

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.

 NAXOS

DDD

8.557203

Playing Time
66:00



BRITTEN: St Nicolas
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Booklet notes in English • Kommentar auf Deutsch
Sung texts in English
Made in E.C.
www.naxos.com

Benjamin
BRITTEN
(1913-1976)

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