

CHANNEL CLASSICS

CCS SA 20403

THE GENTS

Peter Dijkstra conductor

Follow That Star



The foundation for the quality and professionalism of The Gents was laid in the context of the Roder Boys' Choir. Most of the members of the present ensemble first developed their talents as member of this famous boys' choir, at the same time accumulating invaluable stage experience. Since its foundation in 1999 by conductor Peter Dijkstra, the group has rapidly achieved national and international fame.

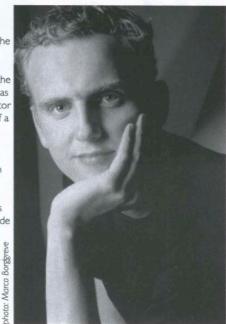
Whether it's religious music from the Renaissance, Romantic English music, arrangements of contemporary jazz and pop songs, or music specially composed for the ensemble, concerts given by The Gents are always a special experience. And the performances are assured of an enthusiastic audience and glowing reviews in the press. The unique qualities of The Gents have also been recognized on the international front. After a performance during the BBC choir festival, 'Let the peoples sing', senior producer Michael Emory spoke of The Gents as "Something quite unique and unlike anything else". Roberta Alexander finds The Gents "such a pleasure to listen to, and the attention to detail is superb, just beautifull".

The Gents' first cd, 'And so it goes' is an anthology of their extensive repertoire. In 2002 the cd 'The Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal' was issued by the international label Channel Classics. This cd, with the theme of 16th-century English choral music, was awarded a 10 by 'Luister' magazine, became cd of the month, and received favorable reviews in the international press. Next season The Gents are issuing one more cd with this label, illustrating a completely different side of their work: a cd with the theme 'Pop and Folksongs from the British Isles'.

Conductor **PETER DIJKSTRA** (1978) began his singing career with the Roder Boys' Choir. In 1987 he participated as a soloist in a production of Mozart's Die Zauberflöte for the Nederlandse Operastichting, appearing as 'Erster Knabe' in a fully staged performance. As a boy soprano he worked under conductors including Gustav Leonhardt, Sigiswald Kuyken, and Max van Egmond in the complete series of Bach Cantatas in Amsterdam (Bach on Sunday). At the age of 13 he conducted his first choir.

Since completing his studies in voice and (choral) conducting at the Royal Conservatory (both with distinction), he has become a popular guest with various professional groups, including the Netherlands Chamber Choir and the Dutch Radio Choir, where he regularly appears as guest conductor, and the RIAS Chamber Choir in Berlin, He has collaborated

with conductors including Jos van Veldhoven, Hans Vonk, Ed Spaniaard, Edo de Waart, Bo Holten, Marcus Creed, and Seiji Ozawa. He assisted the latter at a performance of Bach's B minor Mass during the Saito Kinen Festival of Matsumoto (Japan). Since the foundation of the Gents in 1999 he has been the conductor and artistic director of this ensemble. With the support of a scholarship from the 'Fund for young musicians of excellence' and the Socrates bursary, Peter Diikstra has been able to continue his studies with Uwe Gronostay in Berlin, and in Cologne with Marcus Creed at the Hochschule für Musik. In 2001 he was awarded the prestigious 'Kersjes-Van de Groenekam Scholarship' for young conductors



After our first cd for Channel Classics: 'The Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal', with English Polyphony of the Renaissance, we now present ourselves in a completely different guise: on this Christmas cd we give you a glimpse of our taste for the lighter styles.

You will hear a wide selection of the 'personal favourites' of our singers, such as 'Follow that star', 'A wonderful Christmastime', and 'Jingle bell rock'. In addition to other popular Christmas Ballads from the American Songbook, such as 'Have yourself a merry little Christmas' and 'White Christmas', we have put a new spin on a couple of 'traditional' carols, like 'Silent Night' and 'Es ist ein Ros entsprungen'.

Most of the arrangements were written especially for The Gents, and the addition of instruments gives several of the pieces a completely different atmosphere, such as, for example, the opening number, 'Gaudete Christus est natus': at first it's as though you were listening to a track from our earlier cd, with old English music, but gradually it changes with the addition of the marimbas, and finally it ends in a sparkling, swinging conclusion...!

Enjoy!
Translation: David Shapero



Nach 'The Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal', unserer ersten CD bei Channel Classics mit polyphonen Werken der englischen Renaissance, möchten wir uns nun einmal von einer ganz anderen Seite präsentieren. Das vorliegende Weihnachtsprogramm soll unsere Affinität auch zur leichteren Muse illustrieren.

Sie hören viele persönliche 'favorites' unserer Sänger, wie 'Follow the Star', 'A wonderful Christmastime' und 'Jingle Bell Rock'. Neben anderen bekannten Christmas Ballads aus dem American Songbook, wie z...B. 'Have yourself a merry little Christmas' und 'White Christmas', wurden für diese Sammlung auch ein paar traditionelle Carols in eine neue Form gegossen, wie etwa das 'Silent Night' und 'Es ist ein Ros entsprungen'.

Die meisten Bearbeitungen wurden eigens für The Gents geschrieben. Durch das Hinzunehmen von Instrumenten erhalten manche Stücke einen völlig neuen Charakter, was z.B. bei 'Gaudete Christus est natus', dem Eröffnungstück, der Fall ist: Zunächst könnte man meinen, es handele sich um ein Stück aus unserer vorigen CD mit altenglischer Musik, - ein Eindruck jedoch, der trügt, denn spätestens das Hinzukommen der Marimbas sorgt für einen spritzigen, swingend Schluss...!

Viel Vergnügen! Übersetzung: Gabriele Wahl



Après un premier disque compact de compositions anglaises polyphoniques de la Renaissance pour Channel Classics, 'The Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal', nous désirons faire entendre un tout autre aspect de notre répertoire: ce disque compact dédié à la période de Noël nous permet de témoigner de notre affinité avec un genre plus léger.

Le présent programme comprend un grand nombre des pièces préférées de nos chanteurs telles que 'Follow that star', 'A Wonderful Christmastime' et 'Jingle Bell Rock'. Outre quelques ballades de noëls populaires extraites de l' American Songbook comme 'Have yourself a merry little Christmas' et 'White Christmas', quelques carols traditionnels ont fait peau neuve pour cet album tels que 'Silent Night' et 'Es ist ein Ros entsprungen'.

La plupart des arrangements ont été spécialement effectués pour The Gents. L'ajout d'instruments donne un ton très différent à plusieurs pièces comme la première œuvre enregistrée ici, 'Gaudete Christus est natus': on a tout d'abord l'impression d'entendre l'une des œuvres de notre premier disque de musique anglaise ancienne, mais peu à peu le sentiment change, notamment grâce à l'ajout des marimbas, et l'on se laisser enfin aller au swing éclatant de sa conclusion...!

Bonne écoute!

Traduction: Clémence Comte



I. Follow That Star

Peter Gritton

One dark and stormy evening, Through the wind and rain, There came a sight worth seeing, 'cause it wasn't gonna happen again: Three Kings.

They'd seen a bright light in the sky, Without knowing who, what, when, where, why. They grabbed their gifts and off they went, Three Kings.

They don't know what they do, Just follow that star.

They had to find the little town. It was not easy to be found.

They don't know what they do, They just follow that star. Don't know what to. Follow that star.

2. Gaudete Christus est natus

Anonymus (from: Piae Cantiones 1582), arr. Bouwe de Jong

Gaudete, Gaudete Christus est natus Ex Maria Virgine, Gaudete!

Tempus adest gratiae Hoc quod optabamus, Carmina laetitiae Devote reddamus.

Gaudete, Gaudete Christus est natus Ex Maria Virgine, Gaudete!

Deus homo factus est, Natura mirante, Mundus renovatus est, A Christo regnante.

Gaudete, Gaudete Christus est natus Ex Maria Virgine, Gaudete!

Ezechielis porta Clausa pertransitur, Undelux est orta Salus invenitur.

Gaudete, Gaudete Christus est natus Ex Maria Virgine, Gaudete! Ergo nostra concio Psallat iam in lustro, Benedicat domino, Salus Regi nostro.

Gaudete, Gaudete Christus est natus Ex Maria Virgine, Gaudete!

Rejoice, Rejoice Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, Rejoice!

The hour of grace which we seek is here. We offer with devotion our songs of gladness.

Rejoice, Rejoice Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, Rejoice!

God is made man, a thing of wonder. The world is renewed by Christ's reign.

Rejoice, Rejoice Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, Rejoice!

Light has arisen. Salvation is come, Bursting the gates of death.

Rejoice, Rejoice Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, Rejoice!

Our congregation lustily rejoices now, Giving blessing to God, our Saviour and King. Rejoice, Rejoice Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, Rejoice!

3. Es ist ein Ros entsprungen Anonymus (from: Alte geistliche Kirchengesäng 1599), arr. Rene Veen

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen Aus einer Wurzel zart. Wie uns die Alten sungen, Von Jesse kam die Art. Und hat ein Blümlein 'bracht, Mitten im kalten Winter; Wohl zu der halben Nacht.

Das Blümelein so kleine, Das duftet uns so süß. Mit seinem hellen Scheine Vertreibt's die Finsternis. Wahr' Mensch und wahrer Gott, Hilf uns aus allem Leide, Rettet von Sünd' und Tod.

Behold a branch is growing
As of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sung, foreknowing;
It springs from Jesse's race
And bears one little Flower
In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.

This flower, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air, Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness everywhere.
True Man, yet very God;
From sin and death He saves us And lightens every load.

4. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

Hugh Martin & Ralph Blane, arr. Peter Gritton

Have yourself a merry little Christmas, Let your heart be light, Next year all our troubles will be out of sight. Have yourself a merry little Christmas, Make the yuletide gay, Next year all our troubles will be miles away.

Once again as in olden days, Happy golden days of yore, Faithful friends who were dear to us, Will be near to us once more.

Some day soon we all will be together, If the fates allow,
Until then we'll have to muddle through somehow,
So have yourself a merry little Christmas now.

5. White Christmas

Irving Berlin, arr. Tijs Krammer

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, Just like the ones I used to know. Where the treetops glisten And children listen To hear sleigh bells in the snow.

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, With ev'ry Christmas card I write: May your days be merry and bright, And may all your Christmases be white.

6. Walking in the air

Howard Blake, arr. Tijs Krammer

We're walking in the air
We're floating in the moonlit sky
The people far below are sleeping as we fly.
I'm holding very tight
I'm riding in the midnight blue
I'm finding I can fly so high above with you.

Far across the world The villages go by like trees The rivers and the hills The forest and the streams. Children gaze open mouth Taken by surprise Nobody down below believes their eyes.

We're surfing in the air
We're swimming in the frozen sky
We're drifting over icy
Mountains floating by.

Suddenly swooping low on an ocean deep Arousing of a mighty monster from its sleep.

We're walking in the air We're floating in the midnight sky And everyone who sees us greets us as we fly.

We're walking in the air.

7. Wonderful Christmastime

Paul McCartney, arr. Tijs Krammer

The moon is right,
The spirit's up,
We're here tonight,
And that's enough.
Simply having a wonderful Christmastime.

The party's on, The feeling's here; That's only comes This time of year. Simply having a wonderful Christmastime.

The choir of children sing their song, They practiced all year long: Ding dong, ding dong, Ding dong, ding Ohhhh, Ohhhhhhh.

We're simply having a wonderful Christmastime. Simply having a wonderful Christmastime.

The word is out, About the town, To lift a glass. Oh, don't look down!

Simply having a wonderful Christmastime.

The choir of children sing their song,
They practiced all year long:
Ding dong, ding dong,
Ding dong, ding Ohhhh,
Ohhhhhhh.
Simply having a wonderful Christmastime.
We're simply having a wonderful
Christmastime.

Oh, Christmastime.

8. Hijo de la luna lose Maria Cano, arr. Tiis Krammer

Tonto el que no entienda. Cuenta una leyenda Que una hembra gitana Conjuró a la luna Hasta el amanecer. Llorando pedía Al llegar el día Desposar un calé.

"Tendrás a tu hombre, Piel morena," Desde el cielo Habló la luna llena. "Pero a cambio quiero El hijo primero Que le engendres a él. Que quién su hijo inmola Para no estar sola Poco le iba a querer."

Luna quieres ser madre Y no encuentras querer Que te haga mujer. Dime, luna de plata, Qué pretendes hacer Con un niño de piel. A-ha-ha, a-ha-ha, Hijo de la luna. De padre canela Nació un niño Blanco como el lomo De un armiño, Con los ojos grises En vez de aceituna Niño albino de luna. "Maldita su estampa! Este hijo es de un payo y yo no me lo cayo."

Gitano al creerse deshonrado, Se fue a su mujer, Cuchillo en mano. "¿De quien es el hijo? Me has engañao fijo." Y de muerte la hirió. Luego se hizo al monte Con el niño en brazos Y allí le abandono.

Luna quieres ser madre Y no encuentras querer Que te haga mujer. Dime, luna de plata, Qué pretendes hacer Con un niño de piel. A-ha-ha, a-ha-ha, Hijo de la luna. Y en las noches Que haya luna llena Será porque el niño Esté de buenas. Y si el niño llora Menguará la luna Para hacerle una cuna. Y si el niño llora Menguará la luna Para hacerle una cuna.

Son of the moon

Foolish is he who doesn't understand.
A legend tells of a gipsy woman
Who pleaded with the moon until dawn.
Weeping she begged
At the break of dawn
To marry a gipsy man.

"You'll have your man, tawny skin," Said the full moon from the sky. "But in return I want the first child That you have with him. Because she who sacrifices her child So that she is not alone, Isn't likely to love him very much."

Moon, you want to be mother, But you cannot find a love Who makes you a woman. Tell me, silver moon, What you intend to do With a child of flesh. A-ha-ha, a-ha-ha, Son of the moon.

From a cinnamon-skinned father A son was born, White as the back of an ermine, With grey eyes instead of olive Moon's albino child. "Damn his appearance! This is not a gipsy man's son and I will not put up with that."

Believing to be dishonoured,
The gipsy went to his wife,
A knife in his hand.
"Whose son is this?
You've certainly fooled me!"
And he wounded her mortally.
Then he went to the woodlands
With the child in his arms
And left it behind there.

Moon, you want to be mother, But you cannot find a love Who makes you a woman. Tell me, silver moon, What you intend to do With a child of flesh. A-ha-ha, a-ha-ha, Son of the moon.

And the nights the moon is full It is because the child Is in a good mood.
And if the child cries,
The moon wanes
To make him a cradle.
The moon wanes
To make him a cradle.

Santa Claus is coming to townFred Coot, arr. Peter Gritton

I just came back from a lovely trip Along the Milky Way.

Along the Milky Way.

I stopped off at the North Pole
To spend a holiday.

I called on dear old Santa Claus To see what I could see. He took me to his workshop And told his plans to me.

So! You better watch out, you better not cry, Better not pout, I'm telling you why: Santa Claus is coming to town.

He's making a list and checking it twice, Gonna find out who's naughty and nice, Santa Claus is coming to town.

He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake he knows if you've been bad or good, So be good for goodness sake.

Oh! You better watch out, you better not cry, Better not pout, I'm telling you why: Santa Claus is coming to town.

With little tin homs and little toy drums, Roo-ty-toot-toots and rum-ty-tum-tums, Santa Claus is coming to town.

And curly head dolls that toddle and coo, Elephants, boats and kiddle cars too, Santa Claus is coming to town.

The kids in girl- and boyland will have a jubilee, They're gone build a Toyland town All around the Christmas tree.

So! You better watch out, you better not cry, Better not pout, I'm telling you why: Santa Claus is coming to town.

10. Just another star

Karl Jenkins & Carol Barratt, arr. Peter Gritton

Just another star to light the sky, Just another town to passers-by, Just another night so cold and grey, Strangers look for shelter, Couldn't find a place to stay.

Just another donkey warm and brown, Just another journey through the town, Just another search for somewhere warm, Found a tiny stable, just before a child was born.

You know that love isn't ever far, Look up from where you are, Look for another star, Shinin' like it shone down on Bethlehem.

Just another candle in the night, Just another shelter out of sight, Just another sheperd passing by, Sheep stood round the manger, List'nin' to a lullaby.

It was such a special place to stay, It was such a happy Christmas Day, It was such a glowing star that shone. Up above the stable where the Holy Child was born. You know that love isn't ever far, Look up from where you are, Look for another star. Shinin' like it shone down on Bethlehem.

II. Jingle bell rock

Bobby Helms, arr. Tijs Krammer

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock, Jingle bells swing and jingle bells ring. Snowing and blowing up bushels of fun. Now the jingle hop has begun.

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock, Jingle bells chime in jingle bell time. Dancing and prancing in Jingle Bell Square In the frosty air.

What a bright time, it's the right time
To rock the night away.
Jingle bell time is a swell time
To go gliding in a one-horse sleigh.
Giddy-up jingle horse,
pick up your feet,
Jingle around the clock.
Mix and a-mingle in the jingling feet.
That's the jingle bell rock.

One, two, three o'clock, four o'clock rock, Five, six, seven o'clock, jingle bell rock, Nine, ten, eleven o'clock, twelve o'clock rock, We're gonna do the jingle rock tonight.

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock, Jingle bells ring and jingle bells swing. Snowing and blowing up bushels of fun. Now the jingle hop has begun.

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock, Jingle bells chime in jingle bell time. Dancing and prancing in Jingle Bell Square In the frosty air.

What a bright time, it's the right time To rock the night away. Jingle bell time is a swell time To go gliding in a one-horse sleigh.

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock, Jingle bells ring and jingle bells swing. Snowing and blowing up bushels of fun. Now the jingle hop has begun. Giddy up Jingle horse, pick up your feet, Jingle around the clock. Mix and a mingle in the jingle-ing feet. That's the jingle bell That's the jingle bell rock Jingle rock!

12. Let it snow

Sammy Cahn & Jule Styne, arr. Bouwe de Jong

Oh the weather outside is frightful, But the fire is so delightful, And since we've no place to go, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

It doesn't show signs of stopping, And I've bought some com for popping. The lights are turned way down low, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

When we finally kiss goodnight. How I'll hate going out in the storm. But if you'll really hold me tight. All the way home I'll be warm.

The fire is slowly dying, And, my dear, we're still goodbying, But as long as you love me so, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

When we finally kiss goodnight.
Oh the weather outside is frightful,
But the fire is so delightful,
And since we've no place to go,
Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

And I bought lots of com for popping. The lights are turned way down low. Let It Snow. Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

When we finally kiss goodnight. All the way home I'll be warm The fire is slowly dying, And, my dear, we're still goodbying, But as long as you love me so. Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

13. The Christmas Song

Mel Tormé & Robert Wells, arr. Peter Gritton

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose, Yuletide carols being sung by a choir, And folks dress'd up like Eskimos: Everybody knows the turkey and the mistletoe Will help to make the season bright: The tiniest children have eyes all aglow 'Cause it's Christmas, it's Christmas tonight.

They know that Santa Claus is on his way, He's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his sleigh, Walkin' in a winter wonderland. And ev'ry mother's child is gonna spy To see if they fly: And so we're offering this simple phrase To kids from one to ninety-two, Although it's been said many times, many ways: A merry Christmas, to you.

15. Winter Wonderland

Felix Bernard arr Peter Gritton

Over the ground lies a mantel of white, A heaven of diamonds Shines down through the night, Two hearts are thrillin' In spite of the chilling weather.

Love knows no season. Love knows no clime Romance can blossom Any old time. Here in the open we're walkin' and hopin' together.

Sleigh bells ring, are you listenin'? In the lane, snow is glistenin', A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight. Walkin' in a winter wonderland.

Gone away is the bluebird, Here to stay is a new bird, He sings a love song, as we go along,

In the meadow we can build a snowman. Then pretend that he is Parson Brown, He'll say, "are you married", we'll say, "no man!"

But you can do the job when you're in town.

Later on we'll conspire,
As we dream by the fire,
To face unafraid, the plans that we made,
Walkin' in a winter wonderland.
Walkin' in a, walking in a winter wonderland.
What a beautiful sight,
Whe're happy tonight,
Walkin' in a winter wonderland.

Love knows no season, Love knows no clime, Romance can blossom, Any old time, Here in the open we're walkin' and hopin' together.

16. Silent Night

Franz Gruber, arr. Euwe de Jong

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright; Round yon virgin, mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild. Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds first saw the sight: Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly host sing alleluia: Christ, the Saviour is born, Christ, the Saviour is horn!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; Radiance beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Production Channel Classics Records by Producers C. Jared Sacks, Peter Dijkstra

Recording engineer, editing
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Our thanks is due above all to Jared Sacks of Channel Classics for his faith in us, and to our wonderful arrangers: Euwe de Jong, Tijs Krammer, René Veen, and Bouwe de Jong. Also thanks to the instrumentalists who made this cd into a real celebration: Rubens String Quartet, the Marimba Quartet Carrefour and Maxym Minakov, double bass

For the most up to date information and our concert schedule, please see our website: www.thegents.nl

Information and booking:

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Vocal ensemble THE GENTS

Peter Dijkstra conductor with Marimba Quartet Carrefour Rubens Quartet Maxym Minakov, double bass

Follow That Star

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Total time 52.41



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