



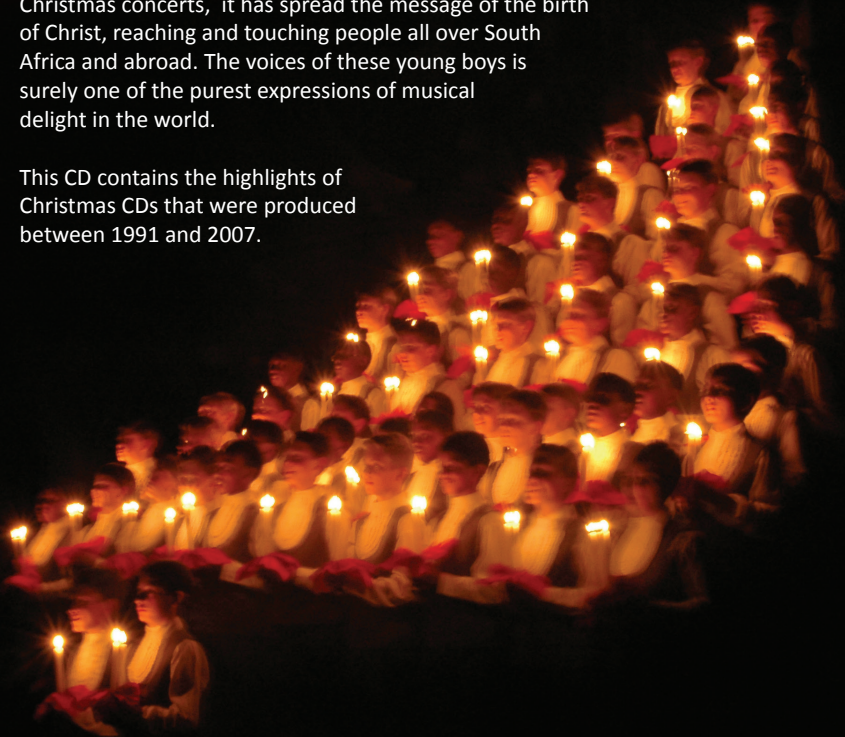
DRAKENSBERG  
BOYS CHOIR

*Season's  
Greetings*



The Drakensberg Boys Choir extends warmest musical greetings to all its patrons and supporters. Through the Choir's annual Christmas concerts, it has spread the message of the birth of Christ, reaching and touching people all over South Africa and abroad. The voices of these young boys is surely one of the purest expressions of musical delight in the world.

This CD contains the highlights of Christmas CDs that were produced between 1991 and 2007.



### 1. HALLELUJAH CHORUS

*G. F. Händel (1685 – 1759) 4:02*

Händel famously composed Messiah in only a few hectic days, creating a work which has been performed every year since its first performance - a unique achievement. It is no surprise the work has found such fame, containing as it does so many memorable pieces, including possibly the most famous and recognisable of all, the *Hallelujah chorus*.  
*(from: Christmas in Concert CDDM 010)*

### 2. O BEATUM ET SACROSANCTUM

*Peter Phillips (1560 – 1628) 2:29*

*O beatum et sacrosanctum* (“O blessed and sacred day”) starts with a meditative and reflective tone which quickly turns to wholehearted rejoicing with the “sound of the trumpet” (“illi in sono tubæ”) and the “cithara” (Lyres).  
*(from: Amazing Grace CDDM 008)*

### 3. IN DULCI JUBILO

*Old German tune  
arr.: R. L. Pearsall (1795 – 1856) 3:12*

This carol was formerly sung in the processions that took place on Christmas eve, and is still sung in those remote parts of Germany where people retained old customs.  
*(from: NOËL CDDM 003)*

### 4. ADVENT MESSAGE

*Martin How (b. 1931) 2:40*

This Anthem was originally intended for singing in procession at the beginning of an Advent service.  
*(from: Christmas with the Drakensberg Boys Choir CDDM006)*

### 5. ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

*H. J. Gauntlet (1805 – 1876) 5:38  
arr.: David Willcocks*

Gauntlet wrote much music and over 1,000 hymn tunes. His most famous tune is “Irby”, the tune to which the Christmas carol, *Once in Royal David's City* is usually sung.  
*(from: Christmas with the Drakensberg Boys Choir CDDM006)*

### 6. JOY TO THE WORLD

*Melody attributed to Händel  
arr.: John Rutter (b. 1945) 2:26*

*Joy to the World* owes its popularity to an older melody which is believed to have originated from Händel, not least because the theme of the refrain (And heaven and nature sing...) appears in the orchestra opening and accompaniment of the recitative *Comfort ye* from Händel's Messiah.  
*(from: NOËL CDDM 003)*

## 7. THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

*J. H. Hopkins (1820 – 1891)*

*arr.: John Rutter* 3:55

This carol, also known as *We Three Kings of Orient* are is a Christmas carol written by the Reverend John Henry Hopkins, Jr., who wrote both the lyrics and the music.

*(from: NOËL CDDM 003)*

## 8. STAR CAROL

*John Rutter (b. 1945)* 3:03

The *Star Carol* hints at many of the principal images of the traditional Christmas story: the manger, the shepherds, the angels and the wise men.

*(from: NOËL CDDM 003)*

## 9. AWAY IN A MANGER

*W.I. Kirkpatrick, arr.: John Rutter* 2:38

*Away in a Manger* was first published in an 1885 Lutheran Sunday School book by James R. Murray (March 7, 1841 - March 10, 1905), but the author of the first two verses is unknown. It is certain that verse three was added in 1904 by Dr. John McFarland of New York City. The tune recorded here was written by William J. Kirkpatrick and was first published in 1895.

*(from: NOËL CDDM 009)*

## 10. BRING A TORCH, JEANNETTE, ISABELLA

*French Traditional Carol*  
*arr.: John Rutter (b. 1945)* 2:15

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabelle (French: Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle) is a Christmas carol which originated from the Provence region of France in the 16th century. In the carol, visitors to the stable have

to keep their voices down so the new born can enjoy his dreams.

*(from: NOËL CDDM 009)*

## 11. ANNUNCIATION CAROL

*Susan Cock* 2:10

This *Annunciation Carol* with the message "A Message Came to a Maiden Young" is set in a typical South African style.

*(from: Christmas with the Drakensberg Boys Choir CDDM006)*

## 12. THULA BABA

*South African traditional folk song*  
*arr.: Michael Barrett* 2:41

A traditional African lullaby.

*(from: Christmas with the Drakensberg Boys Choir CDDM006)*

## 13. JESUS CHILD

*John Rutter (b. 1945)* 3:26

*Jesus Child* is one of the carols that does not somehow suggest cold and frost and generally seasonal weather. The rhythm and the feel of this music are suggestive of the Caribbean.

*(from: NOËL CDDM 009)*

## MISSA LUBA

*arr.: Guido Haazen*  
*Kyrie - Gloria - Credo - Sanctus - Agnus Dei.* 16:48

The *Missa Luba* is an adaptation of traditional Congolese music to the Latin liturgy. It was originally performed by Congolese musicians, and later popularised by performances and recordings throughout the Western world.

The work makes use of many of the elements of African music. Over the unvarying percussion ostinati, soloist and chorus sing repeated call-and-response patterns. The choral parts, and particularly that of the tenor soloist, are phrased in loose rhythmic groupings against the firm beat of the percussion. Elements of improvisation appear through the work - indeed Father Haazen emphasises in the forward to the work that each performance can be considered a 'new creation' of the original, depending both on the forces available and the inclination of singers and conductor.

*(from: Amazing Grace CDDM 008)*

14. MISSA LUBA: KYRIE

15. MISSA LUBA: GLORIA

16. MISSA LUBA: Credo

17. MISSA LUBA: SANCTUS

18. MISSA LUBA: AGNUS DEI

19. MOLWENI

*South African traditional folk song*

*arr.: Ellen van Eyk*

1:47

In isiXhosa the choir sings: "We greet you in the name of the Lord. How are you (in the name of the Lord)?"

*(from: Christmas with the Drakensberg Boys Choir CDDM006)*

20. DECK THE HALL

*Traditional Welsh melody*

*arr.: Christian Ashley-Botha*

0:52

*Deck the Hall* is a traditional Yuletide/Christmas and New Years' carol. The melody is Welsh, dating back to the sixteenth century.

*(from: NOËL 009)*

21. WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

*English traditional carol*

*arr.: A. Warrell*

1:59

*We Wish You A Merry Christmas* is a traditional English tune dating back from the seventeenth century, and was a favourite of the waits - hired singers who entertained ceremonially and perhaps even while strolling the public ways.

*(from: Christmas with the Drakensberg Boys Choir CDDM006)*

22. JINGLE BELLS

*James Lord Pierpont (1822 – 1893)*

*arr.: Christian-Ashley Botha*

2:37

The words and music were written in 1857 by James Pierpont for a Thanksgiving program at his church in Boston. It was so well received that the children were asked to repeat it at Christmas. It has been a Christmas song ever since.

*(from: Christmas with the Drakensberg Boys Choir CDDM006)*

23. THE VERY BEST TIME OF THE YEAR

*John Rutter (b. 1945)*

4:16

This carol hints at the Advent and Christmas time as being *The Very Best Time of Year*.

*(from: NOËL 009)*

24. STILLE NACHT (SILENT NIGHT)

*Franz X. Gruber, arr.: Christian Ashley-Botha*

3:12

*Silent Night* (German: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht) is surely the most popular Christmas carol of all times, composed in 1818 in Austria.

*(from: NOËL 009)*

**TOTAL DURATION: 1:12:28**



## THE DRAKENSBERG BOYS CHOIR

The Drakensberg Boys' Choir School is situated in the Champagne Valley of the Central Drakensberg Mountains. In its 45 year history, the school has grown considerably in both its student body and its facilities. The school was officially established in 1967 by the Tungay family with John Tungay as first conductor.

Since its establishment, the school has seen many different conductors and produced a number of successful musicians from the boys that have passed through the school. Conductors of the Drakensberg Boys Choir (in chronological order) of the past 45 years are: John Tungay, Desmond Wright, Edward Aitchison, Louis van der Westhuizen, Eberhard Künkel, Lionel van Zyl, Charles Denholm, David Matheson, Susan Reid, Hannes Loubser, Daniël Baard, Christian Ashley-Botha, Juan Burgers, Benjamin Oosthuizen, Gerhard du Toit, Botes Gresse, Vaughan van Zyl, Rudolf de Beer, Deon Lamprecht, Bernard Kruger, Jaco Goosen, Rykie Boeke, Bragi Þór Valsson and Johann van der Sandt.

The school consists of approximately 100 boys from Grade four to nine who have been selected through auditions held across the country. The boys have six academic periods, two music periods in the form of aural training and theory as well as two hours of choir rehearsal every day. The choir performs an average of 60 concerts a year, which includes the weekly Wednesday concerts held at the school.

The choir tours at least twice a year, both nationally and internationally. The countries they have visited include Israel, the United States of America, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, Greece, Turkey, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Budapest, Portugal, Spain, France, Taiwan, Poland, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Egypt and Botswana. One of the early tour highlights was an invitation in 1983 from Pope John Paul II to perform in St. Peter's Square. They were the first South African cultural group to perform behind the Iron Curtain in 1985, and were also invited to perform at a congress of the American Choral Directors' Association in 2007. Their most recent tour to the USA in May 2011 was greeted with accolades like "The Drakies never fail to leave the audience gasping in admiration. Not a shy boy in the lot." - Douglas Neslund: *The Classical Voice*, Los Angeles. The choir was also privileged to have sung with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir during a live broadcast of "The Spoken Word" in the Mormon Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah. 2012 brought a variety of performances for the choir, from being guest artists and supporting vocalists for the South African Idols, to performing with celebrated South African vocalist, Chris Chameleon in a unique production *Dreams*. This production was awarded the prize for the biggest artistic contribution at the InniBos National Arts Festival. Apart from numerous national tours the choir also performed to packed audiences during its festivals and concerts in the Ken Mackenzie Auditorium on the school's campus.



Programme notes: Angus Blaauw  
[www.dbchoir.co.za](http://www.dbchoir.co.za)  
[www.prospect-al.de](http://www.prospect-al.de)

