



CHANTICLEER

JOY TO THE WORLD



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The magic of Christmas lies in old meeting new: beloved traditions earn deeper meaning with each passing year. Friends and family come and go, experiences multiply, and life accumulates, while the familiar rituals of Christmastime pass from one generation to the next. Similarly, the magic of Chanticleer's Christmas offerings come from the ensemble's extraordinary ability to move seamlessly and expertly between styles, allowing not only the juxtaposition of ancient and contemporary, but also fresh interpretations of enduring melodies.

In *Joy to the World*, we pay homage to the centuries-old tradition of Christmas choral music by singing motets composed by some of the finest Renaissance composers: Michael Praetorius, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, and Cristóbal de Morales. We also include many timeless Christmas carols – familiar tunes with words that resonate across generations. However, since this is Chanticleer, we bring a new perspective to each one. This album features seven new arrangements of holiday favorites: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" by vocal jazz expert Amanda Taylor, "Ding Dong Merrily on High" and "Joy to the World" by Chanticleer's longest tenured singer, countertenor Adam Brett Ward, "Good King Wenceslas / Little Girl Blue," "Once in Royal David's City," and "Silent Night" by Chanticleer's own vocal jazz star, bass-baritone Jared Graveley,

and "I Wonder as I Wander," arranged by Music Director Tim Keeler. Keeler has also arranged a little-known Appalachian folk tune, "And the Trees Do Moan," bringing it to many ears for the first time.

In addition to carols, the album features several contemporary compositions sure to become Christmas favorites. Composers Sarah Quartel and Steven Sametz contribute two joyful, winning works: "This Endris Night" and "A Christmas Fanfare (*Angelus ad Virginem*)." Finally, Joanna Marsh completes our exploration of winter and the Christmas season with two brand new commissions, "Hands and the Hour" and "Arrival at the Lantern Festival." These pieces were written for us and for our friends at the choir Zero8 in Stockholm. The works were inspired by Marsh's 2019 composition "In Winter's House," which has become a favorite of both groups. When asked to compose a companion piece, Marsh responded with "Hands and the Hour" and "Arrival at the Lantern Festival," each setting a newly commissioned poem by Jane Draycott. The resulting triptych is full of wintertime magic, light, and wonder.

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1. Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove,
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

ISAAC WATTS (1674 – 1748)

2. This Endris Night

This endris night I saw a sight,
A star as bright as day,
And ever among, a maiden sung:
"Lully, by by, lullay."

This lovely lady sat and sang,
And to her child did say:
"My son, my brother, father dear,
Why liest thou thus in hay?
My sweetest bird, 'tis thus required,
Though thou be king veray,
But nevertheless I will not cease to sing
'By by, lullay.'"

The child then spake whilst she did sing,
And to his mother did say,
"Yea, I am known as Heaven-King
In crib though I be laid.
For angels bright down on me light;
Thou knowest 'tis no nay.
And for that sight thou may delight to sing,
'By by, lullay.'"

"Now sweet son, since it is so,
That all is at thy will,
I pray thee grant to me a boon,
If it be right and skill,
That child or man, who will or can
Be merry on my day,
To bliss them bring, and I shall sing,
'Lully, by by, lullay.'"

ANONYMOUS

3. Rorate Caeli

Rorate, caeli, desuper,
et nubes pluant iustum;
aperiatur terra,
et germinet Salvatorem.

Caeli enarrant gloriam Dei,
et opera manuum eius
annunciat firmamentum.

Gloria Patri, et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat principio,
et nunc, et semper,
in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

ISAIAH 45:8, PSALM 19:1

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the clouds rain justice;
let the earth be opened,
and let the Savior spring forth.*

*The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the work of His hands
is proclaimed by the firmament.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

4. O Magnum Mysterium

O magnum mysterium
admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum
iacentem in praesepio.

Natum vidimus et choros angelorum,
collaudantes Dominum, Alleluia.

ANONYMOUS

*O great mystery
and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord
lying in the manger.*

*We saw the newborn and the choir of angels,
praising the Lord, Alleluia.*

5. Quem Vidistis Pastores

Quem vidistis, pastores, dicite;
annuntiate nobis, in terris quis apparuit?

Natum vidimus et choros angelorum
collaudantes Dominum, Alleluia.

ANONYMOUS

*Who have you seen, shepherds, tell us;
announce to us, who has appeared on earth?*

*We saw the newborn and the choir of angels,
praising the Lord, Alleluia.*

6. Ecce Virgo Concipiet

Ecce virgo concipiet, et pariet filium,
et vocabitur nomen eius:
admirabilis Deus fortis.

Super solium David,
et super regnum eius,
sedebit in aeternum.
Et vocabitur nomen eius:
admirabilis Deus fortis.

ISAIAH 7:14; ISAIAH 9:6-7

*Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and His name shall be:
wonderful, mighty God.*

*Over the throne of David,
and over His kingdom,
He will reign for eternity.
And His name shall be:
wonderful, mighty God.*

7. Once in Royal David's City

Once in Royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to Earth from Heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on Earth our Savior Holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone!

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high:
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER (1818 – 1895)

8. I Wonder as I Wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor ord'n'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 the ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any mean thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have had it, for He was the King.

JOHN JACOB NILES (1892 – 1980)

9. A Christmas Fanfare (*Angelus ad Virginem*)

The angel came to Mary meek,
Secretly into her chamber,
Hailed her there with *Aves* sweet,
Calming her fear of danger:
"Hail be thou full of maidenly grace,
Heaven's light shall shine upon your face;

For you shall bear the son of all mankind,
The King, the Savior of the world,
For you shall bring the light divine,
The Savior of the world!"

Softly to him answered she,
The gentle maiden then:
"How can then these tidings be
for I know nought of men?"
Gabriel then said to Mary bright:
"Fear thee not in God is all aright:

For you shall bear the son of all mankind,
The King, the Savior of the world,
For you shall bring the light divine,
The Savior of the world!"

When the maiden understood
What these words did presage,
Bringing peace and love and good
Through the heavenly message.
"To thee shall I give my consent;
To the Lord my mind and will assent;"

"For I shall bear the child, of all mankind,
The King, the Savior of the world,
To me is granted light divine,
The Savior of the world!"

Maiden, mother, let us sing:
"Borne for us a Savior!"
Let the world in gladness ring
out our songs to praise her!
She, the chosen of the Lord above,
Bears the Prince of Peace through God's own love:

For she shall bear the son of all mankind,
The King, the Savior of the world,
For she shall bring the light divine,
The Savior of the world.

Sing nowell, for us is borne today
The Savior borne of Mary!

ANONYMOUS

10. 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 angel 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 be sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

Pray ye dutifully prime,
Your matin chime, ye ringers.
May ye beautifully rime,
Your evetime song, ye singers
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

GEORGE RATCLIFFE WOODWARD (1848 – 1934)

11. Good King Wenceslas / Little Girl Blue

Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about
Deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gathering winter fuel.

Sit there, and count your fingers,
What can you do?
Poor girl, you're through,
Sit there, count your little fingers,
Unhappy little girl blue.

Sit there, count the raindrops,
Falling on you.
It's time you knew,
All you can ever count on
are the raindrops,
That fall on little girl blue.

In his masters steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted,
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian friends, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye, who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

JOHN MASON NEALE (1818 – 1866),
LORENZ HART (1895 – 1943)

12. And the Trees Do Moan

In the valley of Judea,
Cold and wint'ry blown,
Christ was born one frosty morning,
And the trees do moan.

Darkened skies and men a-stumbling;
High above them shone
one bright star a-moving eastward,
Where the trees do moan.

Herod and the ruling Romans
Stately sat upon the throne;
Sent the soldiers out a-looking,
And the trees do moan,
And the trees do moan.

Mary took her little baby,
Set out all alone;
Down in Egypt land they tarried,
Where the trees do moan.

Jesus then became a carpenter,
Worked with wood and stone;
Nails He drove and crossarms fashioned,
And the trees do moan.

There one day while in the forest black,
One tree He picked for His own,
A Christmas tree, an evergreen one,

And the trees do moan,
And the trees do moan.

ANONYMOUS

13. Hands and the Hour

Twilight, and no-one's raised a hand
to close the shutters yet. We have one hour,
this lamplit hall between arrivals and departures
between the day and night-time,
night-time and the day.

Bright illumination all along our street
the body's heat draws inwards
like a tent (lit up), like the warm low rays of sun
between the day and night-time,
night-time and the day.

Light lingers in the parks and squares
small papers swirling there like leaves
not leaves but birds, not birds but hands
between the day and night-time,
night-time and the day.

On the cusp of dark the evening star appears
hope's matchlight flaring, while below we cup
our hands around the glowing candle-flame of home.
(between the day and night-time,
night-time and the day).

So many hands, small wingspans hovering
above (the low fields of) our fires. Now winter
is the glinting world, summer the life to come
between the day and night-time,
night-time and the day.

JANE DRAYCOTT (B. 1954)

14. Arrival at the Lantern Festival

And will there also be feasting?
Yes, in the orchards – night's berries
glowing and gleaming: resilient embers – oranges
and apricots grown from the
seeds, free for the picking.

And will there be music?
Yes, even our clothes will be singing,
and the owl and the mistle thrush,
and the lamplighter's whistling tune
with your name on, high in the trees.

And will there be stories?
Yes, evergreen tales of birds
made of gold and of silver that fly
in the dark overhead like hope on the wing.

And will there be innocence?
Yes and pure adoration, and gifts:
a lantern for everyone to light
the hard-to-find path marked only
by faint constellations of fireflies.

And will there be peace?
Yes for a good while, like day-break
in woods after snowfall, the lanterns
still glowing like faithful promises,
our vow to return year after year.

JANE DRAYCOTT

15. In Winter's House

In winter's house there's a room
that's pale and still as mist in a field
while outside in the street every gate's shut firm,
every face as cold as steel.

In winter's house there's a bed
that is spread with frost and feathers, that gleams
in the half-light like rain in a disused yard
or a pearl in a choked-up stream.

In winter's house there's a child
asleep in a dream of light that grows out
of the dark, a flame you can hold in your hand
like a flower or a torch on the street.

In winter's house there's a tale
that's told of a great chandelier in a garden,
of fire that catches and travels for miles,
of all gates and windows wide open.

In winter's house there's a flame
being dreamt by a child in the night,
in the small quiet house at the turn in the lane
where the darkness gives way to light.

JANE DRAYCOTT

16. 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.*

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
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.*

FREDERICK OAKELEY (1802 – 1880)

17. 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 Savior is born!"
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

JOSEPH MOHR (1792 – 1848)



CHANTICLEER

Known around the world for its eclectic repertoire and dazzling virtuosity, the GRAMMY® award-winning vocal ensemble Chanticleer – under the leadership of Music Director Tim Keeler – has been hailed by *The Boston Globe* as “breathtaking in its accuracy of intonation, purity of blend, of color and swagger of style.” Founded in San Francisco in 1978 by singer and musicologist Louis Botto, Chanticleer quickly took its place as one of the most prolific recording and touring ensembles in the world, an “orchestra of voices” performing thousands of live concerts and selling more than one million recordings.

Rooted in the Renaissance, Chanticleer’s repertoire has expanded to include a wide range of classical, gospel, jazz and popular music. With a deep commitment to the commissioning of new compositions and arrangements, Chanticleer foregrounds American repertoire and a distinctively American sound, complementing the group’s signature diversity in terms of membership and genre. The ensemble has dedicated much of its vast recording catalogue to these commissions, garnering GRAMMY® Awards for its recordings of Sir John Tavener’s

Lamentations & Praises and the ambitious collection of commissioned works entitled *Colors of Love*. Chanticleer’s 2003 album *Our American Journey* was inducted into the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress in 2025. Chanticleer is the recipient of Chorus America’s Dale Warland Commission Award and the Chorus America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming. The group’s Music Director Emeritus, Joseph H. Jennings, received the Brazeal Wayne Dennard Award for his contribution to the African American choral tradition during his 25-year tenure as both singer and Music Director.

Chanticleer – named for the “clear-singing” rooster in Geoffrey Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* – was named Ensemble of the Year by *Musical America* in 2008 and inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame. The group’s award-winning education programs were recognized with the 2010 Chorus America Education Outreach Award, and have engaged tens of thousands of students since the ensemble began.

chanticleer.org

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ensemble member 1988–1997) for his
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John Jacob Niles

In Winter's House © Joanna Marsh 2019

Hands and the Hour & Arrival at the Lantern
Festival © Joanna Marsh 2025



CHANTICLEER

Tavian Cox, Luke Elmer, Cortez Mitchell, Bradley Sharpe, Logan Shields, Adam Brett Ward – *Countertenor*
Vineel Garisa Mahal, Matthew Mazzola, Andrew Van Allsburg – *Tenor*
Andy Berry, Jared Graveley, Matthew Knickman – *Baritone and Bass*
Tim Keeler – *Music Director*

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|----|---|------|-----|--|------|
| 1. | Joy to the World
Lowell Mason (1792–1872), <i>arr.</i> Adam Brett Ward | 2:56 | 10. | Ding Dong Merrily on High
Traditional, <i>arr.</i> Adam Brett Ward | 2:02 |
| 2. | This Endris Night
Sarah Quartel (b. 1982) | 3:15 | 11. | Good King Wenceslas / Little Girl Blue
Traditional and Richard Rodgers (1902–1979),
<i>arr.</i> Jared Graveley
SOLOIST: TAVIAN COX | 4:40 |
| 3. | Rorate Caeli
Michael Praetorius (1571–1621) | 2:35 | 12. | And the Trees Do Moan
Traditional, <i>arr.</i> Tim Keeler
SOLOISTS: CORTEZ MITCHELL, ANDY BERRY | 4:18 |
| 4. | O Magnum Mysterium
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594) | 2:32 | 13. | Hands and the Hour*
(from <i>Winter's Garland</i>)
Joanna Marsh (b. 1970) | 4:15 |
| 5. | Quem Vidistis Pastores
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina | 2:44 | 14. | Arrival at the Lantern Festival*
(from <i>Winter's Garland</i>)
Joanna Marsh | 3:35 |
| 6. | Ecce Virgo Concipiet
Cristóbal de Morales (c. 1500–1553)
QUARTET: ADAM BRETT WARD, MATTHEW MAZZOLA,
ANDREW VAN ALLSBURG, JARED GRAVELEY | 4:12 | 15. | In Winter's House
(from <i>Winter's Garland</i>)
Joanna Marsh | 4:45 |
| 7. | Once in Royal David's City
Henry Gauntlett (1805–1876), <i>arr.</i> Jared Graveley
SOLOIST: LOGAN SHIELDS | 3:28 | 16. | O Come, All Ye Faithful
John Francis Wade (1711–1786),
<i>arr.</i> Amanda Taylor | 4:09 |
| 8. | I Wonder as I Wander
John Jacob Niles (1892–1980), <i>arr.</i> Tim Keeler
SOLOIST: ANDREW VAN ALLSBURG | 3:18 | 17. | Silent Night
Franz Xaver Gruber (1787–1863),
<i>arr.</i> Jared Graveley | 3:56 |
| 9. | A Christmas Fanfare (<i>Angelus ad Virginem</i>)
Steven Sametz (b. 1954)
SOLOISTS: LOGAN SHIELDS, MATTHEW MAZZOLA | 1:46 | | | |

* New Commission

Total Running Time

58:36