



still

nathan clark george with mark stoffel and ross sermons



1. For What Did Christ, the Babe, Appear:

Words and music by Nathan Clark George, 2010. A particular characteristic of older carols is that they cover more than simply the birth of Christ (see tracks 4 & 5). I like the way these compositions connect the Incarnation with the purpose of the life of Christ, removing the sentimentality and bringing a solemnity to the Advent season, as well as a joyful sense of completion and hopefulness to the birth narrative. This offering approaches something of that goal.

2. Sussex Carol:

Words and music: Traditional English Carol, arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1919. I took several rhythmic liberties when arranging this, hoping to portray the joy and playfulness of the tune.

3. Whence is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing:

Words: Traditional French Carol, Translator: A. B. Ramsay, Music: Patrick Forbes. This was one of several songs that we did not know before this CD began to take shape. The process of learning these ancient songs has been a great joy and challenge.

4. Of the Father's Love Begotten:

Words: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 5th Century; translated from Latin to English by John M. Neale, 1854, and Henry W. Baker, 1859. Music: Divinum Mysterium, possibly from the 11th Century. Both this text and music has been approached in many ways through the years. Our approach was to honor the plainsong roots, while injecting a few folk sensibilities. In the end, I hope we have captured the majesty of this wonderful song.

5. Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day:

This is an English carol usually attributed as 'traditional'; its first written appearance is in William B. Sandys' Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern of 1833. The text, which is written from Jesus' perspective, took me off guard at first. However, the fact that Christ accomplished what he set out to do certainly is a cause for his and our celebration. A great dance awaits.

6. Still, Still, Still:

This is a wonderful lullaby from Salzburg, Austria, first mentioned around 1800. Composer unknown, first published in 1865 by Maria Vinzenz Suess. Songs like this seem to fit our trio well, and evoke the warmth and peacefulness we love so much about the Advent season.

7. In Quiet Hope:

Music by Nathan Clark George, 2010. Though I intended to add lyrics to this tune, it seemed to stand on it's own. The almost circular nature of the melody, combined with it's haunting mood, gives a strong sense of the anticipation which surrounds the season of Advent.

8. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen:

A traditional English carol. Published by William B. Sandys in 1833. It is said to date back to the 15th century. The author is unknown.

9. Weihnachts Medley (O Du Fröhliche & Kommet, Ihr Hirten):

O Du Fröhliche: In 1816 the German theologian, writer and composer Johannes Daniel Falk, wrote the lyrics for this popular Christmas song to the existing melody of an Italian folk song called "O sanctissima, o purissima, dulcis virgo Maria."

Kommet, Ihr Hirten: In 1870, Carl Riedel, composer and conductor from Leipzig, Germany, added his own lyrics to the beautiful old bohemian melody "Vam Noviny."

10. All My Heart, This Night Rejoices:

Words: Paul Gerhardt, 1656 (Fröhlich soll mein Herze springen); translated from German to English by Catherine Winkworth, Lyra Germanica, 2nd Series, 1858, Music: Ebeling, Johann G. Ebeling, 1666.

11. Bring a Torch Jeanette, Isabelle:

A French carol which originated in the Provence region in the 16th century. It was first published in 1553, and was subsequently translated into English in the 18th century. It is said that the music was originally not an Advent song, but rather dance music for French nobility. We have taken a playful approach.

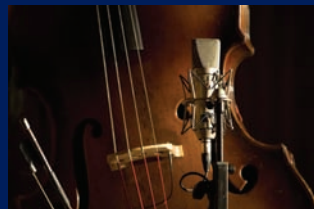
12. Hark! The Harold Angels Sing:

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, from his cantata "Festgesang an die Künstler," 1840 (second movement, "Vaterland, in deinem Gauen"). This hymn traditionally has a wonderful text, but as I thought about the song order for this CD, I thought an instrumental approach would create a beautiful close.

1. For What Did Christ, the Babe, Appear
2. Sussex Carol
3. Whence is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing
4. Of the Father's Love Begotten
5. Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day
6. Still, Still, Still
7. In Quiet Hope
8. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
9. Weihnachts Medley
10. All My Heart, This Night, Rejoices
11. Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabelle
12. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

website: www.nathanclarkgeorge.com

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To those who listen:

When we gathered together with this CD in mind it was because we love music, we love beauty, and we love to share that with each other and with whomever may listen. Our hope is that you sense great joy in the stillness and peace we have experienced throughout this recording adventure.

On the website (www.nathanclarkgeorge.com):

- Lyrics/notes for each track.
- A free English version of “Still, Still, Still” featuring Nathan’s children, Jonathan and Elaine.
- A free French version of “Un Flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle.”
- Our first Christmas CD, “A Midwinter’s Eve,” is also available.

Thanks:

I am grateful for the interest and input of R.C. Sproul Jr., Tony Felich, Judy Rogers & Greg Wilbur. Thank you, Mary Stoffel, for putting up with us invading your home while nurturing your first baby! Thanks to my family for your unending fervor and constant help. Thank you Mark and Ross for all the musical inspiration, wonderful conversation, exquisite food and drink, and mostly, your steadfast friendship.

Finally, it has become progressively easier to see that my own dear wife tirelessly upholds me, and that she has been Christ to me. Thank you for showing such great love to me and our six beautiful children. I love you, still

Credits:

Guitar & Lead Vocals: Nathan Clark George

Mandolin, Violin & Vocals: Mark Stoffel

Upright Bass: Ross Sermons

Artwork & Cover Design: Mary J. Stoffel

Photographer: Katie Bollinger

Engineering: Nathan Clark George & Mark Stoffel

Mastering: Dave Shipley at Foxwood Mastering

