

A kaleidoscope of folkloristic,
international Christmas carols



URSULA FIEDLER
MANFRED FRÄNKE

Christmas
around the World

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Christmas carols from Europe and South America: these traditional songs have been newly adapted for voice, accordion, violin, and percussion instruments. The result is an impressive kaleidoscope of folkloristic, international Christmas carols above and beyond the well-known melodies.

Kilisee, kilisee Estland
Werst mei Liacht ume sein Österreich
Lullay My Liking | The First Nowell England
Cansó de Nadal Katalonien
Maria durch ein Dornwald ging |
Auf ihr Hirten | In'n Himmelsoren |
Es sungen drei Engel Deutschland
Jouluilta | Sylvian joululaulu | Jouluhymni |
Kun joulu on | Pieni joululaulu Finnland
Los peces en el río Spanien
Quelle est cette odeur Frankreich
The Gower Wassail Wales
Earth's Joy Mexico
Jesu Is Crying Brasilien



This CD presents secular Christmas carols from Europe and South America. These traditional songs have been newly arranged by Manfred Fränkel for voice, accordion, violin and percussion instruments. The carols are intended to sound as natural as possible and yet offer something unusual. Older and more recent songbooks from a wide variety of countries served as the basis for the adaptations; in some cases the original languages were retained, and in others the texts have been translated into German. The result is an impressive kaleidoscope of folkloristic, international Christmas carols.

The different musical orientations from which Ursula Fiedler and Manfred Fränkel originally come – she from “classical music“, he from „folk music“ – made them curious about each other. At first, they developed a Breton-Celtic programme; the success of this encouraged them to produce this somewhat different Christmas CD with newly found, rather unconventional repertoire.

Ursula Fiedler initially studied violin in Hannover and voice in Vienna. After completing her studies, she was active for over 20 years as a freelance singer, performing in Vienna (Musikverein, Konzerthaus, Stephan's Cathedral), Brussels, Madrid, Barcelona, Santander, New York (Avery Fisher Hall), Milan, Parma, Palermo and Berlin (Philharmonie, Konzerthaus). She was also invited to numerous festivals, including the Haydn Festival in Eisenstadt, the Schwetzingen, Potsdam, Berlin and Ludwigsburg Festivals, the Schleswig-Holstein Festival, the Ruhr Piano Festival, the Feldkirch Schubertiade and the Styriarte in Graz. A two-month walking tour from Vienna to the North Sea coast in 2008 changed her life. Since then she has primarily dedicated herself to the creation of her own programmes; in these, the point of emphasis is the combination of her violin playing with singing, both in the classical and non-classical areas.

Manfred Fränkel received his accordion education in southern Germany under the strong influence of the traditional music of that region. He began, already at an early stage, to expand his musical horizons. Thus he intensively occupied himself with the most widely varied forms of European and non-European folk music, whereby his activity as dance leader for international dance folklore enabled him to gain additional access – via movement – to these forms of music. He performs in a wide variety of ensembles, playing a broad repertoire ranging from tango and jazz to free improvisation, as well as classical repertoire. His folkloristic roots, however, have remained strong to the present day. Arranging and composing for smaller ensembles, up to and including accordion orchestra, have become his special passion. He thus responded gladly to the invitation to co-produce the present CD of Christmas carols and to adapt the carols selected for it.

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Marketing / Promotion

- Christmas carols above and beyond the well-known melodies
- Extensively researched and adapted repertoire
- HD download
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