

# Vancouver CDs make classically good cheer

Everything from musica intima's transcendent vocal stylings to Bradshaw Pack's divine operatic explorations promises seasonal bliss

> BY JESSICA WERB

You've sourced your 100-mile turkey and farm-fresh sweet potatoes, staked out the craft fairs for locally made gifts, and planned your winter stay-cation. Why not extend the same devotion to all things local to your holiday music? Whether you're looking for last-minute stocking stuffers or some seasonal cheer, the following selection of new albums from the Vancouver classical-music scene, spanning everything from traditional seasonal fare to thought-provoking contemporary compositions, is just what your carbon-neutral Santa ordered.

**MUSICA INTIMA: INTO LIGHT** (ATMA Classique) Vancouver's stellar vocal ensemble musica intima's newest CD offering, named classical recording of the year at the 2010 Western Canadian Music

Awards, is not strictly a Christmas album. Nonetheless, its collection of hymns and spiritually tinged works by a variety of contemporary Canadian composers, including R. Murray Schafer, Jocelyn Morlock, and Imant Raminsh, would make for a sophisticated December 25 soundtrack. **What it sounds like:** With musica intima's uncanny ability to create a Zenlike state of transcendent beauty, think of it as the aural equivalent of a day at the spa. **Wrap it up:** Get it for the blissed-out hatha-yoga devotee of the family. (Available at [musicaintima.org/](http://musicaintima.org/).)

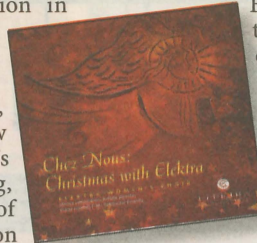


the CBC, and from submissions to the CBC Choral Competition (in which the choir placed first in the biennial amateur division in 1998, 2000, 2002, and 2006). Canadian composers including Diane Loomer, Jonathan Quick, Healey Willan, Matthew Larkin, and the choir's director, Rupert Lang, composed five of the 13 works on the album. **What it sounds like:** Featuring unedited tracks recorded live in Christ Church Cathedral, this album feels like a warm and welcoming church service—without the long sermon. **Wrap it up:** This one's perfect for the lapsed Anglican in need of a spiritual lift. (Available at the cathedral office or on iTunes and Amazon MP3.)



**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHOIR: ANGELS FROM HEAVEN CAME** (Independent) This album was culled from a 2002 Advent lessons and carols service recorded by

**ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR: CHEZ NOUS: CHRISTMAS WITH ELEKTRA** (Independent) Featuring highlights of Elektra Women's



Choir's annual Chez Nous holiday concert, this CD features works ranging from familiar carols (and Benjamin Britten's extended A Ceremony of Carols) to contemporary Canadian compositions by the likes of Jeffrey Enns, Edward Henderson, and Robert Buckley, among others. Special guests including A Touch of Brass, percussionist Sal Ferreras, and acoustic bassist Jody Proznick lend the album a home-for-the-holidays flavour. **What it sounds like:** Imagine having your closest friends and family gathered around a Yuletide log to sing holiday favourites—in tune. **Wrap it up:** Give this to the sullen Scrooge in your life who needs some help getting into the holiday spirit. (Available at [elektra.ca/](http://elektra.ca/), [cdbaby.com/](http://cdbaby.com/), and iTunes.)

**BRADSHAW PACK: PALIMPSEST** (Skylark Music) Local composer Bradshaw Pack's exploration of the divine in music, based on the oldest surviving opera, Claudio Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*, made its debut in 2005 at the hands of Vancouver's Standing Wave Ensemble, to which six additional players were added. An arrangement of works parsed from Johann Sebastian Bach, Claudio Monteverdi, and Anton Webern, anchored by compositions by Pack, it's a sprawling piece that seeks to map the human relationship to music. **What it sounds like:** There is a quote by the philosopher Gottfried Leibniz in the liner notes of the album that hints at the intellectual nature of Pack's project: "Music is a secret arithmetic of the soul unknowing of the fact that it is counting." **Wrap it up:** Got an agnostic philosophy major on your list? This'll do nicely. (Available at [canadacd.ca/](http://canadacd.ca/).)



## the HOLIDAY GUIDE

**STORMTECH FACTORY OUTLET**

THIS CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE...

UP TO **80%** OFF RETAIL

- Waterproof Outerwear
- Water Resistant Outerwear
- Thermal Jackets
- Insulated Outerwear
- Fleece
- Accessories

RECEIVE 10% OFF PURCHASE WHEN YOU BRING IN THIS AD. \*Offer expires Dec 24/2010

DESIGNED, DEVELOPED AND TESTED IN CANADA

2550 BOUNDARY ROAD, BURNABY  
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY 10 - 6 & SUNDAY 11 - 6  
Ph: 604.454.1492 • [www.stormtech.ca](http://www.stormtech.ca)

**the wonder of it all!**

**'Tis the Season for Visits with Santa!**  
Santa arrives Saturday, December 4 for daily visits up to and including December 24. (With the exception of Dec. 12, 18, 19 and 22)

**'Tis the Season for Magic!**  
Magic Shows with Elfina - December 12, 18, 19 & 22

**'Tis the Season for Giving!**  
Join Kids Market and the Elizabeth Fry Society along with the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau and give a gift to less fortunate children. Choose a card from our tree and donate an unwrapped gift at Kids Market before December 20.

Have your gifts wrapped by donation on the second floor December 11 - 24.

**kids Market**  
GRANVILLE ISLAND  
[www.kidsmarket.ca](http://www.kidsmarket.ca)

Children with **JUVENILE DIABETES** Are Insulin Dependent for **LIFE**

**JDRF** Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation  
*dedicated to finding a cure*

**INSULIN IS NOT A CURE**  
It only allows a child to stay alive  
For more information about how you can help find a cure call **1.877 CURE 533**

Send **WILD** Holiday Wishes

Unwrap Primal Fun and Games.

to family

to friends

to those who have it all

Gift + Receive a **Free Bonus Activity** with purchase of four passes\*

**Wild Play**  
ELEMENT PARKS

\*Redeemable for the same activity at the same park as purchased from. Must be purchased by Dec 24th 2010. Valid for two years from date of issue; no cash value.

PASSES TO CLIMB, ZIP, AND SWING AVAILABLE AT:  
**MAPLE RIDGE | 1-888-590-7274**  
OR BUY ONLINE AT [WWW.WILDPLAY.COM](http://WWW.WILDPLAY.COM)