

For the five of us, Christmas has always been a time of gratitude and reflection; for delicious, home-cooked foods, festive music, and being with the people we love most. Every Christmas Eve, the five of us bring our little families together for a feast, a party, and the exchange of a few gifts. Sometimes the gifts are homemade, and sometimes they're silly, sentimental, or practical. But above all, the night is always about being together (or on video chat for any of us separated by distance) and feeling the warmth of love and family at the holidays.

When we decided to record an album of some of our favorite festive music, we really wanted to try and capture the warmth, fun, and peace of these yearly, sibling Christmas Eve parties. So wherever you are and whatever your personal holiday traditions may be, we hope you feel a little bit of the joy we do while digging into a homemade pie, the laughter or tears of love we feel while opening the gifts we've given each other, or the peace we feel while listening to *Silent Night* by the soft light of a Christmas tree.

TH 5 BROWNS

THE 5 BROWNS – Ryan, Melody, Gregory, Deondra and Desirae – all attended The Juilliard School in New York City, where they became the first family of five siblings to be admitted. The quintet enjoyed their first wave of critical attention in 2002, when People magazine dubbed them the "Fab Five" and they were featured on Oprah and 60 Minutes. The 5 Browns' albums have collectively spent over 30 weeks in the #1 position on Billboard Magazine's Classical Album Chart. The New York Post has proclaimed: "One family, five pianos and 50 fingers add up to the biggest classical music sensation in years."

The quintet has garnered extensive coverage from media outlets ranging from The Tonight Show, Good Morning America, Today, and The View, to NPR's Performance Today, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, and Entertainment Weekly.

THE 5 BROWNS tour extensively in the U.S. and abroad and have performed in venues including Carnegie Hall in New York City, the Grand National Theater in Beijing, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Symphony Hall in Chicago, and Zaryadye Concert Hall in Moscow. Individually and collaboratively, they have soloed with orchestras including the National

Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New Jersey Symphony, the Saint Louis Symphony, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and the Orchestre de chambre de Paris.

A highlight for the quintet was a commissioned work for five pianos written by famed composer Nico Muhly. Under the direction of Maestro James Conlon, the Browns premiered the piece at the Ravinia Festival with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

The group was also featured in a TV special, "The 5 Browns In Concert" which aired on PBS stations throughout the country.

Additionally, filmmaker Ben Niles' feature-length documentary "The 5 Browns: Digging Through the Darkness" has played at film festivals around the world and was labeled a Critic's Pick by The New York Times.

ILL 5 BROWNS are managed by IMG artists, and are exclusive Steinway Artists.

## CHRISTMAS WITH THE 5 BROWNS

Recorded at The Dorothy Young Center for the Arts at Drew University on July 1-3, 2019. Skater's Waltz Recorded June 27, 2016.

Producer/ Engineer/Mastering Engineer: Adam Abeshouse

Assistant Engineer: Jeremy Kinney

Executive Producers for Steinway: Eric Feidner, Jon Feidner

Production Assistant for Steinway: Renée Oakford

Art Direction: Jackie Fugere

Design: Cover to Cover Design, Anilda Carrasquillo

Piano Technician: Jerry Vezza

Photography: Casey Welch

Special thanks to Vivian Chiu, Ellis Hilton and the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts at Drew University.

## CHRISTMAS

## WITH THE 5 BROWN

Imagine The 5 Browns hosting a festive, dressy dinner party where classical piano music is the focus of the night.

Snow falls and sleigh bells ring through the stories told via melody. You're invited to spend an evening of sparkling lights and pine boughs, listening to Christmas music written throughout the ages.

## NUTCRACKER SUITE

Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky Arr: Jeffrey Shumway

- 1. I. MINIATURE OVERTURE 3:14
- 2. II. MARCH 2:31
- 3. III. DANCE OF THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY 1:51
- 4. IV. RUSSIAN DANCE 1:11 The 5 Browns
- JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING 3:40
   Johann Sebastian Bach Arr. Harold Bauer | Ryan Brown
- FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN (from Messiah)
   George Frideric Handel Arr: Carl Czerny 3:35
   Melody Brown, Deondra Brown, Desirae Brown
- 7. O HOLY NIGHT 4:17

Adolphe Adam Arr: Jeffrey Shumway Deondra Brown, Desirae Brown

 SLEIGH RIDE: A HOLIDAY EXCURSION FOR FIVE PIANOS 3:04

Leroy Anderson Arr: Greg Anderson The 5 Browns



- 9. STILL, STILL, STILL 4:07
  Traditional Arr: Mack Wilberg and Melody Brown | The 5 Browns
- LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING 3:44
   Traditional Arr: Melody Brown | Melody Brown
- MARIA WIEGENLIED (Mary's Lullaby), Op. 76 No. 52 2:09
   Max Reger | Gregory Brown
- WEIHNACHTSTRAUM (Silent Night), Op. 17 No. 9 1:53
   Max Reger | Gregory Brown
- SKATER'S WALTZ
   Émile Waldteufel Arr: First Piano Quartet 5:19
   The 5 Browns
- GREENSLEEVES from Turandot's Frauengemach 3:18
   Ferruccio Busoni | Melody Brown
- A CAROL SYMPHONY 4:45
   Victor Hely-Hutchinson Arr: Kevin Olson The 5 Browns
- CAROL OF THE BELLS 3:13
   Mykola Leontovych Arr: Jeffrey Shumway | The 5 Browns

   Playing Time: 52:01