhouse Rodrick Dixon, who also takes the traditional spiritual **Go Tell it on the Mountain** on a gospel-infused joy ride.

What holiday album would be complete without an amazing chorus? From the traditional **We Wish You a Merry Christmas** to the 1954 holiday hit **Home for the Holidays**, the May Festival Chorus, led by director Robert Porco, was the perfect partner in this project. The Winton Woods High School Varsity Ensemble, with whom the Pops has worked on numerous occasions, adds youthful exuberance to the opening track, **Deck the Halls**, as well as **I Believe**, by William Schermerhorn and Wesley Whatley, which is destined to become a holiday classic.

"Nimrod" from *Enigma Variations*, by Edward Elgar, may seem out of place on a holiday disc, but becomes a perfect musical setting for the enduring words of Francis Pharcellus Church, who wrote the 1897 editorial in the *New York Sun*, **Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus**. Broadway superstar Brian Stokes Mitchell, with a little help from my daughter, Alma (as the 8 year-old Virginia O'Hanlon) express the child-like wonderment we all feel during the holiday season.

It has been a thrill to create this newest addition to the Cincinnati Pops catalogue. I hope it brings you the same inspiration and joy we all had bringing this recording to life.

From the Cincinnati Pops family to your family, we wish you a very merry Christmas, a wonderful holiday season and a glorious New Year!

JMR
John Morris Russell



JOHN MORRIS RUSSELL

Consistently winning international praise for his extraordinary music making and visionary leadership, John Morris Russell began his tenure as Conductor of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra in September, 2011. Maestro Russell "has shown a new generation, the strength and versatility of symphonic pops" raves the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, as he continues to build upon the legacy of Pops founder and conductor Erich Kunzel.

Mr. Russell has worked with many of North America's most distinguished ensembles including the orchestras of Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Toronto, Vancouver as well as Miami's New World Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and The Cleveland Orchestra. In 1999 he replaced an ailing Maestro Kunzel at the famed Musikverein in Vienna, in a concert featuring the Harlem Boychoir, the Vienna Choir Boys and the actor Gregory Peck. The performance was recorded on CD, DVD, and continues to be televised throughout Europe, Japan and in the USA on PBS.

Widely considered one of North America's leaders in orchestral educational programming, Maestro Russell champions music making of all kinds in schools and communities throughout the USA and Canada. For 12 years he conducted "LinkUP!" concerts at Carnegie Hall, the oldest and most celebrated series of its kind, created by Walter Damrosch in 1891 and made famous by Leonard Bernstein. As Associate Conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestras (1995-2006), he created the "Classical Roots" series, celebrating the music of African-American composers, as well as the "Sound Discoveries" series which remains a leading model for educational concerts across the continent.

John Morris Russell also serves as Music Director of the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra in South Carolina, and is Conductor Laureate of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra in Ontario, Canada, where he was Music Director between 2001 and 2012.

Mr. Russell studied at the University of Southern California, Williams College, the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Aspen Music Festival, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, and the Pierre Monteux School for Conductors in Hancock, Maine. Maestro Russell received an Honorary Doctorate from The University of Windsor in 2011.

CINCINNATI POPS ORCHESTRA

With millions of recordings sold, the Cincinnati Pops is one of the world's most admired ensembles. Founded in 1977 by the late conductor Erich Kunzel and part of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra umbrella organization, the Pops tours nationally and internationally, most recently performing in Beijing as part of the Opening Festivities of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games. In 2005, the Pops completed an historic tour to China and Singapore performing in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. The Cincinnati Pops was the first U.S. pops orchestra to perform in China, and also has appeared to enthusiastic audiences in New York's Carnegie Hall, in Washington D.C. and in Japan and Taiwan.

Following that first historic tour to China, a 2005 editorial in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* said the tour had "put an exclamation mark on our orchestra's phenomenal popularity in China, cultivated through its dozens of recordings. For residents of Greater Cincinnati, this success ought to underscore the fact that even among our region's wealth of cultural treasures, the Pops represents a unique resource that no other city can quite match."

The Pops is a vibrant part of Cincinnati and the surrounding region, presenting world-class concerts at historic Music Hall, the Orchestra's summer home at Riverbend Music Center, and in neighborhoods throughout the community. When Cincinnati was chosen to be the first North American city to host the World Choir Games, the Pops was selected as the official orchestra for this international event in 2012, performing at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies led by Conductor John Morris Russell.

The celebrated list of guest artists who have performed and collaborated with the Cincinnati Pops include Ella Fitzgerald, Frederica von Stade, Doc Severinsen, Henry Mancini, Chris Botti, Mel Tormé, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Kristin Chenoweth, Jennifer Holliday, Bernadette Peters, Vanessa Williams, Dave Brubeck, The Temptations, John Williams, Idina Menzel, Rosemary Clooney, Michael Feinstein and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

An estimated 30 million people have viewed eight national telecasts of the Cincinnati Pops on PBS, and the Orchestra has more than 100 available recordings, 55 of which have appeared on the *Billboard* charts, a record unmatched by any other orchestra. The Pops' *Copland: Music of America* won a Grammy in 1997, and four other Pops recordings have been nominated for Grammy Awards.