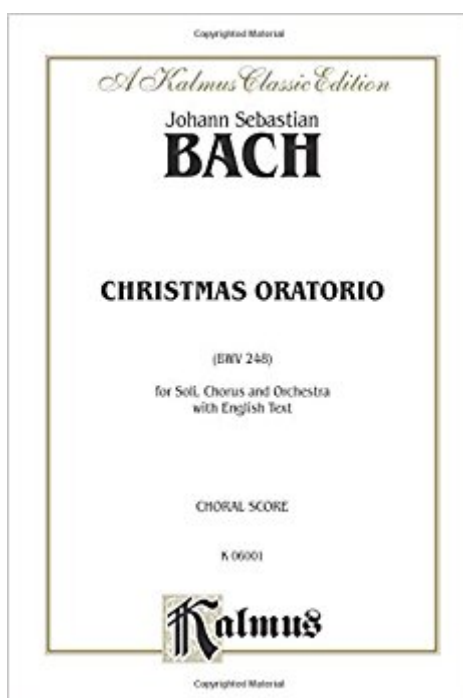


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Christmas Oratorio: SATB With SATB Soli (Orch.) (English Language Edition) (Kalmus Edition)



Synopsis

A choral worship cantata for SATB with SATB Soli composed by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

All the Netherland Bach Society recordings are fantastic.

As the accuracy of our playback system has steadily increased over the years, the flaws in the human voice have started to bother us, particularly in the high-midrange/low-treble. At first we thought it was caused by CD PCM, but because it only happens on some CDs, we eventually concluded that it's due to improperly trained singers. So it was with some hesitation that we ordered a choral work, expecting to be put off by the grittiness. But there is none. The singers are pitch-perfect, clear, and sweet. A delightful recording.

Note - the other reviews were for a recording of this wonderful work. My review is of the music score published by Kalmus. Two of the pages are printed out of order. The printing itself is very muddy, which makes reading the individual notes difficult. In addition, the English translation is odd - definitely non-standard. I hope to find a better score. I am returning this one.

This is definitely one of the best Christmas oratorios on the market, both with respect to

interpretation and sound quality (SACD). All soloists are very good, even if they cannot compete with the best (as Elly Ameling for M. Bach, and Fritz Wunderlich for F. Richter). The chorus is superlative and is comparable with Harnoncourt's latest recording. Harnoncourt's and van Veldhoven's recordings are probably the best modern recordings. I prefer van Veldhoven though. It has more spontaneity, and gives you more a sense of an occasion. Harnoncourt is absolutely not boring, but sometimes it feels more "routine". Of the old recordings I prefer M. Bach, even his tenor soloist (Peter Pears) sounds aged.

Channel Classics first issued this recording in 2005 in a deluxe book with a fancy cloth slipcase. It was very well received at the time and is still highly regarded today while this edition does not have the art book and the fancy slipcase it still is one of the best recordings and performances of Bach's Christmas Oratorio available. It comes on Three Hybrid SACD's and remains a pleasure to listen to.

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