

# Mandolin Christmas



★ Kurt Jensen (mandolin), ★ Joan Harris (mandola),  
★ Julie Raines (harp), ★ May Gavin (piano),  
★ Tamara Leamon (guitar), ★ Suzann Frisk and the  
Scandinavian Choir conducted by Staffan Thuringer

# Mandolin Christmas

## **1 Christmas Eve**

Deck the Halls, Hark the Herald  
Angels Sing, Il est né

## **2 Away in a Manger**

## **3 När det lider mot jul**

## **4 Once in Royal David's City**

## **5 Australian Carols**

The Three Drovers, Christmas  
Day, Carol of the Birds

## **6 Bethlehem Stjärna**

## **7 Silent Night**

## **8 Bethlehem Stjärna**

## **9 Contique de Noël**

## **10 Coventry Carol**

## **11 Nu tändas Tusen Julejus**

## **12 Blessed be that Maid Mary**

## **13 Ave Maria**

## **14 Holly and the Ivy**

## **15 Winter Song**

## **16 Rudolph, the red-nosed Reindeer**

## **17 Merry Christmas**

Nu har vi jul igen, Sikken voldsom  
trangel, Juletraeet mid pynt, På loftet  
sidden nissen

## **18 Mary's Boy Child**

## **19 Barn Jesus in En Krybbe Lå**

## **20 När det lider mot jul**

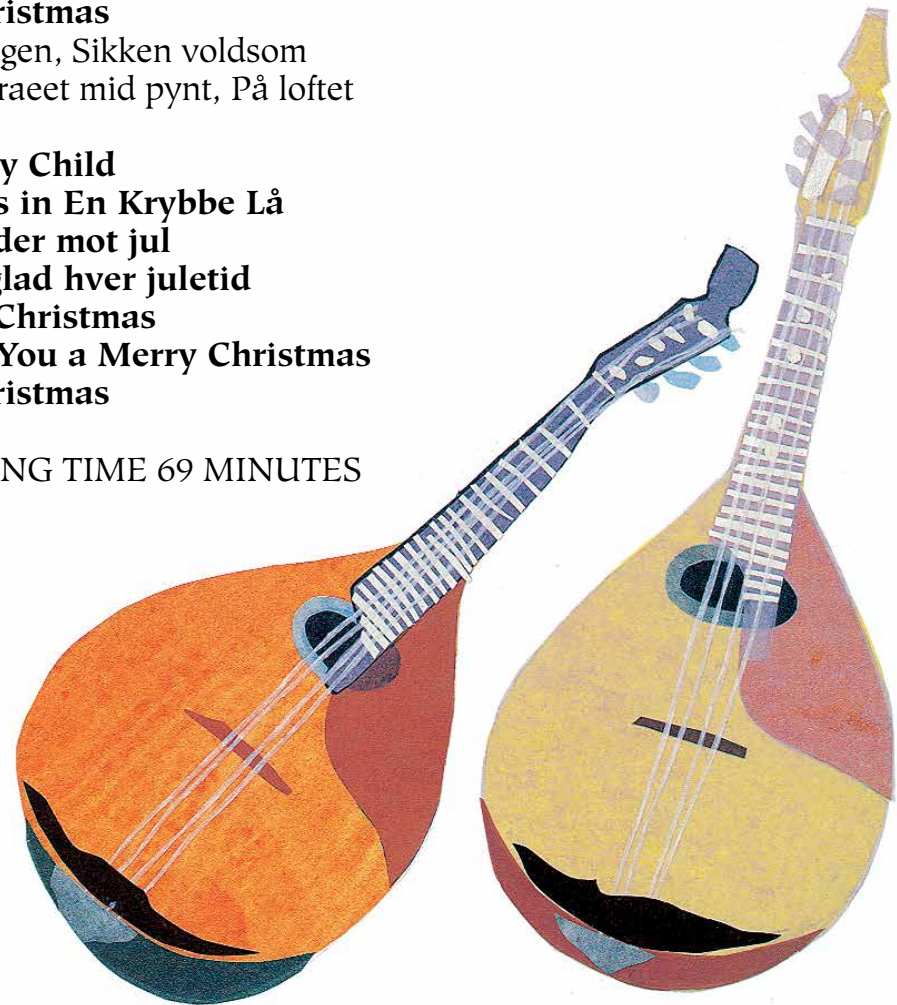
## **21 Jeg er så glad hver juletid**

## **22 Dance at Christmas**

## **23 We Wish You a Merry Christmas**

## **24 White Christmas**

TOTAL PLAYING TIME 69 MINUTES





Kurt Jensen had the idea to make a recording of Christmas songs from many countries using mandolins and harp. He talked with his good friends Karl Thomas and Ebbe Grims-land who provided him with original compositions and arrangements. The Scandinavian Choir contributed the vocal offerings and Vaughan McAlley provided arrangements of English Carols.

The carols and songs which range from medieval to modern classics convey both the joyous and reflective moods which the season of Christmas brings. The use of the mandolins suggests, not the grand cathedral or the stage, but the warmth and bonhomie of a home during the festive season.

**1 Christmas Eve**

– trad. arr. Karl Thomas.  
Deck the Halls, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Il est né — mandolins, mandolas and harp (England, France) 4'27"

**2 Away in a Manger** – folk song, arr. Reginald Jaques, adapted by Vaughan McAlley — mandolins, mandolas and guitar (England) 2'17"

**3 När det lider mot jul** – R Liljefors — choir and organ (Sweden) 2'31"

**4 Once in Royal David's City** – H.J. Gauntlett, arr. Vaughan McAlley — mandolins and mandolas (England) 2'21"

**5 Australian Carols** – Wheeler/James, arr. Karl Thomas. The Three Drovers, Christmas Day, Carol of the Birds — mandolins and mandolas (Australia) 3'20"

**6 Bethlehem Stjärna** – A. Tegnér – choir and organ — (Sweden) 3'00"

**7 Silent Night** – F. Gruber, arr. Karl Thomas — mandolins, mandolas and harp (Germany) 2'29"

**8 Bethlehem Stjärna** – A. Tegnér, arr. Karl Thomas — mandolins and harp (Sweden) 2'02"

**9 Cantique de Noël** – A. Adam, arr. Karl Thomas — mandolin, mandola, harp (France) 3'38"

**10 Coventry Carol** – trad. arr. Vaughan McAlley — mandolins and mandolas (England) 1'39"

**11 Nu tändas Tusen Julejus** – trad. arr. S. Thuringer — choir, organ, mandolins and mandolas (Denmark) 3'16"

**12 Blessed be that Maid Mary** – trad. arr. David Willcocks and Vaughan McAlley — mandolins, mandolas and guitar (England) 1'37"

**13 Ave Maria** – H. Gyldmark – mandolins, mandolas and harp (Denmark) 4'31"

**14 Holly and the Ivy** – trad., arr. Karl Thomas — mandolins, mandolas and harp (England) 1'33"



**15 Winter Song** – Wintersong from Steiermark – Ebbe Grims-land — piano (Sweden) 2'27"

**16 Rudolph, the red-nosed Reindeer** – Johnny Marks — choir and organ (USA) 2'09"

**17 Merry Christmas** – trad., arr. Karl Thomas. Nu har vi jul igen, Sikken voldsom trangsel, Juletraeet mid pynt, På loftet sidde nissen — mandolins, mandolas and harp (Denmark) 5'20"

**18 Mary's Boy Child** – Jester Hairston, arr. Karl Thomas — mandolins, mandolas and harp (USA) 3'39"

**19 Barn Jesus in En Krybbe Lå** – N.W. Gade — choir (Denmark) 1'39"

**20 När det lider mot jul** – Ruben Liljefors — mandolins (Sweden) 2'38"

**21 Jeg er så glad hver juletid** – P. Knudsen — choir, organ and mandolins (Denmark) 4'13"

**22 Dance at Christmas** – Ebbe Grims-land — mandolin, mandola and piano (Sweden) 4'00"

**23 We Wish You a Merry Christmas** – trad. arr. anon. — choir and organ (England) 1'49"

**24 White Christmas** – Irving Berlin, arr. Karl Thomas — mandolin, mandola and harp (USA) 2'22"



Kurt Jensen and Joan Harris (mandolin and mandola)

**Kurt Jensen** is a Danish mandolin soloist who has been performing professionally since the age of 12. His career in performance and recording has spanned Europe, Japan, United States and since 1989, Australia. In Australia he has featured as soloist with Melbourne Musicians, Chamber Strings of Melbourne, Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra, Concordia Mandolin and Guitar Ensemble. His virtuosity on the mandolin has inspired compositions in his honour.

**Ebbe Grims-land** is a Swedish composer and mandolin soloist. He lives in Stockholm and has had a long career as a viola player in the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra. His friendship with Kurt Jensen has inspired him to compose significant works to test Kurt's virtuosity.

**Karl Thomas** now retired, lives in Copenhagen. For many years he was the concertmaster of the Malmo Symphony Orchestra in Sweden. He has arranged music for Kurt Jensen since 1950, most

notably for Kurt's radio program "Six strings and a Harp"

**Julie Raines** is one of Australia's most eminent harpists. She has performed throughout Australia and Europe as soloist, and is a member of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

**Tammy Leamon**, who lives in Mildura, is studying guitar at Melbourne University. She intends to make a special study of Early Music. She is a member of the Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra.

**May Gavin** began learning the piano at the age of five from her mother. When she was 15 she completed her L. Mus A. Since then she has worked as a freelance pianist, accompanist and teacher. May worked overseas as an accompanist in London. In Melbourne she performs with her mother as the "Duo Gavin" .

**Joan Harris** is Melbourne born mandolinist. As a member of the trio "i mandolini", she toured Europe and Japan performing the repertoire of the 18th century mandolin. She is a member of the Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra and Concordia Mandolin & Guitar Ensemble.

**Vaughan McAlley** is Move Record's resident sound editor, sometime arranger and composer. He is a member of The Scots' Church Choir and was a member of the Choir of Ormond College for a number of years. He also takes an active interest in musical theatre.

**The Scandinavian Choir, Melbourne** has 40 members many of whom are of Scandinavian origin. They sing works in Swedish, Danish, Norwegian & Icelandic. The choir sings at services in the Swedish Church, Melbourne and at cultural events of the Swedish community, though it shares in the spiritual and cultural lives of all the Scandinavian communities in Melbourne.

**Staffan Thuringer** arrived in Melbourne in 1980 and he has conducted the Scandinavian Choir since 1989. He is also the organist at the Swedish church. His musical interests include playing the piano for music theatre groups and playing tuba.

**Suzann Frisk**, mezzo-soprano, was born in Sweden and studied at the college of music at Malmo. Since coming to Australia in 1989. Suzann teaches singing, piano and guitar. Her repertoire ranges from classical to blues. She has released a CD of Swedish folk music.

*Cover computer rendering:* Simon Wright  
*Painting of mandolins:* Gudrun Sigurdardottir  
*Program notes:* Joan Harris  
*Recorded at* Move Records studio  
*Digital recording and editing:* Martin Wright and Vaughan McAlley

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Scandinavian Choir conducted by Staffan Thuringer