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THE GOLDEN AGE OF LIGHT MUSIC

A Carol Symphony - Music For The Festive Season

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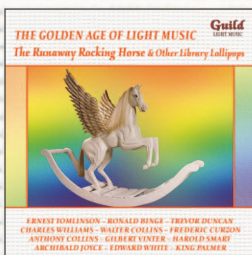
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GLCD 5232



DOLF VAN DER LINDEN AND THE METROPOLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
FRANK CHACKSFIELD - GEORGE MELACHRINO - STANLEY BLACK
BILLY VAUGHN - DALIBOR BRÁZDA
AND THEIR ORCHESTRAS

A CAROL SYMPHONY – Music For The Festive Season

1	Adeste Fidelis (O Come All Ye Faithful) (John Francis Wade arr. Leon Young) FRANK CHACKSFIELD & HIS ORCHESTRA – Richmond S 30056 1959 ©	3:00	GLCD 5185 Christmas Celebration GLCD 5186 Light Music While You Work – Vol. 3 GLCD 5187 Light and Easy GLCD 5188 The Art of the Arranger – Vol. 1 GLCD 5189 Holidays for Strings GLCD 5190 Continental Flavour – Vol. 2 GLCD 5191 Strings Afire GLCD 5192 Stereo into the Sixties GLCD 5193 The Art of the Arranger – Vol. 2 GLCD 5194 Nature's Realm GLCD 5195 Great British Composers – Vol. 1 GLCD 5196 Melodies for the Starlight Hours GLCD 5197 Melody Mixture GLCD 5198 Light Music While You Work – Vol. 4 GLCD 5199 Three Great American Light Orchestras GLCD 5200 A Glorious Century of Light Music GLCD 5201 Fiddles and Bows GLCD 5202 Cinema Classics GLCD 5203 Great British Composers – Vol. 2 GLCD 5204 Salon, Light & Novelty Orchestras GLCD 5205 Here's To Holidays GLCD 5206 Non-Stop To Nowhere	GLCD 5207 Ça C'est Paris GLCD 5208 The Lost Transcriptions – Vol. 4 GLCD 5209 My Dream is Yours GLCD 5210 Invitation to the Dance GLCD 5211 Light Music While You Work – Vol. 5 GLCD 5212 Bright Lights GLCD 5213 Light and Latin GLCD 5214 Great British Composers – Vol. 3 GLCD 5215 Song of the West GLCD 5216 Springtime GLCD 5217 By Special Request: Faith & Farnon GLCD 5218 Contrasts – Vol. 1 GLCD 5219 By Special Request: Rose & Torch GLCD 5220 Grandstand: Production Music of the 1940s GLCD 5221 A Light Music Smörgåsbord GLCD 5222 Christmas Lights GLCD 5223 Contrasts – Vol. 2 GLCD 5224 New Town: Production Music of the 1950s GLCD 5225 More Gems from the 1930s GLCD 5226 Motorway: Production Music of the 1960s GLCD 5227 Table for Two GLCD 5228 British Cinema & Theatre Orchestras – 4
2	Silent Night (Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht) (Joseph Mohr / Franz Xaver Gruber arr. Leon Young) FRANK CHACKSFIELD & HIS ORCHESTRA – Richmond S 30056 1959 ©	3:37		
3	God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen (Traditional arr. Leon Young) FRANK CHACKSFIELD & HIS ORCHESTRA – Richmond S 30056 1959 ©	2:34		
4	Once In Royal David's City (H J Gauntlett arr. Leon Young) FRANK CHACKSFIELD & HIS ORCHESTRA – Richmond S 30056 1959 ©	2:51		
5	Good King Wenceslas (Tempus Adest Floridum) (Traditional arr. Leon Young) FRANK CHACKSFIELD & HIS ORCHESTRA – Richmond S 30056 1959 ©	2:11		
6	Good Christian Men Rejoice (Traditional arr. Leon Young) FRANK CHACKSFIELD & HIS ORCHESTRA – Richmond S 30056 1959 ©	1:59		
7	Away In A Manger (Traditional arr. Leon Young) FRANK CHACKSFIELD & HIS ORCHESTRA – Richmond S 30056 1959 ©	2:25		
8	The First Noel (The First Nowell) (Traditional arr. Leon Young) FRANK CHACKSFIELD & HIS ORCHESTRA – Richmond S 30056 1959 ©	2:39		
9	The Golden Carol (Greensleeves) (Traditional arr. Leon Young) FRANK CHACKSFIELD & HIS ORCHESTRA – Richmond S 30056 1959 ©	2:32		
10	Faith of Our Fathers (Frederick William Faber) BILLY VAUGHN & HIS ORCHESTRA – DOT DLP 25148 1958 ©	2:30		

A GUILD LIGHT MUSIC RELEASE

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 GLCD 5182 A Second A-Z of Light Music
 GLCD 5183 A Return Trip to the Library
 GLCD 5184 The Lost Transcriptions – Vol. 3

- 11 O Holy Night (Cantique de Noël) (Adolphe Adam) 2:25
 BILLY VAUGHN & HIS ORCHESTRA – DOT DLP 25148 1958 ©
- 12 O Tannenbaum (O Christmas Tree) (Traditional) 1:40
 BILLY VAUGHN & HIS ORCHESTRA – DOT DLP 25148 1958 ©
- 13 Joy To The World (Handel / Lowell Mason / Isaac Watts) 3:42
 THE MELACHRINO ORCHESTRA Conducted by GEORGE MELACHRINO
 – RCA LSP 2044 1959 ©
- 14 Hark, The Herald Angels Sing (Charles Wesley / Felix Mendelssohn, adapted William H Cummings) 2:47
 THE MELACHRINO ORCHESTRA Conducted by GEORGE MELACHRINO
 – RCA LSP 2044 1959 ©
- 15 Jingle Bells (James Lord Pierpont) 2:37
 THE MELACHRINO ORCHESTRA Conducted by GEORGE MELACHRINO
 – RCA LSP 2044 1959 ©
- 16 Les Patineurs (The Skaters' Waltz) (Émile Waldteufel Op.183 arr. Dalibor Brázda) 5:30
 DALIBOR BRÁZDA & HIS ORCHESTRA – Supraphon ST 54452 1962 ©
- 17 I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus (Thomas Patrick Connor) 2:20
 STANLEY BLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA – Decca LK 4155 1956
- 18 Christmas Alphabet (Buddy Kaye / Jules Loman) 2:18
 STANLEY BLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA – Decca LK 4155 1956
- 19 Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer (John D Marks) 2:25
 STANLEY BLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA – Decca LK 4155 1956

- 20 Winter Wonderland (Felix Bernard) 3:05
 STANLEY BLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA – Decca LK 4155 1956
- A Carol Symphony** (Victor Hely-Hutchinson)
- 21 I. Prelude - Allegro energico (“Adeste Fideles”) 4:04
 22 II. Scherzo - Allegro molto moderato (“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”) 5:55
 23 III. Romance - Andante quasi lento a cantabile (“The Coventry Carol” & “The First Noel”) 8:18
 24 IV. Finale - Allegro energico come primo (“Here We Come A Wassailing”) 5:20
 THE METROPOLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA conducted by DOLF VAN DER LINDEN
 – Paxton GTR 123, 124 & 125 1951

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The Golden Age Of Light Music provides music lovers with superior collections of recordings from the 1920s to the 1960s. There is no duplication of tracks within the series and most are appearing on CD for the first time. Remastered to the highest standards, each plays for between 70 and 79 minutes.

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a position he held until his death at the early age of 47. He was not a prolific composer – besides *A Carol Symphony* his works include a Piano Quintet, a Violin Sonata, an operetta “Hearts are Trumps”, “Symphony For Small Orchestra” and settings of William Blake’s “Songs of Innocence” and Edward Lear’s “Nonsense Songs”.

A Carol Symphony, originally titled “A Christmas Symphony” was written in 1927 and had its premiere in 1929 at a Queen’s Hall, London promenade concert where it was conducted by the composer and broadcast live by the BBC’s 2LO radio station.

Scored for a fairly large orchestra, including triple woodwind, a note in the score states that the trumpets and trombones may advantageously be played above and behind the rest of the orchestra, as their parts are entirely solo. It is in four movements, which lead into one another without a break which is how it is presented here.

1st movement – Prelude : Against an energetic string passage in triplets, the theme *Adeste Fideles* is gradually introduced by the four horns; it is then played by the unaccompanied brass, the triplet passage being resumed on strings and woodwind.

2nd movement – Scherzo : This opens with the woodwind playing the theme *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen* which is then taken up by the ‘cellos and basses, and is developed in a vigorous section *Allegro assai vivace*, with occasional excursions into quieter passages marked *Molto meno mosso*. Throughout the movement there is the alternation of 4/4 and 5/4 time.

3rd movement – Romance : This delightful movement is based on two themes, *The Coventry Carol* and *The First Nowell*. *The Coventry Carol* is first heard on the four horns alone and *The First Noel* is introduced by the 1st Violins, playing pianissimo, with a fascinating harp accompaniment – a truly “Christmasy” effect.

4th movement – Finale : This opens with the strings playing the triple passage from the first movement. The theme *Here we come a Wassailing* is announced by the woodwind and then taken up by the strings. Later the theme *O Come all ye Faithful* is introduced on the horns and brass. The movement ends with a riot of sound, with bells predominating.

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was still directing regular broadcast sessions at the BBC studios, despite the onset of deafness in later life.

Dolf Van Der Linden (Born David Gysbert van der Linden) (1915-1999), who conducts our finale, Victor Hely-Hutchinson's *A Carol Symphony* was the leading figure of the light music scene in the Netherlands from the 1940s until the 1980s. It could be said that the famous Metropole Orchestra, augmented for this recording, was his 'baby'. Shortly after the end of the Second World War, he was approached by the local broadcasting authorities *Herrijzend Nederland* (Rising Netherlands) and asked to form an orchestra of 40 musicians specialising in light music. The Metropole Orchestra performed their first broadcast on 25 November 1945 and, under Dolf's leadership, it soon became one of the finest ensembles of its kind in Europe. As well as broadcasting frequently he made numerous recordings for the background music libraries of several major music publishers, notably Paxton (often using the pseudonym 'Paul Franklin'), Boosey and Hawkes (as 'Nat Nyll') and Charles Brull (as 'David Johnson'). Dolf's commercial recordings (especially for the American market) were often labelled as 'Van Lynn' or 'Daniel De Carlo'.

Christian Victor Hely-Hutchinson (1901-1947) was a fine pianist and talented composer with a quiet unassuming manner under which could be detected a virile enthusiasm for the art of music, and English music in particular.

He was born in Cape Town, South Africa on December 26th, 1901, soon after the arrival there of his father, Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson, the last British Governor of Cape Colony to be appointed. His love for music showed itself at the early age of five, when he started composing. Three years later, while at a private school in England, he became a pupil of Sir Donald Tovey, the eminent musical scholar – an inspiring association that lasted for six years. His education continued at Eton, from where he graduated in 1920 to Balliol College, Oxford to study History. He was, however, much more interested in music and changed to studying to become a Bachelor of Music. These studies were interrupted in 1922 by the offer of a position as Lecturer in Music at the University of Cape Town which he accepted and he remained there until 1925.

He returned to England in 1926 to join the music staff of the B.B.C. In 1934 he was appointed Professor of Music at the University of Music, Birmingham, succeeding Sir Granville Bantock. During his stay at the University he received the honorary degree of M.A. and took a degree as Doctor of Music at Oxford. 1944 saw his return to the B.B.C. to succeed Arthur Bliss as Director of Music,

This is the third Guild CD devoted to music associated with the Festive Season, the first two being GLCD 5185 "Christmas Celebration" and GLCD 5222 "Christmas Lights". Although some of the titles have already featured on these two CDs, the performances haven't and all of the recordings here are new to Guild, with some of the world's finest light orchestras playing superb arrangements of traditional carols as well as more recent compositions which celebrate Christmas.

All but one of the featured conductors are Guild 'regulars' and their names guarantee that arrangements and performances will be of the highest quality.

The exception is **Dalibor Brázda** (1921-2005) and his superb version of *Les Patineurs* shows that he is well qualified to take his place in this collection. Born in Moravia (a region of the Czech Republic) he attended the conservatory at Brno and later the Academy Of Music in Prague, where he became proficient on the bassoon. He played in many Czech orchestras including the Czech Chamber Orchestra, the National Theatre Of Prague, the Czech Philharmonic and the FOK (Filmorchestra-Concert). After studying under the world famous conductor Rafael Kubelik he began a 20 year tenure as conductor at the Karlin Theatre in Prague. In the early 1950s he started working as an arranger for the Supraphon record label and, after gaining a reputation backing vocalists with lush string arrangements, embarked on a series of recordings with "The Dalibor Brázda Magic Strings" which had many members of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra among its personnel.

In the mid-1960s he went to Hamburg to conduct the German version of "Fiddler On The Roof", the recording of which won a Gold Record Award. When this closed he emigrated to Switzerland where he became a naturalised citizen and lived near Zurich until his death in 2005. During his time in Switzerland he became involved in the musical education of young people and was musical director of several youth wind orchestras. In 2001 he won a Cultural Award for this work and in 2006 the Stadtmusik Dietikon in Switzerland held a concert entitled "The Best Of Dalibor Brázda" as a tribute to his musical greatness.

Our other conductors have all appeared on numerous Guild collections so there is very little new that can be written about them that hasn't appeared in previous "Golden Age Of Light Music" booklets.

Frank (Francis Charles) **Chacksfield** (1914-1995), conducted one of the finest light orchestras in the world and during his long recording career with Decca it is estimated that his albums sold more than 20 million copies. The nine tracks featured here come from an album he made in 1959 which, until now, has never appeared on CD – why not is a mystery as it is one of the truly great Christmas collections. The

remaining three tracks (“Alpine Sleigh Ride”, “White Christmas” and “The Skaters’ Waltz”) are already on Guild and may be found on GLCD 5222.

In total he made more than 150 long-playing albums which were released in many European countries, Japan and Australia as well as Britain and America. His professional musical career began shortly before World War 2, playing at various local venues, before Army service found him working at the Royal Army Service Corp’s Southern Command Entertainment Section at Salisbury, Wiltshire. Later, at the War Office in London, he became staff arranger for “Stars In Battledress”. When he returned to civilian life he soon became involved with various BBC Radio shows as arranger, composer and conductor. He also worked as musical director of the Henry Hall and Geraldo orchestras. His first orchestral recordings were made in 1951 – “Flirtation Waltz” (on GLCD 5103) and “Prelude To A Memory” (on GLCD 5104) for the fledgling Polygon label where he was also responsible for the backings on several of Petula Clark’s early recordings. In 1953 he had a UK Top Twenty hit as ‘Frank Chacksfield And His Tunesmiths’ with “Little Red Monkey” on Parlophone. The Tunesmiths also recorded for Oriole and he cut some sides for British Columbia with his ‘Singing Strings’ but, in April of that year, he moved to Decca where his very first recording, Charlie Chaplin’s theme from his film “Limelight”, won him a Gold Disc through its big success in the USA. His second, “Ebb Tide”, became the first-ever British non-vocal disc to reach No. 1 in the American charts, providing a second Gold Disc. A steady flow of long-playing records, plus regular broadcasts in many countries, ensured his continuing popularity well into the 1970s. He was an accomplished composer but usually used arrangers such as Leon Young (responsible for the arrangements here) and Roland Shaw to work on his albums.

Next we have three more tracks from the 1958 Christmas album recorded by Richard **Billy Vaughn** (1919-1991) – most of the others are on GLCD 5185 and 5222. Vaughn was born in Glasgow, Kentucky and began his career playing piano and singing baritone in the group ‘The Hilltoppers’ before joining Dot Records as musical director where he accompanied many of the label’s top singers. He became one of the most successful orchestra leaders during the rock’n’roll era, and from 1955 to 1970 he managed to get 36 titles into the USA Top 200 charts, including a million seller “Melody Of Love” which earned him a gold disc. In 1965 he began touring internationally with his band, achieving considerable popularity in Japan, Korea and Brazil. These arrangements, which combine a small choir with a large orchestra, may come as a surprise to those who are only familiar with Billy Vaughn’s famous “twin saxes and rhythm” sound.

George Miltiades Melachrino (1909-1965) was one of the big names in British light music from the 1940s to the 1960s. Born in London, he became a professional musician, competent on clarinet, alto and tenor saxophone, violin and viola, and he worked with many British dance bands in the 1930s. He was also in demand as a singer, and can be heard on recordings with Carroll Gibbons and others. During World War 2 he became Musical Director of the Army Radio Unit, and his 50-piece ‘Orchestra in Khaki’ toured with the “Stars in Battledress” (two of their rare wartime recordings can be heard on GLCD 5174). After the war Melachrino retained the finest elements of his service band to form the magnificent orchestra that went on to achieve worldwide fame, mainly through its superb long-playing record albums which sold in millions. Many tuneful pieces of light music flowed from his pen and he developed a unique arranging style which was instantly recognisable. The LP era was the perfect vehicle for his inventive scores and others by his right-hand man, and often featured pianist, William Hill-Bowen. The album from which these tracks are taken was not, however, Melachrino’s first venture into Christmas music – that honour goes to his “Christmas Fantasy”, recorded in 1950 on two sides of an HMV 78 and preserved on Guild GLCD 5138. Melachrino also built up a thriving entertainment organisation involving films, theatre and broadcasting.

Stanley Black (born Solomon Schwartz 1913-2002) is represented by four tracks from “Christmas Holidays For Romance” – an album he recorded in 1956. He had his first professional arrangement of a tune accepted in 1930, and during the rest of the decade the list of his employers reads like a “Who’s Who” of British jazz and dance music – Harry Roy, Lew Stone and Maurice Winnick among others. He broadcast and recorded with some of the more distinguished American visitors to Britain, including Coleman Hawkins and he remained closely involved with jazz during his four years with Harry Roy. A trip to South America with the Roy band in 1937 introduced him to Latin American music which was to be an enduring passion for the rest of his life. After war service in the Royal Air Force, Black was kept busy with numerous broadcasts, films and a recording contract with Decca which resulted in many top selling albums prompting international concert tours. From 1944 until 1952 he was conductor of the BBC Dance Orchestra which, as well as broadcasting in its own right, was the resident orchestra for many BBC variety and comedy programmes. A consequence of this was one of his more unusual credits as composer of the theme music for “The Goon Show”. He received numerous awards, including the OBE in 1985 for his services to music. He conducted many of Britain’s major orchestras, and until the 1990s he