

E. Power Biggs studied music at the Royal Academy of Music, emigrating to the U.S. in 1930 and becoming a citizen in 1937. He concertized widely, eventually broadcasting a weekly radio program from 1942–1958 on a classic Aeolian–Skinner organ from the Musch–Reisinger Museum at Harvard University. This program alone brought the sound of organ music, particularly that of the Baroque, to an unprecedented large audience.



Biggs' inexhaustible energy as a performer was instrumental to the popularization of both the organ and Baroque music, and his activities extended well beyond these broadcasts. He toured and recorded widely, playing a huge variety of modern and historic organs and the music best suited for them, eventually expanding his repertory into every period of music. A series of LPs Biggs recorded for Columbia in the 1960s did much to make Bach's organ masterpieces familiar to a variety of listeners that ranged well beyond the traditional classical audience. Biggs also courted crossover listeners with a recording of Scott Joplin rags made on the pedal harpsichord.

He also worked with a number of contemporary composers on commissions, including Walter Piston and Roy Harris. After the onset of arthritis, which led to a forced retirement, Biggs concentrated on editing and publishing early organ music. By the time of his death in 1977, the name E. Power Biggs had become synonymous with the organ for several generations of music lovers.



HIGH DEFINITION TAPE TRANSFERS



WHAT CHILD IS THIS

A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL WITH
E. POWER BIGGS
THE GREGG SMITH SINGERS
THE TEXAS BOYS CHOIR
BRASS AND PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
GREGG SMITH
CONDUCTOR

ED. HOW A ROSE EER BLOOMING
WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE
WHAT CHILD IS THIS/ADESTE FIDELES
GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN
JOY TO THE WORLD/SILENT NIGHT
LULLAY MY LIVING/NOEL WE SING
PATAPAN/GOOD KING WENCESLAS
ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH
THE HOLLY AND THE IVY
AND OTHERS

For almost a thousand years, the Western world has celebrated the events of a single glorious night when a young woman gave birth to a wondrous boy Child. Throughout the centuries, at the waning of each year, the Nativity has been joyously celebrated in song and story and its miracle renewed in the hearts of mankind.

This miracle has also inspired man to create works of unparalleled beauty in painting, sculpture, literature and music. But perhaps most especially in music does the spirit of Christmas achieve its fullest expression. For whether in simple carol or in mighty works for choirs and great cathedral organs, the music of Christmas is unmatched for variety and range of mood as it

moves from the tender to the serene, from the joyous to the exalted, from the human to the divine.

All of these moods are present in this unique collection assembled by the world-renowned organist E. Power Biggs. In this program of immortal music of the Christmas season, Mr. Biggs is joined by The Gregg Smith Singers, The Texas Boys Choir of Fort Worth and The New York Brass and Percussion Ensemble. Here is a selection of hymns and carols from many countries and several centuries—music that joyously tells the evergreen story of the Nativity and reverently answers the awesome question "What Child Is This?"

What Child Is This

E. Power Biggs - Gregg Smith Singers - The Texas Boys Choir Of Forth Worth
New York Brass And Percussion Ensemble

1 Patapan 2:25

2 We Three Kings Of Orient Are 4:40

3 What Child Is This 3:12

4 Noel We Sing 5:01

5 Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming 2:30

6 The Holly And The Ivy 2:10

7 Adeste Fideles 1:50

8 Joy To The World 1:50

9 Lullay My Liking 4:27

10 Good King Wenceslas 2:58

11 Silent Night, Holy Night 2:57

12 God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen 2:07

13 Medley: Welcome Here; Merry Christmas;
Dame Get Up And Bake Your Pies; Christmas Is Coming 5:06

14 Angles We Have Heard On High 2:18

Total time: 43:31

Transferred from a Columbia 4-track tape