

Chandos

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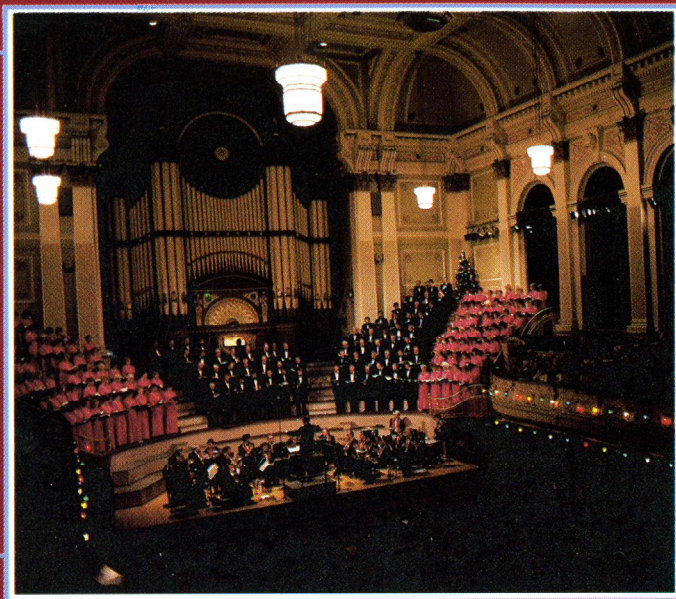


photo: Selwyn Green
(Huddersfield Town Hall)



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THE HUDDERSFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY

Keith Rhodes conductor

JOHN FOSTER BLACK DYKE MILLS BAND

Roy Newsome conductor

CHRISTMAS FANTASY



CHRISTMAS FANTASY

- **1 WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS** (1:41)
Trad. arr. Warrell & Newsome
- **2 A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OVERTURE** (6:20)
Joy to the World • Deck the Hall
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Good King Wenceslas
Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
Silent Night, Holy Night
Jingle Bells • O Come, All Ye Faithful
Anderson arr. Horton
- **3 NATIVITY CAROL** (4:07)
Rutter
- **4 GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN** (2:28)
Trad. arr. Willcocks & Newsome
- **5 FARANDOLE (SUITE L'ARLÉSIENNE)** (3:22)
Bizet, arr. Wright
- **6 THE SHEPHERD'S FAREWELL** (3:11)
(L'Enfance du Christ)
Berlioz; words: England
- **7 RING OUT, WILD BELLS** (4:34)
Fletcher, arr. Newsome

- **8 FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN** (4:22)
Handel arr. Newsome
- **9 SHEPHERD'S HEY** (1:59)
Grainger arr. Wright
- **10 THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS** (3:39)
Trad. arr. Rutter
- **11 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL** (3:15)
Trad. arr. Willcocks
- **12 SUSSEX CAROL** (1:53)
Trad. arr. Willcocks
- **13 A CHRISTMAS FANTASY** (7:19)
It Came Upon The Midnight Clear
In Dulci Jubilo • Unto Us a Child is Born
Angels from the Realms of Glory
Ding Dong! Merrily on High
The First Nowell
Langford

Organists: Keith Rhodes & Anthony Cooke

• Conducted by Roy Newsome

• Conducted by Keith Rhodes

TT = 49:13

THE HUDDERSFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY

Keith Rhodes conductor

JOHN FOSTER **BLACK DYKE MILLS BAND**

Roy Newsome conductor

Never more than at Christmas time does the sound of brass and voices stir the soul. On this record we bring together two of the finest bodies of amateur musicians in the world, in a programme which encompasses a wide range of music associated directly or indirectly with the "Festive Season". The "brass" is that of the John Foster Black Dyke Mills Band, founded in 1855 by John Foster, and named after his mills in Queensbury, near Bradford. The voices are those of The Huddersfield Choral Society which, since its inception in 1836, has been in the forefront of the world of choral music.

It seemed a good idea to open by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, with band and choir in Arthur Warrell's brilliant arrangement of the well-known West Country carol. Leroy Anderson's fine "Christmas Festival Overture" gives the band a good chance to show its paces, as do the Farandole from Bizet's "L'Arlésienne" and Percy Grainger's "Shepherd's Hey". The Farandole is based on an old Provençal Christmas song, and whilst the Grainger can hardly be described as a Christmas piece, it has an obvious link with the Christmas Story.

John Rutter features in two of the choir's four solo items - as composer of the "Nativity Carol" and as arranger of the evergreen "Twelve Days of Christmas". Perhaps the more reflective moments of the record come in Berlioz's "Shepherd's Farewell" (from *L'Enfance du Christ*), which contrasts well with the sheer joy of David Willcocks's arrangement of "The Sussex Carol".

Turning again to the combined items, a Messiah chorus was a must, and "For Unto Us a Child is Born" seemed an appropriate choice, and an ideal opening for Side Two. David Willcocks's noble version of the carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful" gives full reign to the immense power of the combined forces of voice, band and organ, as does "God rest ye merry, Gentlemen". "Ring out, wild bells" (Percy Fletcher), a well-trying favourite, makes a rousing finale to Side One. For the finale to Side Two, and to the record as a whole, we have Gordon Langford's "Christmas Fantasy", and if so far the listener has wondered at the scarcity of traditional carols, the answer lies here in a splendid essay by one of the most popular writers of our time. In this we have a veritable feast of carols, tastefully arranged for band and voices, and linked together with the utmost skill, to provide a splendid apotheosis to what should be a most enjoyable record.

© 1988 Roy Newsome

The Huddersfield Choral Society was founded in 1836 by sixteen amateur musicians of outstanding local repute, who amalgamated a number of existing local music societies, not least being the Huddersfield Philharmonic Society and the Huddersfield Friendly Musical Society with singers drawn from the many Church and Chapel choirs in the surrounding district.

The Choir, one of England's oldest and finest in the amateur field, has always engaged famous principal conductors in the likes of the legendary Sir Malcolm Sargent, Sir John Prichard, Owain Arwel Hughes and in January 1989, Dr Jane Glover takes up the position.

Brian Kay, ex King's Singers and Chairman of the Associateship of British Choral Directors, famous television and radio presenter, is the Choir's current Chorus Master.

The Huddersfield Choral Society has made many television appearances including a performance of the Verdi Requiem during their 150th Anniversary celebrations in 1986 and at Christmas 1987 they performed the Christmas Concert Rejoice, transmitted from Ripon Cathedral.

The legendary **John Foster Black Dyke Mills Band**: twenty-five times British Open Champions, fourteen times National Champions and seven times European Champions. No other band has a record that can approach it! Chandos and 'Dyke have been together since the company began, with eighteen highly acclaimed recordings to date. The band has recently toured Australia as part of the Bicentennial Celebrations — a tour which included concerts in the famous Sydney Opera House. Future plans include visits to Japan, Moscow, Munich and New Zealand.



- **A Chandos Recording**
- Recording Producer & Sound Engineer: Brian Couzens
- Recorded in Huddersfield Town Hall
- Front Cover Picture: *London to Dover Coach in the Snow* by Henry Alken Jr. courtesy of the Cadogan Gallery, London / The Bridgeman Art Library, London
- Sleeve Design: Jane Embley • Art Direction: Vicky Langdale

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