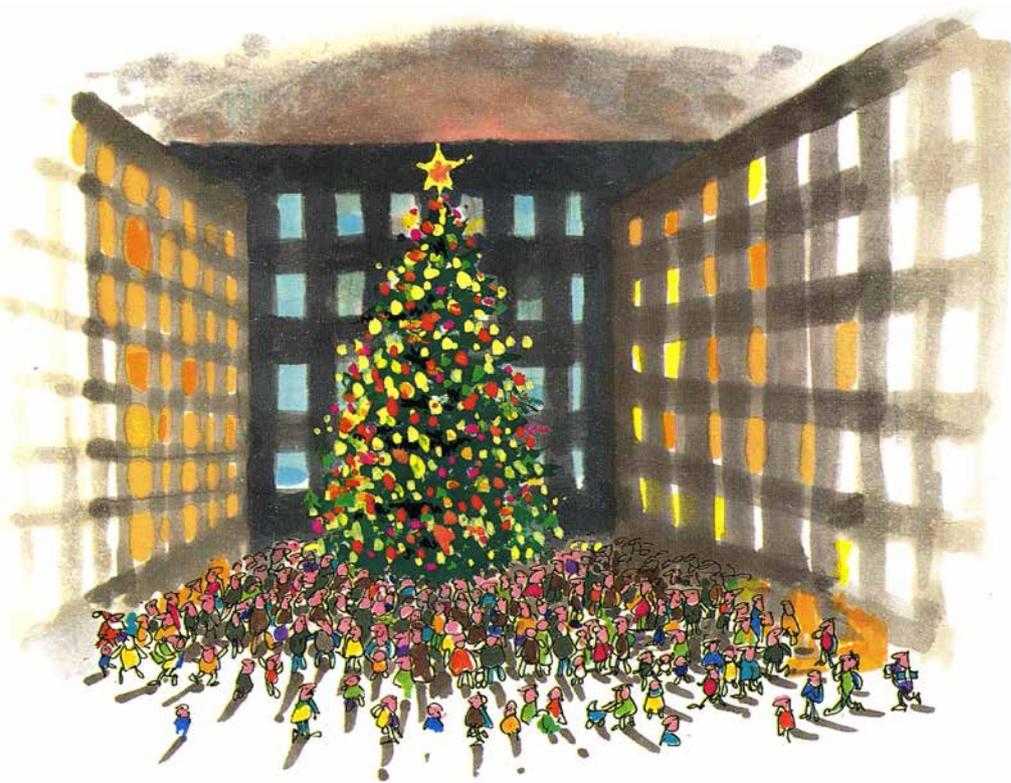


AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR
CAROLS
OF MANY NATIONS





These Christmas carols have been chosen from many different Christian cultures, particularly those represented in the Australian community.

The Australian Children's Choir consists of children of various ethnic backgrounds. It was formed in 1977, and filled a need for choral opportunities for girls as well as boys. On this recording there are 44 voices ranging in age from nine to 15 years.

In its five years of existence the Choir has been presented in innumerable concerts of all types,

universities and has been associated with young people in schools all his working life. He has also maintained contact with orchestral playing and conducting.

Our Christmas festivities go a long way back, many emerging from pagan festivals and ceremonies, celebrating the seasons, the power of the sun and pastoral

and in July 1982 admirably represented Australia at the International Children's Choir Festival in Hong Kong.

Richard Gerner gained his love of choral music as a boy in the choir of St. Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide. He is a graduate in music and education of Adelaide and Melbourne

life. The early Christians centuries ago used many of these old pagan customs to celebrate what they wished to – the birth of Jesus.

Many of our customs and symbols are connected with the Christmas story. The tradition of exchanging gifts, for example, could well have been inspired by the Three Wise Men who gave gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus at his birth. The bright star we see in churches, in many religious processions especially in European countries, and of course on the top of Christmas trees reminds us of the star that guided visitors to the stable at Bethlehem. We think of candles as a Christmas symbol, presenting the light that Jesus' birth brought to the world. The evergreen Christmas tree tradition started in countries having their dark, cold

winter at Christmas time. It reminded people that Christ, like the tree in the midst of winter, brought life and hope for us all.

We all know characters and stories associated with Christmas. Of course the most well-known figure is Father Christmas or Santa Claus, known



in different guises and under different names in other countries. Father Christmas demonstrates the spirit of unselfish giving and for us, giving presents is a means of communicating warm feelings to family and friends.

There are many stories to do with the season that deepen our sense of the spirit of Christmas. There is the King Wenceslas figure in the famous carol who saw an old man in need and gave generously. There is the Scrooge character in the story 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens, who hated Christmas until he was shown what the spirit of Christmas – good will and generosity – really meant, and it made his life a happier one.

Even when times are hard, Christmas is particularly valued as a festival when people come together and enjoy the special feeling which is the Christmas spirit.

There is great variety in which people at different times and in different parts of the world spend Christmas. The more we know of Christmas, in former times and throughout the world, the better we can understand the Christmas message.



1 Angels from the Realms of Glory
(France) 2'47"
organ, glockenspiel

2 Rise up Shepherd an' Foller
(United States of America) 2'30"
soprano solo, guitar

3 A Greek Kalanda (Greece) 0'55"
triangle



4 In Notte Placida (Italy)
2'25"
accordion, violin

5 The Three Drovers
(Australia) 1'30"
soprano duet, piano

6 O Little One Sweet
(Germany) 3'10"
cello

7 Bright December Moon
(Holland) 0'53"
accordion

8 In the Bleak Mid-Winter
(England) 3'43"
organ, flute

9 A Fire Is Started (Spain) 1'55"
guitar, castanets

10 Tu Scendi Dalle Stella (From Starry Skies Thou Comest) (Italy) 3'48"
soprano duet, accordion, violin

11 Christmas Day (Australia) 1'13"
piano

12 Away in a Manger
(United States of America) 3'22"
organ, flute, violin, cello

13 **Good St. Nicholas** (Holland) 1'10"
accordion

14 **Come My Dear Old Lady**
(Spain) 1'12"
guitar, tambourine

15 **Rocking** (Czechoslovakia) 2'20"
soprano solo descant, cello

16 **O Come All Ye Faithful** (England)
4'48"
organ, trumpet, flute; cello, timpani

Australian
Children's
Choir
Director:
Richard
Gerner



Arrangements: Richard Gerner
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