



christmas
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for westwind

Andrew Asher Boysen, the arranger, says about his work:

When Westwind Brass asked me to arrange some Christmas music, I was enormously honored. It was the chance to write for players that could do whatever I asked. I did not need to worry about anything technical and could focus all of my energies on creating a good musical product. That, of course, was the problem. What could I say with Christmas music that hasn't already been said a thousand times before? The original songs are terrific and there are several versions of them (including brass quintet music) that are equally as fine. My challenge, then, was to create arrangements that were fresh and creative, without removing the listener from the beauty of the traditional brass quintet sound. In the end, I had a great time writing all of the arrangements and I feel very lucky to have the Westwind Brass performing my music.

C O M P O S I T I O N D E S C R I P T I O N S

JOY TO THE WORLD (man. WWB)

Composer: Georg Frideric Handel

arr. Andrew Asher Boysen

This is a bright, fanfarish version, featuring all of the members of the quintet at one point or another.

SILENT NIGHT (pub. Seaside Publications)

Composer: Franz Gruber

arr. Karl Soukup

Karl's arrangement of this wonderful song stays true to the melody while attempting to get away from the traditional V-I approach.

ANGEL MEDLEY (man. WWB)

Composer: Andrew Asher Boysen

This medley includes three famous angel carols: Angels from the Realm of Glory, Angels we have Heard on High, and Hark the Herald Angels Sing. Rather than separate each tune into a distinct section and use transitions between them, I tried to incorporate the three songs into one big angel piece. At some points more than one of the songs is heard at the same time and one passage alternates two measure phrases of Angels we have Heard on High and Hark the Herald Angels Sing. It all culminates in a big version of Hark the Herald Angels Sing with a piccolo trumpet descant.

C O M P O S I T I O N D E S C R I P T I O N S

ENGLISH MEDLEY (man. WWB)

Composer: Andrew Asher Boysen

This medley includes three famous English Christmas carols. This time, though, I left each carol on its own as a single entity, separating them with transitional material. After an opening fanfare, Deck the Halls is presented, but with one eighth note chopped out of each measure, creating the feeling of constantly pushing ahead with each phrase. When the full quintet plays the tune again later on, not only is the eighth note added back in, but an extra one is also added to each measure! The Wassail Song is next and then the arrangement closes with a version of We Wish you a Merry Christmas. The tuba begins this last song all alone, playing very slowly at first, but always accelerating. As the rest of the members of the quintet join the tuba, the piece grows increasingly faster and stronger, eventually ending in a rush of excitement.

O HOLY NIGHT (man. WWB)

Composer: Andrew Asher Boysen

This is certainly one of my favorite Christmas songs. It is performed in a sweet, tender setting that features the horn.

CLASSICAL MEDLEY (man. WWB)

Composer: Andrew Asher Boysen

This medley features Patapan; Fum, fum, fum; and Farandole. Listen here for the terrific piccolo trumpet playing throughout the entire arrangement. All three pieces are separated in the arrangement and each receives a more traditional setting than many of the other arrangements on the recording.

COVENTRY CAROL (man. WWB)

Composer: Andrew Asher Boysen

This is a quiet, jazz-like setting of the Coventry Carol. I tried to create something that had a very smooth, soft sound throughout. Consequently, the loudest dynamic marking in the entire arrangement is a mezzo-forte. The interest is found primarily in a two against three rhythmic tension that is created between the tuba and the rest of the quintet.

COMPOSITION DESCRIPTIONS

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL (man. WWB)

Composer: Andrew Asher Boysen

Without a doubt, this is one of the most beautiful of all Christmas carols. My setting is probably the most heavily arranged piece on this recording. After a fanfarish beginning, a flowing accompanimental line is presented in the horn and second trumpet. The tune is eventually presented over the top of this accompaniment, leading back to the opening fanfare material. A short imitative section follows based on the tune and accompanimental material, gradually building to a climactic version of the tune with the addition of the piccolo trumpet. One last hint of the fanfare releases into a quiet ending with the horn recalling the accompanimental material from the beginning.

THREE ANTHEMS FOR BRASS QUINTET (pub. Manduca Music Publications)

Composer: Johann Topff

transcribed by David Baldwin

These choral anthems are based on Biblical Christmas scriptures, and are sonorous and brilliant in these brass settings. English translations for the German titles are:

1. *Now the Time is Fulfilled*
2. *Fear Not, for I Bring You Tidings of Great Joy* (ending with *In Dulci Jubilo*)
3. *The Word Made Flesh*

SUSSEX MUMMERS CAROL

Composer: Percy Aldridge Grainger (pub. M.W. Allen Music)

arr. Mark Allen

This traditional English carol is simply and tenderly set by Grainger and shows his love of English folk music.

GOD REST YEA MERRY GENTLEMAN

Composer: Karl Soukup (pub. Seaside Publications)

Karl attempts to fuse Jazz and Classical music by alternating styles from section to section. He quotes "The Little Fugue", at the end of this piece because he feels that J.S. Bach was the first great Jazz Musician.

JESUS LOVES A MANGER

Composer: Brent Dutton (man. WWB)

This is a loving remembrance of Dutton's two favorite Jesus songs learned as a child in the United Church. The two themes meld in and out of a gentle reverie.



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Recorded in Crill Recital Halll , Point Loma Nazarene College on April 5 & 6 1998

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|---|--|
| 1 Joy to the World [2:24] | Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759) arr. Andrew Asher Boysen |
| 2 Silent Night [2:07] | Franz Gruber (1787-1863) arr. Karl Soukup |
| 3 Angel Medley [4:46] | Andrew Asher Boysen (1968) |
| 4 English Medley [3:54] | Andrew Asher Boysen |
| 5 O Holy Night [3:13] | Andrew Asher Boysen |
| 6 Classical Medley [3:45] | Andrew Asher Boysen |
| 7 Coventry Carol [1:38] | Andrew Asher Boysen |
| 8 O Come, O Come Emmanuel [6:59] | Andrew Asher Boysen |
| <i>Three Anthems for Brass</i> | Johann Topff transcribed by David Baldwin |
| 9 Dadie Zeit erfüllet war [3:28] | |
| 10 Fürchet euch nicht, ich verkündige euch [2:03] | |
| 11 Das Wort ward Fleisch [2:48] | |
| 12 Sussex Mummers Carol [2:04] | Percy Aldridge Grainger (1882-1961) |
| 13 God Rest Yea Merry Gentleman [1:57] | Karl Soukup (1971) |
| 14 Jesus Loves a Manger [2:34] | Brent Dutton (1950) |

Trumpets: Barry Perkins, John Wilds
Horn: Barry Toombs
Trombone: Richard Gordon
Tuba: Brent Dutton

TOTAL PLAYING TIME : 44:29

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RECORDINGS

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