

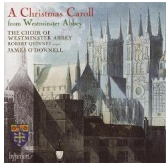
## A Christmas Caroll From Westminster Abbey (2008)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 23 December 2013 17:26 -

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## A Christmas Caroll From Westminster Abbey (2008)



1. *In dulci jubilo (Piæ Cantiones)* 2. *O magnum mysterium* 3. *Quem vidistis pastores dicite*  
4. *Videntes stellam* 5. *Hodie Christus natus est* 6. *A Christmas Carol, for chorus* 7. *All This Time, carol arrangement for chorus (Christmas Carols No. 4)* 8. *Nativity, for chorus* 9. *Dormi Jesu (The Virgin's Cradle Hymn)* 10. *The Shepherd's Carol, for chorus* 11. *The Three Kings, for chorus* 12. *Joys Seven (Joshua Himes's Millennial Harp, 1842)* 13. *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht (Silent Night)* 14. *I Saw Three Ships* 15. *The Little Road to Bethlehem* 16. *Ave Rex angelorum* 17. *Alleluya, a new work is come on hand* 18. *There is no rose of such virtue* 19. *Sir Christèmas* 20. *Ave Rex angelorum* Robert Quinney - organ Westminster Abbey Choir James O'Donnell - conductor

Every holiday season brings with it a new batch of Christmas discs, and in 2008 it brought this Hyperion disc called *A Christmas Carol from Westminster Abbey* with James O'Donnell directing the Choir of Westminster Abbey. It contains some familiar songs in unfamiliar arrangements like Christopher Bowers-Broadbent's take "Silent Night," Robert Pearsall's re-working of "In dulci jubilo" and James O'Donnell's own vision of "I Saw Three Ships." For the most part, however, the repertoire here is taken from modern and contemporary composers with Poulenc's *Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël*, Walton's "All This Time," Rutter's "Dormi, Jesu," and William Mathias' "Ave Rex." But despite the disparity of the selections in style and content, the performances are consistently appealing. The boys and men of the Westminster Choir sing with a warmly round tone and a smoothly polished ensemble and O'Donnell is a masterful leader who shapes the performances into sweetly attractive aesthetic wholes. While fans of old-fashioned choral Christmas discs may find that this one has a tad too much contemporary music for their taste, anyone looking for a new Christmas disc of modern and contemporary choral Christmas music will at least have to try this one. Hyperion's digital sound is deep and clear, with a strong feeling of place and time, though the manifest emptiness of the hall is perhaps less than ideally suited for the sound of the season. ---James Leonard, Rovi

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