

CMYK

8.557203

BRITTEN: St Nicolas

NAXOS

Composed in a remarkably fecund period following the success of *Peter Grimes*, the 1948 cantata *St Nicolas* wedded amateur chorus with professional soloists and string orchestra in a highly effective re-telling of the story. The unusual forces, together with Britten's ever-fresh musical ideas, create a work of charm and considerable dramatic impetus. The companion work on this CD is the rarely-heard student work *Christ's Nativity* of 1931, featuring a carefully chosen sequence of texts to unify this short suite. These fresh and atmospheric accounts were originally released on Collins Classics.

**Benjamin  
BRITTEN**  
(1913-1976)

|                |   |              |
|----------------|---|--------------|
| <b>1 - 9</b>   | <b>St Nicolas, Op. 42</b><br>A Cantata                        | <b>45:20</b> |
| <b>10 - 14</b> | <b>Christ's Nativity</b><br>Christmas Suite for Chorus (1931) | <b>16:19</b> |
| <b>15</b>      | <b>Psalm 150, Op. 67</b>                                      | <b>4:21</b>  |

Tracks **1 - 9** Philip Langridge, Tenor • Tallis Chamber Choir • English Chamber Orchestra  
 Tracks **10 - 14** BBC Singers  
 Track **15** New London Children's Choir • London Schools Symphony Orchestra  
 Tracks **1 - 15** Steuart Bedford

Recorded at All Hallows, Gospel Oak, London  
 Tracks **1 - 9** and **15** recorded 16th-17th March 1996  
 Producer: John H West • Engineer: Mike Hatch, Floating Earth  
 Music Publishers: Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Limited  
 Tracks **10 - 14** recorded 21st March 1996  
 Producer: Michael Emery • Digital Editor: Marvin Ware • Balance Engineer: Mike Hatch, Floating Earth  
 Music Publishers: Faber Music • MCPS • Text to St Nicolas © 1948 by Boosey & Co Ltd.

**First issued on Collins Classics in 1996**  
 Recorded in association with BBC Radio 3  
 Booklet Notes: Lloyd Moore and Keith Anderson  
 A full artist and track list can be found on pages 2 and 3 of the booklet  
 Cover Picture: *Portrait of St Nicholas, 1700* (oil on canvas) by Italian School (18th century)  
 (Oratorio di San Niccolò, Vernio, Tuscany, Italy / Bridgeman Art Library)



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Playing Time  
66:00



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 Booklet notes in English • Kommentar auf Deutsch  
 Sung texts in English  
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