

Subject: [NEWS] PRISTINE CLASSICAL 12th Novemberr 2010: Special edition - save over €150 on Digital Music Collection

From: Pristine Classical <music@pristineclassical.com>

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Pristine News: Friday 12th November, 2010



Newsletter offer: complete Pristine Collection ~~EUR 1150~~ only EUR 999

In this week's newsletter:

- [Special offer](#) - Save over EUR150 on our Digital Music Collection - order before 20th November 2010
- [Christmas Special](#) - Check out "A Very Pristine Christmas", our festive collection
- [Editorial note](#) - New releases resume next week

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Editorial note - new releases resume next week

I'm writing this note on a very wet and windy Monday morning in France - by the time you get it I'll be 1700km north of here in the remote Shetland Islands (*right*) for a music festival and CD launch, hence the brevity of this week's newsletter. Next week should see new releases resume with Furtwängler's 1942 Bruckner 5th Symphony - right now it's sounding absolutely lovely and merely awaits a session of cough removal before it's ready to be released. We'll also have the latest from Mark Obert-Thorn, who's been busy with a collection of Hermann Abendroth which is set to feature a 1937 Berlin Philharmonic recording of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, as well as works by Sibelius, Liszt, Reger and Dohnányi.



In the meantime it's business as usual in my absence - and if you'd like to take advantage of our special offer on our Digital Music Collection drive - all our recordings on a single small disc drive - then call or e-mail your card details as quickly as possible and we'll do our very best to get your order to you before Christmas.

Andrew Rose

Special offer - save EUR151 when you order direct by credit card this week:

Pristine Audio Digital Music Collection

Pristine Audio PADMC 01



The Pristine Audio Digital Music Collection is available on three different hard drives (or can be prepared on a drive of your choice). It holds all our Pristine Audio releases in FLAC format, in all our release formats: 16-bit regular FLAC, 16-bit Ambient Stereo FLAC, and 24-bit regular (and more recently Ambient Stereo) FLAC.

The drive also comes with an up-to-date collection of PADA Exclusives MP3s. Purchasers can also join our popular updates subscription service - each month we collate all new releases onto DVD and post these out to subscribers to keep their collections fully up to date for just EUR20/month.

The music in the Pristine Audio Digital Music Collection is ordered for easy access - main folders indicate 16-bit, 24-bit or Ambient Stereo FLACs. Within these folders you'll find Chamber Music, Orchestral Music, Vocal Music, Keyboard Music, Jazz, Blues and Compilation folders. Within these is a folder for each release, titled by catalogue number and tagged as for our regular releases. There are additional folders for National Gramophonic Society FLACs and CD Covers.

Order by Visa or Mastercard before 20th November and benefit from a price cut for the PADMC01 from EUR 1150 to just EUR 999, including fast shipping - and we'll pull all the stops out to try and get it to you before Christmas.

There are two ways to place your order: By e-mail to orders@pristineclassical.com or by telephone **by calling us** in France (00 33) 979 62 27 13 (English speaking line - please leave a message with your number if nobody's there to answer as it's not manned 24-hours a day - we'll return your call as quickly as we can).

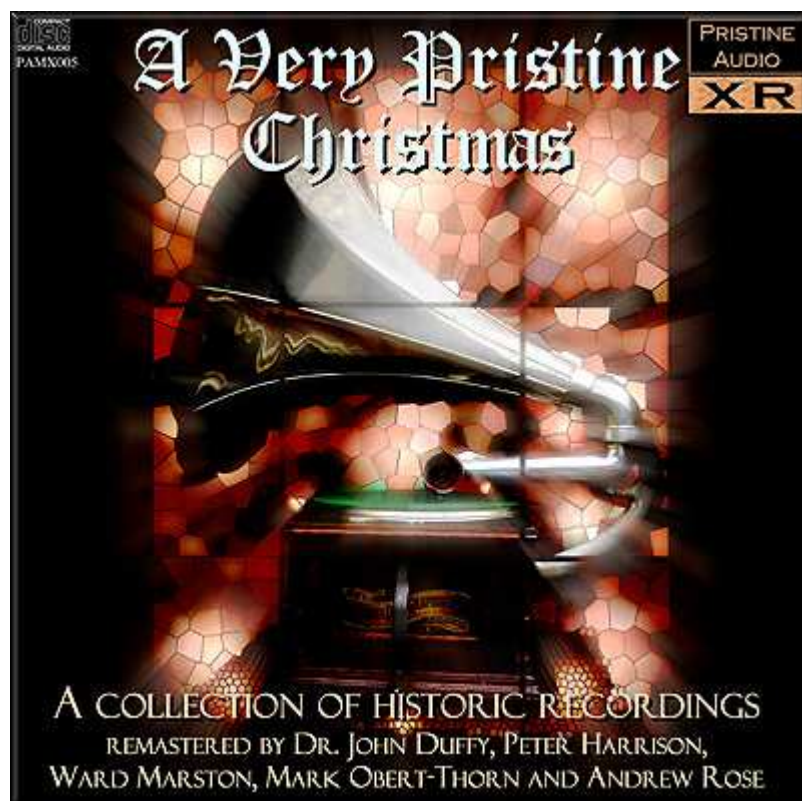
We'll need your credit card type, number, expiry date and security code, together with your name and delivery address, as well as a phone number we can call you on if necessary.

Note that this offer is not available through our website and is for card orders only. We regret that at present we cannot accept payment by American Express. The price of EUR999 is all-inclusive. Orders are normally shipped within 7-10 days of receipt, depending on drive availability, and will be sent by a trackable, signed-for international priority parcel service unless otherwise specified. Offer expires at 00.01hrs Central European Time on Saturday 20th November 2010. This reduction is only available for the PADMC01 drive. Photo is indicative only of the drive we expect to ship - Pristine Audio reserves the right to substitute an alternate model with equivalent or better specifications dependent on available supplies at time of orders. Each drive will be shipped fully up to date at the time of shipping. Delivery times will depend on location.

A Pristine Christmas Special:

[A Very Pristine Christmas](#)

Pristine Audio PAMX 005



Various Artists

Recorded between 1926 and 1957
Restoration and remastering by John Duffy, Peter Harrison, Ward Marston, Mark Obert-Thorn and Andrew Rose
Cover artwork by Andrew Rose

Total duration: 67:49

For more download and CD options, see our [website](#)

The downloads:



- **A Very Pristine Christmas**

Review @ Gramophone: With Christmas nearly upon us, here's a splendid "album" to download that not only stirs up a little nostalgia for times long gone but is also a fine showcase of some of the transfer engineers working for Pristine Classical. "A Very Pristine Christmas" contains 18 tracks and demonstrates the remarkable skills of Dr John Duffy, Peter Harrison, Ward Marston, Mark Obert-Thorn and Pristine's founder Andrew Rose. The music, all with a Christmas theme, was recorded between 1923 and 1957 - and there are some gems.

I particularly warmed to the numbers played by Grace Castagnetta on the Siena Pianoforte, a remarkable instrument that has an almost bell-like quality overlaying the piano sound. John Duffy has restored the album and it has real presence - Ms Castagnetta may not be the subtlest of players but then I've no idea what sort of action this instrument had. Actually it's worth googling "Siena Pianoforte" for its remarkable story, something worthy of a movie!

Less "left field" is the Humperdinck Hansel und Gretel Overture under Albert Coates - a terrific conductor in my book - and sounding quite superb for 1926 (it really is astounding how much those old recordings managed to capture). There's also a 1949 recording of Vaughan Williams's Te Deum with the Choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor - a fine performance even if the choir seems slightly ill-balanced internally (the baritones seem to emerge from the sound picture rather alarmingly). There are also two carols (Adeste fideles and The First Nowell) played by the Flonzaley Quartet in 1928 with a winning use of portamento -the like of which you'd never hear today!

It's a delightful collection and shows off the considerable skills of these distinguished transfer engineers - do consider it (pristineclassical.com). It'll cost little more than a modest bottle of wine - and last a lot

longer! And, as with all Pristine releases, you can create your own CD as the sleeve is downloadable and the site gives you full instructions how to do it. The album is available in CD-quality FLAC sound as well as an MP3.

James Jolly, Gramophone, January 2009

Review @ Audiophile Audition: Pristine Audio's Christmas release with contributions from five of Pristine's remastering team has some really worthwhile and interesting contents in this musical Christmas Stocking.

The Siena Pianoforte has an intriguing history, though reading references one finds some are sceptical about the later segments! This highly ornate keyboard instrument was built in 1800 as a wedding present for a Siena farmer and his wife. After being sent to the Paris Exhibition of 1867, it was given to Crown Prince Umberto the following year again as a wedding present. It surfaced in the North African desert during the Second World War and was taken to Palestine, where it again vanished and resurfaced. Several LPs were issued in the mid-1950s, including one made by Charles Rosen, and the one used here made by Grace Castagnetta in which she plays a selection of Christmas carols and tunes, used here as interludes to the whole programme. The instrument produces an interesting sound, and may well steer some listeners to the other discs.

The Flonzaley Quartet contributes two tracks, both carols recorded in 1928, and their distinctive tone comes over very well indeed in this excellent mastering. From the middle of the 20th century come two choral recordings, one with the Goldsborough Orchestra, the forerunner of the English Chamber Orchestra, with Alfred Deller among the singers, and the other with the choir of the Chapel Royal in Windsor – how vowel sounds have altered in sixty years, let alone the eighty years since the Westminster Abbey Special Choir recorded the Weelkes. The men have that woody sound one hears too in those famous Temple Church Choir recordings from the same era, the late 1920s.

Milhaud's pieces for viola portraits of four ladies and their characters derive from a rare DG recording from 1957, again sounding well in this transfer. The two orchestral pieces are also very finely transferred, a vigorously played overture to Hansel and Gretel, conducted by the great Albert Coates, whose reputation as a fine musician is undiminished, and a rarity, the Christmas Overture by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, whose all-too-short life makes one think what might have been had he lived longer. His biography "Black Mahler" by Charles Elford has been published very recently. Percy Pitt (1870-1932) was a busy conductor who made quite a few recordings, many pre-electric, and this electric one made in 1926 is particularly charming. Pitt was the first British conductor of the Ring in an opera house.

All in all this is a diverting collection of transfers which should give a wide audience much pleasure.

Peter Joelson, Audiophile Audition

Each contributor has selected rare and often seasonal recordings from their private collections to create a musical masterpiece, with recordings dating from the 1920s to the 1950s:

Full track listing:

1. **Christmas Overture (Coleridge-Taylor)** - BBC Wireless Orchestra, cond. Percy Pitt, UK Columbia 9137, rec. 23/2/1926
2. **Joy To The World (Watts)** - Siena Pianoforte played by Grace Castagnetta, Counterpoint CPT 1503, rec. 1957

- Quatre Visages (Milhaud)** - Michael Mann (viola), Dika Newlin (piano), DGG EPL 30295, rec. 1957
3. 1. *La Californienne*
4. 2. *The Wisconsinian*
5. 3. *La Bruxelloise*
6. 4. *La Parisienne*

7. **O Little Town of Bethlehem (Brooks)** - Siena Pianoforte played by Grace Castagnetta, Counterpoint CPT 1503
8. **In Ecclesiis (G. Gabrieli)** - Alexander, Deller, Wynton, Riley, Dawkes, Chor. & Goldsbrough Orch, HMV HMS.29, rec.1950
9. **Hark, The Herald Angels Sing (Mendelssohn)** - Siena Pianoforte played by Grace Castagnetta, Counterpoint CPT 1503
10. **Hansel and Gretel - Overture (Humperdinck)** - Symphony Orchestra, cond. A. Coates, HMV D.1261, rec. 26/10/1926
11. **I Saw Three Ships (Trad.)** - Siena Pianoforte played by Grace Castagnetta, Counterpoint CPT 1503
12. **Te Deum in G (Vaughan Williams)** - St George's Chapel Choir, Windsor Castle, dir. Harris, Columbia LX.1289, rec. 1949
13. **What Child Is This (Trad.)** - Siena Pianoforte played by Grace Castagnetta, Counterpoint CPT 1503
14. **Adeste Fideles (Wade, arr. Ponchon)** - Flonzaley Quartet, Victor 1352, rec. 18/10/1928
15. **Deck The Halls (Trad.)** - Siena Pianoforte played by Grace Castagnetta, Counterpoint CPT 1503
16. **Gloria in excelsis (Weelkes)** - Westminster Abbey Special Choir, HMV H.1083, rec. 1925 or 1926
17. **Oh, Holy Night (Adam)** - Siena Pianoforte played by Grace Castagnetta, Counterpoint CPT 1503
18. **The First Nowell (Trad. arr. Ponchon)** - Flonzaley Quartet, Victor 1352, rec. 18/10/1928

Transfers & remastering:

- 1, 14, 18: **Mark Obert-Thorn**
2, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17: **Dr. John Duffy**
3-6: **Peter Harrison**
8, 12, 16: **Andrew Rose**
10: **Ward Marston**

All tracks in Ambient Stereo except 1, 10, 14, 18: mono.



Excerpt:

Coleridge-Taylor - Christmas Overture

Notes on this release:

A Very Pristine Christmas is perhaps a unique release in the field of historic classical music. It brings together a fabulous range of rare and delightful recordings, compiled from the collections of five of the world's foremost remastering engineers - John Duffy, Peter Harrison, Ward Marston, Mark Obert-Thorn and Peter Harrison.

For lovers of historic recordings, this is the collection you can give to your friends and relatives without frightening them! There is a huge sense of cultural nostalgia about the way most of us think of Christmas, evoking happy memories of years gone by, and these historic recordings appear imbued with the spirit of the season.

This album has been very well-received by many who don't usually appreciate historical classical recordings - and for you, it's that rarest of "Christmas" albums: the one you'll want to play all year round!

The Contributors to this collection:

Dr. John Duffy M.D. lives in Iowa, USA, and is the major contributor to *PADA Exclusives*, our streaming audio and downloads service. His extensive collection includes many near-mint 78s Dr. Duffy managed to rescue from a Minneapolis brothel in 1972, the day before it was demolished.

Peter Harrison intended his career to be that of a recording engineer and his first commercial LP was produced in 1965. However, due to a bizarre series of events, he instead devoted much of his professional life to computers. A return to music at the start of the 21st century now sees Peter restoring and remastering old recordings, as well as making new recordings with the likes of Peter Katin, as well as a number of young up-coming classical musicians. Peter lives in the New Forest in England.

Ward Marston was nominated for the "Best Historical Album" Grammy Award for his production work on BMG's Fritz Kreisler collection. According to the Chicago Tribune, Marston's name is "synonymous with tender loving care to collectors of historical CDs." Opera News calls his work "revelatory," and Fanfare deems him "miraculous." In 1996, Mr. Marston received the Gramophone award for "Historical Vocal Record of the Year," honoring his production and engineering work on Romophone's complete recordings of Lucrezia Bori. He also served as re-recording engineer for the Franklin Mint's Arturo Toscanini issue and BMG's Sergei Rachmaninov recordings, both winners of the "Best Historical Album" Grammy. Ward lives in Pennsylvania, USA.

Mark Obert-Thorn began working on audio restorations on a professional basis in 1988, initially for the Pearl label. Within three years, two of his productions had been named as Gramophone Award finalists. He also transferred many discs for the Biddulph, Romophone and Music & Arts labels. He has produced over 300 CDs for the highly successful and critically-acclaimed Naxos Historical series, as well as over 200 for other labels over the past 20 years. Mark lives in Pennsylvania, USA.

Andrew Rose launched Pristine Audio in 2001 as a company specialising in the transfer and remastering of old recordings. In 2005 he launched the Pristine Classical website as a means of distributing historic recordings on the Pristine Audio label, both in download and CD formats. He has also produced historic recordings for Music & Arts and for Divine Art - one of his first for the Divine Art won a Recording of the Year Award in 2005 in Classic Record Collector magazine, which also issued a special award in 2006 for the contribution of the Pristine Classical website. Andrew lives in a small village surrounded by vineyards in south-west France.

Collection first issued and these notes compiled in December 2008

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Andrew Rose

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