



Vom Himmel hoch... - Christmas Carols

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 BBC MUSIC

Post-war austerity hit the record industry hard in Germany, and in the 1950s the Berlin radio station RIAS began making programmes to brighten up the Christmas season. The artists used included some of the greatest singers of the 20th century – Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Rita Streich, Elisabeth Grümmer among them – and this fascinating selection from RIAS archives captures them in sepia-tinted mono recordings which present the voices more fulsomely than most modern digital discs. The repertoire is mainly traditional German, the arrangements often unusual. It's a fascinating collection.