



Vom Himmel hoch... - Christmas Carols

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[American Record Guide](#) (Robert A Moore - 2016.11.01)

The ~~Section~~ ^{Section} ~~Record Guide~~ ^{Record Guide} natural recordings of 26 German Christmas carols are taken from archives of German radio broadcasts from 1950-64. Year after year, distinguished singers were engaged to perform on radio, and leading composers and church musicians produced arrangements. The notes describe how families would gather around the radio in post-war Germany to listen to these Christmas broadcasts when commercial recordings were hard to obtain. Some of the carols sound like folk tunes; others are Lutheran chorales.

Accompaniment is by various musical forces, and the performances are mostly of good quality. (One exception may be Maria Reith's scooping and sliding between notes.) It is a pleasure to hear Rita Streich's crystalline voice and Fischer-Dieskau's young and winsome voice and the recordings of other distinguished singers, but the music will probably appeal mostly to people who lived in Germany in those years.

Notes but no texts.