



Classical Sounds of Christmas

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Thursday, December 4 & 11, 2025 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET

DEC. 12 – Sacred Glories of the Season

Whether it's the intimacy of a medieval carol or the mighty choirs of the Messiah, sacred music opens a nostalgic portal and taps into our deepest cravings for connection with the divine. Approaching Christmas itself, travel across Europe to sample inspiring and achingly beautiful music written to celebrate this most spiritual time of the year. Included are exquisite chant and choral works by Hildegarde von Bingen, Poulenc and Sviridov, unique, witty arrangements of carols by Daquin and Lutoslawski, a delightful Czech Christmas mass by Jakub Jan Ryba, haunting English gems by Rutter, Warlock and Finzi, and beloved seasonal masterpieces such as the Christmas Story by Heinrich Schütz and Bach's Magnificat.

Works explored, media used

Heinrich Schütz, 1585-1672

Weihnachtshistorie (The Christmas Story) Intermedium 2. Approx. 1660

- Chamber Choir of Namur

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nJhbG9FMUI&list=RD1nJhbG9FMUI&start_radio=1

Arnold Schoenberg, 1874-1951

Weihnachtsmusik (Christmas Night Music), 1921. (Setting of "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen" by Michael Praetorius)

- Jonathan Crow – violin, Yolanda Bruno – violin, Julian Armour – cello, Frédéric Lacroix – harmonium, Carson Becke - piano

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czNwnCnNk1Q&list=RDczNwnCnNk1Q&start_radio=1

Witold Lutosławski, 1918-1994

Twenty Polish Christmas Carols (20 Polskich Kołęd) 1946, 1984–89

- Olga Pasichnyk, Polish Radio Chorus, Antoni Wit

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6l0owuc9Rfw&list=RD6l0owuc9Rfw&start_radio=1

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525-1594

***O Magnum Mysterium*, 1569**

- Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Philip Ledger
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tu3RDTXwn38>

Georgy Sviridov, 1915-1998

***Having Beheld a Wondrous Birth* from Canticles and Prayers, 1980-1997**

- Intrada Vocal Ensemble, Ekaterina Antonenko.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ys8pWcYXd9s&list=RDYs8pWcYXd9s&start_radio=1

Francisco Guerrero, 1528-1599

***Pastores, Si Nos Queréis*, from Canciones y Villanescas Espirituales, pub. 1589**

- Musica Ficta, Ensemble Fontegara
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4f2UEXtLkYo&list=OLAK5uy_n7h6DI-eLQY3momfrkz5aVBkP-J4SmwZs&index=20

Jakub Jan Ryba, 1765-1815

***Česká mše vánoční* (Czech Christmas Mass) “Hey Master!”**

- Ensemble Inégal, Adam Viktora
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5gZ6h2azc8&list=RDJ5gZ6h2azc8&start_radio=1

Claude Daquin, 1694-1772

***Nouveau livre de Noël*, no's 3 and 6, approx. 1740**

- Pastór de Lasala
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmzxkWW8_c8&list=PLqqhU3mKT5tya4ELXyCEaY-b3152RHbwI&index=3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVMsG5bEc8o&list=PLqqhU3mKT5tya4ELXyCEaY-b3152RHbwI&index=6> Daquin - Noël VI

Hector Berlioz, 1803-1869

***Marche nocturne* from L'Enfance du Christ, Op. 25, 1854**

- Orchestre National de France, James Conlon
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7c-gGlC5kc&t=8s>

Hildegard von Bingen, c. 1098-1179

Hodie Aperuit Nobis

- Medieval Women's Choir

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0INvwFi76o&list=RDH0INvwFi76o&start_radio=1

Francis Poulenc, 1899-1963

Hodie Christus natus est, from Quatre Motets pour le temps de Noël, FP 152, 1952

- Harry Christophers, The Sixteen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaFBWSLsnbs&list=RDaaFBWSLsnbs&start_radio=1

John Rutter, 1945

What Sweeter Music, 1987. Text by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

- The Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge, Stephen Layton

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lu9bKctD2pU&list=RD Lu9bKctD2pU&start_radio=1

Peter Warlock, 1894-1930

Bethlehem Down, 1927. Text by Bruce Blunt

- Voces8

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQnuxaqbYx8&list=RDgQnuxaqbYx8&start_radio=1

Gerald Finzi, 1901-1956

In Terra Pax, 1954/1956

- City of London Sinfonia, Richard Hickox, London Symphony Chorus, John Shirley Quirk, Norma Burrowes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzrzySYip2M&list=RD bzrzySYip2M&start_radio=1

J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

Magnificat, BWV 243, 1723

- Jos van Veldhoven, Netherlands Bach Society

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsUWG2axB3w>