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 Playing Time
70:56

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Performances of carols both ancient and modern have become central to the celebration of Christmas. The choral music on this disc includes Holst's surprisingly neglected *Christmas Day*, as well as music by Leighton, Joubert, Mathias, Gardner and Rutter. The nostalgic mood of Howells's evergreen carol-anthems is echoed in Finzi's *In terra pax*, which recalls the pealing of bells at midnight on a frosty Christmas Eve. The City of London Choir, which enjoys an enviable reputation as a 'leader among non-professional choruses' (*The Times*), makes its Naxos début with this delightful recording.

IN TERRA PAX

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|---|-------|---|-------|
| ① Holst: Christmas Day | 7:37 | ⑩ Leighton: A hymn of the Nativity | 6:14 |
| ② Joubert: There is no rose | 2:23 | ⑪ Rutter: What sweeter music | 4:21 |
| ③ Mathias: Sir Christèmes | 1:26 | ⑫ Gardner: Tomorrow shall be my dancing day | 2:00 |
| ④ Howells: Here is the little door | 3:30 | ⑬ Mathias: A babe is born | 3:05 |
| ⑤ Howells: A spotless Rose | 3:10 | ⑭-⑰ Vaughan Williams: Folk songs of the four seasons – Winter | 14:49 |
| ⑥ Finzi: In terra pax – Christmas scene | 16:16 | | |
| ⑦-⑨ Warlock: Three carols | 6:04 | | |

Julia Doyle, Soprano • Roderick Williams, Baritone
Mark Williams, Organ and Piano
City of London Choir
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
Hilary Davan Wetton

A full track list and recording details can be found on page 2 of the booklet. The sung texts are included, and may also be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/572102.htm

Executive producer: Jenny Robinson

Producer and editor: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.)

Engineers: Phil Rowlands (tracks 1, 6-9, 14-17); Andrew Lang (tracks 2-5, 10-13)

Assistant engineer: Deborah Spanton • Booklet notes: John Allison

Cover: *An Angel Playing a Flageolet* by Sir Edward Burne-Jones (1833-98)
 (Private Collection / The Bridgeman Art Library)

