



DDD

8.557203

 Playing Time
66:00


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 Booklet notes in English • Kommentar auf Deutsch
 Sung texts in English
 Made in E.C.
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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)

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

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** Stuart 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)