



Stille Nacht... - Christmas Choir Music

aud 97.711

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RECORD REVIEW Albums for Christmas

Stille Nacht, a new compilation from Audite and taken from RIAS Berlin recordings made between 1972-86, is well worth investigating. The 34 tracks form a dramaturgical entity, a cycle beginning with Adrian Willaert's magnificent setting of *Mirabile mysterium declaratur hodie*. The succeeding selection has been cleverly done, individual pieces following one another quite naturally. The selection ranges from the mysterious nocturnal eve which saw the birth of Christ, before returning to the evening of His birthday, bringing the cycle full circle. The music ranges from the early sixteenth century (Willaert and Ludwig Senfl) to the present day, but whereas it might be thought to cause too great a stylistic clash, each piece flows well in context. The recordings were all made by the RIAS Chamber Choir under Uwe Gronostay and have been so cleverly remastered that one would never guess the original dates. I found this a perfect Christmas record, of no little musical interest; the concluding *Stille Nacht* is most affecting (Audite 97.711, 1 hour 14 minutes).