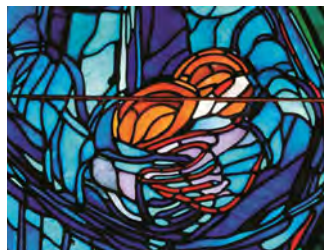


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Christmas Music

Christmas Music of the Baroque | 60 4422

02 x 30 min.

This Christmas concert includes works by Claudio Monteverdi, Michael Praetorius, Heinrich Schütz, Gottfried August Homilius, Johann Ludwig Bach and Johann Sebastian Bach. The “Rheinische Kantorei” has established itself as one of the best ensembles specialising in Early Music. Under their director Hermann Max, the singers always manage to combine historical authenticity of sound with vocal freshness and inherent musicality. The concert was recorded in St. Severin’s church in Cologne.

The Christmas Miracle | 66 4234

01 x 30 min.

Snow-covered forests, churches, and houses decorated for Christmas form the backdrop here for a film featuring internationally acclaimed soloists singing well-known German Christmas carols.

Christmas Concert | 60 4257

02 x 30 min.

This Christmas concert features virtually unknown works from the 17th century which have been “unearthed” after some 300 years. Under its conductor, Reinhard Goebel, the instrumental ensemble Musica Antiqua has made many excellent recordings of Baroque works as well as giving concerts all over the world. Our concert was recorded in St. Maria im Kapitol, a Romanesque church in Cologne.

Christmas Oratorio | 60 4346

06 x 30 min.

Johann Sebastian Bach’s Christmas Oratorio is a group of six cantatas which the composer wrote for the festival of Christmas in the year 1734. That is to say they were written for performance during the church service on each of the three days of Christmas, on New Year’s Day, on the Sunday after New Year’s Day and at the Festival of Epiphany. It is not an oratorio in the usual sense of a dramatic portrayal of biblical history, but an account of the birth of Christ as told by the evangelist Luke, interwoven with lyrical reflections based on poetry by Picander. The Christmas Oratorio does not consist wholly of original writing by Bach: some parts of it he borrowed from older, secular works, merely providing them with new words. Nevertheless, there is no sense anywhere of a discrepancy between words and music. Bach himself united the cantatas into a single work, so there is every justification in performing them together as an oratorio.

- 01 Cantata on the First Day of the Festival of Christmas: Christians Be Joyful and Praise Your Salvation
- 02 Cantata on the Second Day of the Festival of Christmas: And There Were in the Same Country Shepherds Abiding in the Field
- 03 Cantata on the Third Day of the Festival of Christmas: Hear, King of Angels!
- 04 Cantata on New Year’s Day: Come and Thank Him, Come and Praise Him!
- 05 Cantata on the Sunday After New Year’s Day: Glory be to God Almighty
- 06 Cantata on the Festival of the Epiphany: Lord, When Our Haughty Foes Assail Us

Barbara Schlick, soprano; Ursula Eittinger, contralto; Nico van der Meel, tenor; Peter Kooy, baritone; The Cologne Chamber Choir and the Collegium Cartusianum; Conductor: Peter Neumann