



# THE GREAT MYSTERY

## French and English Christmas Carols

### PERFORMERS

9 or 12 singers a cappella

### DURATION

1h10

For 2,000 years, Christmas has delighted both young and old. Moments of celebration, of reunions, moments of simplicity and sharing. The heart is a birth, that of a newborn in a manger. During the winter solstice, light spreads everywhere, bringing perfect joy.

Before the birth, joy is already present, as we eagerly await the arrival of the child. Between Gregorian chants and works by English composers, we oscillate between splendor and fear, ending with the exaltation of *Rejoice* by Steven Sametz! A joy that becomes radiant with the arrival of the newborn!

*A Boy was Born* by Benjamin Britten introduces the colorful vision of Francis Poulenc. Like a painter, he simply describes the scene, revealing the great mystery in a pure and vibrant way. The silence of the night is conducive to the soothing warmth of enveloping English lullabies. Finally, at dawn, let our joy burst forth to announce to the world the great news. Sing now and be joyful!

*a cappella*

Christmas

Gregorian

20th and 21st centuries

RECORDED ON CD

for the Rocamadour Label



**They trust us:** Génération France musique le Live, Saint-Séverin, Gramat

## PROGRAM

### REJOYCE

**Anonyme** *Leto leta concio*

**Antienne** *O Oriens*

**James MacMillan** *O Radiant Dawn*

**Richard Allain** *Coventry Carol*

**Steven Sametz** *Gaudete*

### A BOY WAS BORN

**Benjamin Britten** *A Boy was Born*

**Repons** *O Magnum Mysterium*

**Francis Poulenc** *Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël*

**Pierre Villette** *O Magnum Mysterium*

**Repons** *Quem Vidistis Pastores Dicite*

**Antienne du Magnificat** *Videntes Stellam*

**Antienne du Magnificat** *Hodie Christus natus est*

### IN A SILENT NIGHT

**John Tavener** *The Lamb*

**Joséphine Stephenson** *The Infant King*

**Fredrik Sixten** *Mary's Lullaby*

### BE JOYFUL

**Benjamin Britten** *A Hymn to the Virgin*

**John Tavener** *A Christmas Round*