



CD-1049 DIGITAL

# PRECIOUS

CHRISTMAS MUSIC WITH  
YOSHIKAZU MERA

- |             |  |             |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| <b>[1]</b>  | <b>Introduction</b>  | <b>1'28</b> |
| <b>[2]</b>  | <b>O Lord My God! (How Great Thou Art)</b><br><i>Words &amp; Music by Carl Boberg. Arranged &amp; Sequenced by Hiro Iida</i><br><i>Vocal Arrangement by Marlon Sanders</i> | <b>5'15</b> |
| <b>[3]</b>  | <b>Beauty and the Beast</b><br><i>Words by Howard Ashman / Music by Alan Menken. Arranged &amp; Sequenced by Jamshied Sharifi</i>  | <b>3'23</b> |
| <b>[4]</b>  | <b>Star Dust</b><br><i>Words by Michell Parish / Music by Hoagy Carmichael</i><br><i>Arranged by Gil Goldstein (Dedicated to Lili Goldstein)</i>                           | <b>1'07</b> |
| <b>[5]</b>  | <b>If I Loved You</b><br><i>Words by Oscar Hammerstein II / Music by Richard Rogers</i><br><i>Arranged by Gil Goldstein (Dedicated to Lili Goldstein)</i>                  | <b>3'35</b> |
| <b>[6]</b>  | <b>Silent Night</b><br><i>Words by Joseph Mohr / Music by Franz Gruber. Arranged by Gil Goldstein</i>  | <b>3'39</b> |
| <b>[7]</b>  | <b>The Meaning of Wonder</b><br><i>Words &amp; Music by Gil Goldstein</i>  | <b>4'59</b> |
| <b>[8]</b>  | <b>Some Day My Prince Will Come</b><br><i>Words by Larry Morey / Music by Frank Churchill. Arranged &amp; Sequenced by Hiro Iida</i>                                       | <b>3'52</b> |
| <b>[9]</b>  | <b>O Holy Night</b><br><i>English Words by D.S. Dwight / Music by Adolphe Adam. Arranged and Sequenced by Jamshied Sharifi</i>   | <b>3'36</b> |
| <b>[10]</b> | <b>Music of the Spheres</b><br><i>Words &amp; Music by Gil Goldstein</i>   | <b>5'33</b> |
| <b>[11]</b> | <b>White Christmas</b><br><i>Words &amp; Music by Irving Berlin. Arranged &amp; Sequenced by Hiro Iida</i>   | <b>5'21</b> |
| <b>[12]</b> | <b>When You Wish Upon a Star</b><br><i>Words by Ned Washington / Music by Leigh Harline. Arranged by Andy Erzin</i>  | <b>4'08</b> |

**Yoshikazu Mera**, counter-tenor

**Yoshikazu Mera**, Japan's leading counter-tenor, is a winner of the highest prize at the eighth Early Music Competition (1994) and the third prize at the sixth Sogakudo Japanese Lied Competition (1995). He is highly acclaimed in sacred and early music field, appearing as a soloist with the Bach Collegium Japan and in opera. He is also popular as a multitalent, singing a wide range of repertoire from German *Lieder*, Negro spirituals, songs from musicals and so on. He is also interested in Japanese songs; his disc of *Mother's Songs* (Japanese popular songs) is available on BIS-CD-906 and a further CD, *Nightingale*, features Japanese art songs (BIS-CD-889). He attracts much attention as a new type of entertainer, surpassing the classical field. This is reflected in his recent appearance singing the theme song of the film *Princess Mononoke*, distributed worldwide by Walt Disney.

**Yoshikazu Mera**, der führende Countertenor Japans, gewann den ersten Preis beim achten Wettbewerb für frühe Musik (1994) und den dritten Preis beim sechsten Japanischen Sogakudo-Liedwettbewerb (1995). Als Interpret auf den Gebieten der sakralen und der frühen Musik ist er ganz besonders gefeiert, und er erschien als Solist mit dem Bach Collegium Japan und in Opern. Er ist auch als vielfältiges Talent beliebt, und er singt ein breites Repertoire, von deutschen Liedern bis zu Negro spirituals und Songs aus Musicals. Er interessiert sich auch für japanische Lieder; auf BIS-CD-906 singt er beliebte japanische Lieder, und auf einer weiteren CD, BIS-CD-889, japanische Kunstlieder. Er erregt Aufsehen als ein neuartiger Unterhalter, die Grenzen der Klassik überschreitend. Ein Beispiel ist, daß er das Titellied des von Walt Disney weltweit vertriebenen Films *Princess Mononoke* sang.

**Yoshikazu Mera**, l'éminent haute-contre du Japon, est un gagnant du plus grand prix du huitième Concours de Musique Ancienne (1994) et du troisième prix du sixième Concours de Lied japonais Sogakudo (1995). Il est très applaudi dans le domaine de la musique sacrée et ancienne, apparaissant comme soliste avec le Collegium Bach du Japon et dans des opéras. Il est aussi populaire en tant que multitalentueux, chantant un vaste répertoire couvrant lieder allemands, negros spirituals, chansons de musicals et ainsi de suite. Il s'intéresse aussi aux chansons japonaises; son disque de *Mother's Songs* (Chansons populaires japonaises) est disponible sur BIS-CD-906 et un autre CD, *Nightingale*, présente des chansons artistiques japonaises (BIS-CD-889). Il s'attire beaucoup d'attention comme nouveau type d'artiste, dépassant le domaine classique; il a récemment enregistré la chanson titre du film *Princess Mononoke*, qui est distribué internationalement par Walt Disney.

## **[1] Introduction**

### **[2] O Lord My God!** (How Great Thou Art)

*Words & Music by Carl Boberg*

*Arranged & Sequenced by Hiro Iida*

*Vocal Arrangement by Marlon Sanders*

\*O Lord, my God

When I in awesome wonder

Consider all the works thy hand hath made

I see the stars

I hear the mighty thunder

Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

\*\*Then sings my soul, my saviour God to thee

How great thou art

How great thou art

Then sings my soul, my saviour God to thee

How great thou art

How great thou art.

When Christ shall come

With shouts of acclamation

And take me home

What joy shall fill my heart

Then shall I bow in humble adoration

And there proclaim

My God, how great thou art.

*\*Repeat*

*Background Vocals: Marlon Sanders, Arif St. Michel,*

*Rosa Russ*

*E-Guitar: Jiro Yoshida*

## **[3] Beauty and the Beast**

*Words by Howard Ashman*

*Music by Alan Menken*

*Arranged & Sequenced by Jamshied Sharifi*

Tale as old as time,

True as it can be.

Barely even friends,

Then somebody bends

Unexpectedly.

Just a little change.

Small to say the least.

Both a little scared,

Neither one prepared.

Beauty and the Beast.

Ever just the same.

Ever a surprise.

Ever as before,

Ever just as sure

As the sun will rise.

Tale as old as time.

Tune as old as song.

Bittersweet and strange,

Finding you can change,

Learning you were wrong.

Certain as the sun

Rising in the East.

Tale as old as time.

Song as old as rhyme.

Beauty and the Beast.

Tale as old as time,

Song as old as rhyme.

Beauty and the Beast.

*Guitar: Jiro Yoshida*

*Orchestra*

## **[4]/[5] Star Dust – If I Loved You**

*(Dedicated to Lili Goldstein)*

*Star Dust: Words by Michell Parish*

*Star Dust: Music by Hoagy Carmichael*

*If I Loved You: Words by Oscar Hammerstein II*

*If I Loved You: Music by Richard Rogers*

*Arranged by Gil Goldstein*

### **Star Dust**

And now the purple dusk of twilight time  
Steals across the meadows of my heart,  
High up in the sky the little stars climb  
Always reminding me that we're apart.  
You wandered down the lane and faraway,  
Leaving me a song that will not die,  
Love is now the stardust of yesterday,  
The music of the years gone by

### **If I Loved You**

If I loved you  
Time and again I would try to say  
All I'd want you to know  
If I loved you  
Words wouldn't come in an easy way  
Round in circles I'd go!

\*Longing to tell you  
But afraid and shy  
I'd let my golden chances pass me by  
Soon you'd leave me  
Off you would go in the mist of day  
Never, never to know  
How I loved you  
If I loved you  
A song of love is a sad song

*Piano: Gil Goldstein*

*Percussion: Ben Wittman*

*Orchestra*

## **[6] Silent Night**

*Words by Joseph Mohr*

*Music by Franz Gruber*

*Arranged by Gil Goldstein*

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,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the saviour is born!  
Christ the saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Piano and Accordion: Gil Goldstein*

*Guitar: Jiro Yoshida*

## **[7] The Meaning of Wonder**

*Words & Music by Gil Goldstein*

The meaning of wonder is running thru' my brain.  
Things I can't explain to me or no one.

Why is this season a reason to be jolly  
Deck the halls with holly for you and me.

Who is the artist that thought of building snow men  
I know it was someone like you and me.

We are the reasons I think you should know  
That makes this day special and makes our hearts glow.  
We are the magic and we are the artists,  
And we are all searching to love and to know.

Where is the magic that draws us all together  
Each a little better for now and ever.

Who is the artist that thought of building snow men  
I know it was someone like you and me.

We are the reasons I think you should know  
That makes this day special and makes our hearts glow.  
We are the magic and we are the artists,  
And we are all searching to love and to know.

*Accordion: Gil Goldstein  
Orchestra*

## **⑧ Some Day My Prince Will Come**

*Words by Larry Morey*

*Music by Frank Churchill*

*Arranged & Sequenced by Hiro Iida*

\*Some day my prince will come,  
Some day I'll find my love,  
And how thrilling that moment will be,  
When the prince of my dreams comes to me.

\*He'll whisper, 'I love you',  
And steal a kiss or two.

Though he's far away  
I'll find my love some day,  
Some day when my dreams come true.

Some day I'll find my love,  
Someone to call my own,  
And I'll know her the moment we meet,  
For my heart will start skipping a beat.  
Some day we'll say and do

Things we've been longing to.  
Though she's far away  
I'll find my love some day,  
Some day when my dreams come true.

*Piano: Gil Goldstein  
Trombone: Eijiro Nakagawa  
Drums: Ben Wittman*

## **⑨ O Holy Night**

*English Words by D.S. Dwight*

*Music by Adolphe Adam*

*Arranged and Sequenced by Jamshied Sharifi*

O holy night!  
The stars are brightly shining.  
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth!  
Long lay the world  
In sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees!  
O hear the angels' voice!  
O night divine,  
O night when Christ was born!  
O night, o holy night!  
O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love, and his gospel is peace;  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise his holy name;  
Christ is the Lord, Oh, praise his name forever!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

*Piano: Jamshied Sharifi  
Orchestra*

## **10 Music of the Spheres**

*Words & Music by Gil Goldstein*

Close your eyes  
And listen to the music of the spheres.

It's the singing of the planets.  
It's the rhythms of the years.

It's the hummings  
Of the smallest things  
That hold together you and me.

It's all the rhythms  
In between those tiny specks and galaxies.

Close your eyes  
And listen to the music of the spheres.

It's the songs you hear  
When none are sung and silence meets your ears.

It's the sound  
That lives in our space.

It's the songs  
That are the human race.

It's ev'ry song that's ever been  
And all the ones to be.

When you hear the music  
Hang on don't lose it.  
It's the song you dreamed about.  
Don't let it slip away.  
And when love has found you  
Let the song surround you.  
Then you'll know the harmony  
That only love can make.

Close your eyes  
And listen to the music of the spheres.

It is just beyond your doorstep  
Ringing loud and ringing clear.  
It's the music of the universe of planets  
Spinning round the earth.  
It's night. It's day.

It's afternoon.  
It's the song inside of ev'ry tune.

When you hear the music  
Hang on don't lose it.  
It's the song you dreamed about.  
Don't let it slip away.  
And when love has found you  
Let the song surround you.  
Then you'll know the harmony  
That only love can make.

Close your eyes  
And listen to the music of the spheres.

It's the singing of the planets.  
It's the rhythm of the years.

You may not think  
You hear it,  
But you listen anyway.  
It's the perfect sound  
You've never heard  
And it's with you ev'ry day.

*Piano: Gil Goldstein*  
*Guitar: Jiro Yoshida*  
*Trombone: Eijiro Nakagawa*  
*Cymbals: Ben Wittman*  
*Orchestra*

## **[11] White Christmas**

*Words & Music by Irving Berlin*

*Arranged & Sequenced by Hiro Iida*

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas  
Just like the ones I used to know  
Where the treetops glisten  
And children listen to hear  
Sleigh bells in the snow.

**\*\***I'm dreaming of a white Christmas  
With ev'ry Christmas card I write  
'May your days be merry and bright  
And may all your Christmases be white'.

*Guitar: Jiro Yoshida*

Like a bolt out of the blue,  
Fate steps in and sees you through.  
When you wish upon a star  
Your dreams come true.

*Piano: Andy Erzin*

## **[12] When You Wish Upon a Star**

*Words by Ned Washington*

*Music by Leigh Harline*

*Arranged by Andy Erzin*

When a star is born, they possess a gift or two.  
One of them is this: they have the power  
To make a wish come true...

When you wish upon a star,  
Makes no difference who you are.  
Anything your heart desires  
Will come to you.

If your heart is in your dream,  
No requests is too extreme.  
When you wish upon a star  
As dreamers do.

**\*Fate is kind,**  
She brings to those who love,  
The sweet fulfilment  
Of their secret longing.



## **Orchestra Members:**

Violin: Elena Barere  
Cor anglais: Nancy Newbauer  
Flute: Diane Lesser  
Violas: Sortomme Richard  
Sue Pray  
Carol Landon  
Juliet Haffner  
Sarah Adams  
Crystal Garner  
Cellos: Jeremy Turner  
Caryl Paisner  
Jerry Grossman  
Bass: David Finck  
Contractor: Jill Dell' Abate  
Copy: Wally Dunbar, Norman Forsythe

Recording data: September 1998 at Avator Studio and Kampo Studio, New York

**Producers: Yoshikazu Mera, Hisaaki Matsushita**

Music directed and co-produced by Jiro Yoshida

Recorded and mixed by Alec Head

Assistant engineers: Matt Gold, Rich Alvi, Gregory Morley

Mastering engineer: Takao Suga

Production coordination: Kiyuko Murata (Sound Wing Ltd., N.Y.)

Assistant: Mizue Imanishi (Sound Wing Ltd., N.Y.)

Management: Ayako Kuninobu (La Mela), Shima Yoshioka (Japan Arts)

Executive Producer: Sumio Amanuma

Supervisors: Kenji Arai, Minoru Fukuda

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Hair and make-up: Hisako Sakaguchi

Typesetting, lay-out: Kyllikki & Andrew Barnett, Compact Design Ltd., Saldean, Brighton, England

Colour origination: Studio 90 Ltd., Leeds, England

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Special thanks to: Toshie Yoshida, Hisako Aoki, Fuyu Murata, Kouichi Sugimoto, Nanyo Boeki Ltd.

Marlon Sanders, Arif St. Michel and Rosa Russ appear by the Courtesy of Nippon Columbia Co. Ltd.

Bass Legends and Symphony of Voices Samples, courtesy of Superctrasonics,

Distorted Rsauty and Supreme Beats, Synthesizer Maintenance by Takeshi Kawana

Jiro Yoshida plays Akira Ohya & Yamaha guitars, and uses D'Addario guitar strings

Eijiro Nakagawa plays a Yamaha trombone

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