



DECEMBER CELEBRATION

New Carols by Seven American Composers

ADAMO, BOLCOM, CORIGLIANO,
GARNER, GETTY, HEGGIE, WOOLF

Lisa Delan, Soprano

Lester Lynch, Baritone

Volti Chorus

Musicians of the New Century Chamber Orchestra

Conducted by Dawn Harms

PENTATONE

DECEMBER CELEBRATION

New Carols by Seven American Composers

Lisa Delan, Soprano
Lester Lynch, Baritone
Volti Chorus
Musicians of the New Century Chamber Orchestra
Steven Bailey, Piano & Hammond Organ
Conducted by Dawn Harms

Mark Adamo (1962)

- 1

The Christmas Life

For Mixed Chorus and Chamber Orchestra

Poem by Wendy Cope

3. 12

Jake Heggie (1961)

- On the Road to Christmas

For Soprano and String Orchestra

- 2

Prologue: The Night is Freezing Fast

Poem by A.E. Housman

- 3

The Car Ride to Christmas

Text by Frederica von Stade

- 4

Good King Merrily on High

Traditional, arrangement by Jake Heggie

- 5

I Wonder as I Wander

Text by John Jacob Niles

- 6

The Road to Bethlehem

Poem by Emily Dickinson

- 7

Christmas Time of Year

Text by Jake Heggie

Joan Morris (1943) & William Bolcom (1938)

- 8

Carol (Neighbors, on this Frosty Tide)

For Mixed Chorus and Piano

Text by Kenneth Grahame & Arnold Weinstein

David Garner (1954)

Three Carols

For Soprano, Baritone, Oboe, Frame Drum and Strings

Text by Thomas Breidenthal

- 9

Posada

- 10

O magnum mysterium

- 11

Jesus’ Song

Luna Pearl Woolf (1973)

- 12

How Bright the Darkness

For Baritone, Treble Chorus, Harp, Percussion and String Orchestra

Text by Eleanor Wilner

3. 34

1. 40

3. 01

1. 46

2. 58

7. 05

4. 20

7. 11

Gordon Getty (1933)

Four Christmas Carols

For Women’s Chorus and Chamber Orchestra

Lyrics by Gordon Getty

- 13

Call the Children (Hodie Christus Natus Est)

- 14

The Snow Child

- 15

Candles on the Tree

- 16

Run to the Window

John Corigliano (1938)

- 17

Christmas at the Cloisters

For Baritone and Hammond Organ

Lyrics by William Hoffman

Franz Gruber (1787-1863),
Arranged by Gordon Getty

- 18

Silent Night

For Mixed Chorus and Chamber Orchestra

English text by John Freeman

French text by Louis (Révérend Père) Barjon

German text by Joseph Mohr

1. 43

1. 41

1. 43

3. 11

2. 36

3. 42

Total playing time:

57. 06

Publishers

The Christmas Life: © 2014 G. Schirmer, Inc., (ASCAP) New York, New York. International Copyright Secured. All rights reserved.
On the Road to Christmas: © 1996 Bent Pen Music, Inc. I Wonder as I Wander: © G. Schirmer, Inc. (ASCAP) All rights reserved.
Carol (Neighbors, on this Frosty Tide): © 2001 Edward B. Marks Music Company and Bolcom Music (BMI).
Three Carols: © 2014 David Garner
How Bright the Darkness: © 2014 Oxingale Music
Four Christmas Carols: © 2011, 2013, 2014 Rork Music
Christmas at the Cloisters: © 1967 G. Schirmer, Inc.
Silent Night, arr. Gordon Getty: © 2014 Rork Music

December holds in its hands many worlds of celebration
as the month unfolds with Hanukkah, Winter Solstice,
Christmas and the eve of the New Year.

Over the centuries a great deal of music has marked this
time of year, but very little has been added to the canon in
recent decades.

Gordon Getty inspired us with his composition of delightful
new Christmas carols to invite a group of American
composers to celebrate the season in music. The result is a
rich and tuneful recording of new holiday classics for you
to share with your friends and families.

We hope that you enjoy this festive and joyous music
throughout the season and for many years to come.

PENTATONE



Mark Adamo (1962)

THE CHRISTMAS LIFE

Poem by Wendy Cope

*“If you don’t have a real tree you don’t
bring the Christmas life into the house.”
Josephine Mackinnon, aged 8*

Bring in a tree, a young Norwegian
spruce,
Bring hyacinths that rooted in the cold.
Bring winter jasmine as its buds unfold -
Bring the Christmas life into this house.

Bring red and green and gold, bring
things that shine,
Bring candlesticks and music, food and
wine.
Bring in your memories of Christmas past.
Bring in your tears for all that you have
lost.

Bring in the shepherd boy, the ox and ass,
Bring in the stillness of an icy night,
Bring in the birth, of hope and love and
light.
Bring the Christmas life into this house.

© 2001 Wendy Cope, from “If I Don’t Know”
(Faber and Faber, 2001) and included in Light
Unlocked: Christmas Card Poems, edited by Kevin
Crossley-Holland and Lawrence Sail, published by
Enitharmon. Used by permission.



Dawn Harms and Mark Adamo

Jake Heggie (1961)

ON THE ROAD TO CHRISTMAS

1. The Night is Freezing Fast
Poem by A.E. Housman

The night is freezing fast,
Tomorrow comes December;
And winterfalls of old
Are with me from the past;
And chiefly I remember
How Dick would hate the cold.

Fall, winter, fall; for he,
Prompt hand and headpiece clever,
Has woven a winter robe,
And made of earth and sea
His overcoat forever,
And wears the turning globe.

2. The Car Ride to Christmas
Text by Frederica von Stade

When I was young
Christmas meant a ride to mass
On Christmas morning.
A car ride to Christmas – la la la! –
In a Chevy with flannel seats.
Wool flannel seats
That almost took away the cold.
(Someone has called them “mohair”
since,
But wool flannel – light gray –
Comes closer to my memory of them.)
Fa la la la la la la la

It was the early mass
Because that way
We could come home sooner
Having remembered the reason for
Christmas.
Then we could – what?!? –
Open our presents!

3. Good King Merrily on High
Traditional

Good King Wenceslas looked out
on the feast of Stephen,
when the snow lay round about,
deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shown the moon that night,
though the frost was cruel,
when a poor man came in sight,
gathering winter fuel.

In his master’s steps he trod,
where the snow lay dinted.
Heat was in the very sod
which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
wealth or rank possessing,
ye who now will bless the poor
shall yourselves find blessing.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Ding dong merrily on high,
In heav’n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky

Is riv’n with angel singing.
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

E’en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And “lo, io, io!”
By priest and people sungen.
Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

Good King merrily on high
(In excelsis Deo!)

4. I Wonder As I Wander
Text by John Jacob Niles

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
Why Jesus the Savior was born for to die.
For poor ordn’ry people 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.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
Why Jesus the Savior was born for to die...
(bye bye lullay...)

5. The Road to Bethlehem
Poem by Emily Dickinson

The Savior must have been
A docile Gentleman —
To come so far so cold a Day
For little Fellowmen —
The Road to Bethlehem
Since He and I were Boys
Was leveled, but for that ‘twould be
A rugged Billion Miles —

6. Christmas Time of Year
Text by Jake Heggie

Christmas time of year
The season’s bright
Tree lights flicker through the night
And somewhere, I know snow is falling.

The children listen
For sleigh bells ringing,
Bringing Christmas joys.
This magic season’s promise
That all your wishes will come true
So I wish you Merry Christmas, too.

This much time for cheer
To raise a glass or two
Christmas candles
And singing carols by a fire
Will make the heart glow.
And from me to you
I bring and sing a simple Christmas tune.
May this Christmas magic
Last your lifetime through
And your wishes all come true.
Merry Christmas to you.

“The Car Ride to Christmas” © Frederica von
Stade. “I Wonder as I Wonder” © G. Schirmer, Inc.
“Christmas Time of Year” © Jake Heggie. Used by
permission. All rights reserved.



Luna Pearl Woolf and Dawn Harms



Lester Lynch, Dawn Harms and Lisa Delan



John Corigliano and Steven Bailey



Dawn Harms and David Garner



Jake Heggie

Joan Morris (1943) &
William Bolcom (1938)

CAROL (NEIGHBORS, ON THIS
FROSTY TIDE)

Text by Arnold Weinstein after
Kenneth Grahame’s
The Wind in the Willows

Neighbors on this frosty tide,
The wind is blowing, there’s snow
beside,
So let us sit by your fireside,
And joy shall be yours in the morning.

Here we stand in cold and sleet,
Blowing fingers and stamping feet,
You by the fire and we in the street,
And bidding you joy in the morning.

A star from afar has led us on
And gave us light before the dawn.
For bliss tomorrow and joy anon,
And joy for ev’ry morning.

Good Joseph saw across the snow
The star above the manger low.
He made a bed for his Mary, so
That joy would be hers in the morning.

And in the stable where they did dwell,
Who were the first to sing Noel?
Donkey and cow, for it befell
That joy would be theirs in the morning.

So neighbors on this frosty tide,
The wind is blowing, there’s snow beside,
So let us sit by your fireside,
And joy will be yours in the morning.

Text by Arnold Weinstein on Kenneth Grahame’s
“The Wind in the Willows.” Used by permission.

David Garner (1954)

THREE CAROLS

Lyrics by Thomas Breidenthal

1. Posada

Tapping, knocking, pounding on the door --
No one answered where I knocked before.
My wife needs shelter, baby on the way --
Please, I beg you, we need a place to stay!

REFRAIN

Dreaming, dreaming in the cold of night
Of the child inside me moving toward the light.
Where will I labor to birth him into day?
Who will protect us with a place to stay?

REFRAIN

Foreleg and hind leg, donkey-like I trudge.
If we don't stop soon I'll refuse to budge.
All I ask is a feedbag and some hay --
Please, I beg you, find a place to stay!

REFRAIN:
Joseph and Mary, come inside, we pray!
Here's a posada where there's room to stay.
We have lamps to guide you,
We'll put food beside you,
Rose canopies to hide you.
For the donkey straw and sugar, maybe;
A bed of calla lilies for the baby.

2. Magnum Mysterium

REFRAIN:
O magnum mysterium,
That God should human form assume,
Revealed to creatures here below
jacentem in praesepio!

1
High mystery and happy sign,
That animals should see God's son,
God's word through whom the world was made,
Newborn and in a manger laid!
Dear virgin mother of our Lord,
Worthy were you to give him birth;
Help us to praise him in accord
With all that moves upon the earth.

2
A lean-to on the edge of town
Shelters some chickens and a cow,
Where Mary lays her baby down --
A feeding trough his dwelling now.
Soon other birds and beasts appear
On learning that their king is near,
And one by one they tell their story
To Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

REFRAIN

3
I, the cow, give milk and cheese;
Stolid am I but aim to please.
Welcome, Lord Jesus to my home:
Straw for bedding and floor of loam.
You have my manger for a bed,
(I'll eat feed from the floor instead)
And if you've trouble sleeping here,
I'll low a calf-song in your ear.

4
I am the rooster, straight and tall,
Ruddy my crown and fierce my call.
At dawn I loudly greet the day
And urge the sun along her way.
But lest you wake, light of my light,
I'll abdicate the waning night,
And reveling in your drawing nigh,
I'll chant a rooster lullaby

REFRAIN

5
Shyly and pleading, we appear,
Sheep, following our shepherds here.
We do not know if we belong,
We're not invited, just along.
Yet peering on your mother's face
It seems we're welcome in this place.
We'll crowd around you, fleece on fleece,
We'll shield and warm you, Prince of Peace.

6
I am the hen, dreaming I'm hurled
Into a newly-fashioned world
In which my chicks can look for help
From viper's brood and lion's whelp.
Lord rooster's cry comes crashing in:
Who can abide that prideful din?
Yet when I wake before me lies
The architect of paradise.

REFRAIN

7
I am the camel, kingly beast,
Arriving lately from the east,
Bearing a throne upon my hump.
How could I fail to grouse and grump
When I am made to share my space
With animals beneath my gaze?
As for this infant, who is he?
He is to me a mystery.

8
I am the raven sly and wise:
I know who lives, I know who dies.
I want to know if it is worth
My while to foster peace on earth.
Black as the night my beating wings
Head out to gauge this king of kings;
And now my cawing's all undone,
Foreseeing he'll die for everyone.

9
At last I've found some sure repose,
A place where I can feed and doze.
There's hay and water and a roof;
For any donkey that's enough.
I'd rather be a horse, you know,

But I have let that pipedream go.
Desiring all, I nothing lack --
I bore God's mother on my back.

REFRAIN

3. Jesus' Song

I heard the rooster crowing in his mirth,
The hen's soft clucking and the lowing cow,
The camel's hooves stamping the patient earth.

I saw my anxious father come and go,
I saw the shepherds shuffling bravely in,
I saw the wise men, clearly in the know,

Draw close with gifts in hand, intent to win
The favor of a god approaching near
While angels crowded round me, wing on wing,

Eager to witness what was happening here.
Speechless was I, although I am the Word
Through whom all things are fashioned and cohere.

Like fragrant oil on ancient wounds
outpoured,
I came in weakness to redeem the past,
Thus reconciling mortals to their Lord,

And making Godhead visible at last:
God's word, God's truth, God's life,
God's way,
Resting and warm against my mother's breast.

© 2014 Thomas Breidenthal. Used by permission.

Luna Pearl Woolf (1973)

HOW BRIGHT THE DARKNESS
(A Winter Solstice Carol)

Text by Eleanor Wilner

When the solstice coincides with the
full moon

The darkest day, the longest night,
the moon has turned the snow to light —
how bright the darkness is tonight!

Like errant stars, the bonfires blaze
and even the jaded tongue will praise
the bear cub born in her winter lair,
the bird song heard in the moonlit air,
as warring nations dream of truce,
a spill of notes from the mountain
spruce,

green through all the time of white —
how bright the darkness is tonight!

© 2014 Eleanor Wilner. Used by permission

Gordon Getty (1933)

FOUR CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Lyrics by Gordon Getty

1. Call the Children
(Hodie Christus Natus Est)
(English Verse by Gordon Getty.
Latin from Vespers service for
Christmas Day, antiphon to the
Magnificat)

Hodie Christus natus est, noe!
Hodie Salvator apparuit, alleluia!
Hodie in terra canunt angeli, noe!

Call the children, near and far,
Take them where the Maiden sings,
Where the gifts and candles are,
Show the baby from the star,
The shepherds and the kings.

Hodie laetantur archangeli, noe!

Call the creatures, far and near,
Side by side they come to hear
The song she sings him; wolf and sheep,
Fox and foal together keep,
The leopard and the deer.

Hodie exultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluia, noe!

She sings of what the creatures know,
Of what the birds and children say,
Of when we came and where we go,
Until she folds the night away
For Christmas Day.

2. The Snow Child

Where is the child that will come in the
snow?
Go where the winds and the caravans go.
Follow the star path to see where it
brings,
Angels and farriers, shepherds and kings.

Weave Him a coverlet, weave him a gown
Velvet and gossamer, flannel and down,
Weave Him a diadem, laurel and thorn,
Gift for the child in the snow newly born.

Maiden and nightingale, sing Him to
sleep.
Now all together lie shepherd and sheep.
Music will stay with Him all the night
long,
Music again when they waken in song.

3. Run to the Window

Listen! Run to the window,
Here in the starlight, shining all night
long.
Ladies, nobles and gentry,
Run to the window, hear our Christmas
song.

Snowfall, here in the starlight,
Cedar and aspen wear a silver comb.
Children, where does the night go?
Off to the westland, where the stars
come home.

Once where a star came
Three kings rode a-following,
Off to the westland by day and by night,
All through the day and night.

Snowfield, white in the starlight,
Mountain and meadow wear a bridal
gown.
Children, where does the world go?
Off to a dreamland as the snow comes
down.

Sing a song of Christmas,
Christmas in the forest,
Christmas song and Christmas laughter,
Christmas here and Christmas after.

Snowfall, mountain and meadow,
Cedar and aspen wear a silver cloak.
Bless you, high in the window,
Bless us together, goodly gentlefolk.

Once in dreamland
A maid sang a lullaby,
Horses held watch and three kings
knelt beside,

Knelt by her side, her side.

Children, where does the wind blow,
Where does the world go, and our
Christmas song?
Tell us, here in the starlight,
Here in the snowfield, snowing all night
long.

4. Candles on the Tree

Candles on the tree and the guests
come calling,
Children at the window and the
snowflakes falling,
Mittens from the sleigh ride,
Warming by the fireside,
Merry, merry Yuletide, everyone good...

Father, carve the goose, Mother, bring
the brandy,
Suzie, fetch the licorice and sugar candy,
Jenny, get the pastries,
Molly, get the cream cheese,
Buttermilk and chickpeas,
Gingerbread and dainties,

Someone find the mint, please,
everyone good...

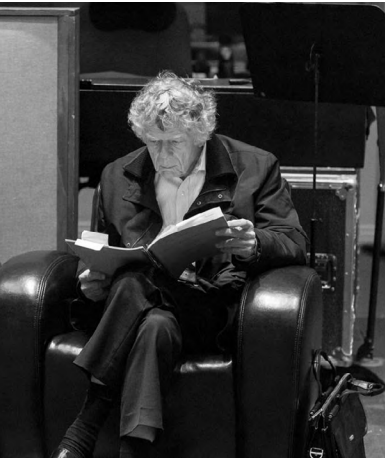
Billy does a jig on the pickle barrel,
Auntie, lead the table in a Christmas
carol,
Julie, hunt the slipper,
Bob and Sally with her,
All of us together, everyone good...

Granny, sing a tune, Father, tell a story,
Parson, play the fiddle as we toast Old
Glory,
Here's to all the Irish,
Pelicans and catfish,
Onions and the soapdish,
Anything outlandish,
Heartily we all wish everyone good...

Now the room is dark and the embers
glowing,
Presents piled and waiting and the
window showing
Just a hint of dawn peep,
Children down the stairs creep,
Daddy, Mommy come, keep Christmas

morning,
Daddy, Mommy, Daddy, Mommy,
Mommy, hurry, Daddy, hurry,
Merry Christmas, all of us and
everyone,
Good cheer!

© Gordon Getty. Used by permission.



Gordon Getty

John Corigliano (1938)

CHRISTMAS AT THE CLOISTERS
(from THE CLOISTERS)

Lyrics by William Hoffman

The new one,
the third one,
Saviour and baby,
is born again.
Praise Him!

The straw child,
the wood child,
the holy doll,
lives again.
Praise Him!

The innocent,
the penitent,
redeemer and martyr,
cries again.
Praise Him!

The uptown Christ,
the Hudson guest,
the Inwood babe,
smiles again.
Praise Him!

The new one,
the third one, Saviour and baby,
sleeps again
in Bethlehem.
Praise Him!

God invests December.
Hallelujah and amen.

© 1967 G. Schirmer, Inc. Used by permission of
William M. Hoffman and G. Schirmer.

Franz Gruber (1787-1863),
Arranged by Gordon Getty

SILENT NIGHT

English text by John Freeman
French text by Louis (Révérend Père)
Barjon
German text by Joseph Mohr

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.

Douce nuit, sainte nuit,
Dans les cieux, l’astre luit.
Le mystère annoncé s’accomplit.
Cet enfant sur la paille endormi,
C’est l’amour infini,
C’est l’amour infini.

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

English text by John Freeman, 1859
French text by Louis (Révérend Père) Barjon, 1951,
© Éditions Musicales de la Schola Cantorum,
CH-2114 Fleurier, Used by permission
German text by Joseph Mohr, 1816



Acknowledgments

Producer Job Maarse	Cover photo Kendalle Getty
Balance engineer Jean-Marie Geijsen	Recording studio photography Drew Altizer
Recording engineer Dann Thompson	Design Joost de Boo
Editing Jean-Marie Geijsen	Product manager Angelina Jambrekovic
Audio recording & postproduction Polyhymnia International B.V.	Special thanks to Kristi Chew, Everett Doner Leslie Ann Jones, Bruce Munson

To learn more about the music and the artists please visit
www.pentatonemusic.com

This album has been recorded at the Skywalker Sound,
San Rafael, California, USA in December 2014.



PENTATONE

Premium Sound and Outstanding Artists

Music of today is evolving and forever changing, but classical music stays true in creating harmony among the instruments. Classical music is as time-honored as it is timeless. And so should the experience be.

We take listening to classical music to a whole new level using the best technology to produce a high quality recording, in whichever format it may come, in whichever format it may be released.

Together with our talented artists, we take pride in our work of providing an impeccable way of experiencing classical music. For all their diversity, our artists have one thing in common. They all put their heart and soul into the music, drawing on every last drop of creativity, skill, and determination to perfect their compositions.



Sit back and enjoy

PENTATONE

www.pentatonemusic.com

