



CHRISTMAS DAY

Elem Eley

STREET DATE: November 1, 2019

Format: 1 CD

SRP: \$16.00

Label: Affetto



RELEASE INFO:

Baritone Elem Eley describes this very personal album in this way: Some of the most magical moments of my childhood were the eager tearing-away of the plastic wrap from the annual Christmas album, just purchased from the Firestone dealer in our little hometown! It was through these "Stereophonic LP" discs (devotedly and regularly brought home by my father) that I was introduced to much of the classic holiday repertoire, both sacred and secular. Burl Ives, Robert Goulet, Leontyne Price, The Brothers Four, Mahalia Jackson, Isaac Stern, the New York Philharmonic, Mitch Miller and his chorus – these artists, plus many others, each year brought us the magic of the holiday season – entertaining us in this most special musical style!

Christmas Day is not consciously modeled after the Great Songs of Christmas annual series, but the comparison is inescapable. We hope that this album may provide a measure of nostalgia, "Christmas magic," and inspiring reflection on the true meaning of the season. My own voice is complemented here by a host of outstanding artists -- adult and children's choirs, orchestra, and brilliant instrumentalists. We offer you beloved carols, some composed or newly-arranged especially for this project. Join us on our journey to the cradle.

TRACK LISTING:

1. **Hebrides Lullaby** - Gwyneth Walker 6:45
Elem Eley, baritone; Baylor University Bella Voce Women's Ensemble, Lynne Gackle, conductor
2. **In the Bleak Midwinter** -
Gustav Holst/arr. Tom Shelton 5:28
WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING
Elem Eley, baritone; Princeton Girlchoir Semi-Tones, conducted by Tom Shelton, Semi-Tones Soprano soloist: Savanna Bezick; Allison Shinnick, piano
3. **Gesù Bambino** - Pietro Yon 4:34
Elem Eley, baritone, Akiko Hosaki, piano; Joseph Hsia, violin
4. **O Jesulein zart** - Tom Shelton 3:43
Elem Eley, baritone; Princeton Girlchoir Semi-Tones, conducted by Tom Shelton; Semi-Tone Soprano soloist: Savanna Bezick; Allison Shinnick, piano
5. **The Birds** - Benjamin Britten 1:48
Elem Eley, baritone; Elaine Christy, harp
6. **Caroling, Caroling** - Alfred Burt 1:46
Elem Eley, baritone; Elaine Christy, harp
7. **The Christmas Tree** - Peter Cornelius 2:07
Elem Eley, baritone; Akiko Hosaki, piano
8. **The Kings** - Peter Cornelius 2:32
Elem Eley, baritone; Eric Plutz, organ
9. **O Holy Night** - Adolphe Adam 6:23
Elem Eley, baritone; Eric Plutz, organ
10. **Christmastide** - Tom Shelton 4:04
Princeton Girlchoir Concert Choir, conducted by Lynnel Jenkins; Ryan Brechmacher, piano
11. **Some children see him** - Alfred Burt 3:30
Elem Eley, baritone; Eric Plutz, organ
12. **I heard the bells on Christmas day** -
Johnny Marks 1:50
Elem Eley, baritone; Eric Plutz, organ
13. **I stand here at the cradle side** -
Sigfrid Karg-Elert 3:30
Elem Eley, baritone; Akiko Hosaki, piano; Joseph Hsia, violin
14. **The Carol of the Birds** - Eric Thiman 2:50
Elem Eley, baritone; Akiko Hosaki, piano
15. **The Birthday of a King** -
William H. Neidlinger 2:25
Elem Eley, baritone; Akiko Hosaki, piano
16. **The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy** -
arr. Hal Evans 2:55
Elem Eley, baritone; Akiko Hosaki, piano
17. **Sweet Little Jesus Boy** - Robert MacGimsey 4:08
Elem Eley, baritone; Elaine Christy, harp
18. **I Always Cry at Christmas** -
Richard Page and Walter Afanasieff 3:38
Elem Eley, baritone and piano
19. **Christmas Day** - Gustav Holst 6:46
Elem Eley, baritone; Princeton University Chapel Choir, Penna Rose, director; Princeton High School Orchestra, Robert Loughran, conductor; Eric Plutz, organist
20. **Silent Night** - Franz Gruber/arr. Tom Shelton 3:25
WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING
Elem Eley, baritone; Princeton Girlchoir Ensemble, conducted by Lynnel Jenkins; Stephanie Watson, piano