

# THE OBSERVER

Subscribe



News

Culture

Style

Ideas

Sport

Food

Puzzles

Listen

Library

## Classical

Sunday, 7 December 2025

This one is on us. For unlimited access to *The Obse*

# Home listening: the best Christmas classical releases, from Rutter to a Cuban mix

Plus, Voces8 brings viewers carols to stream from the sofa

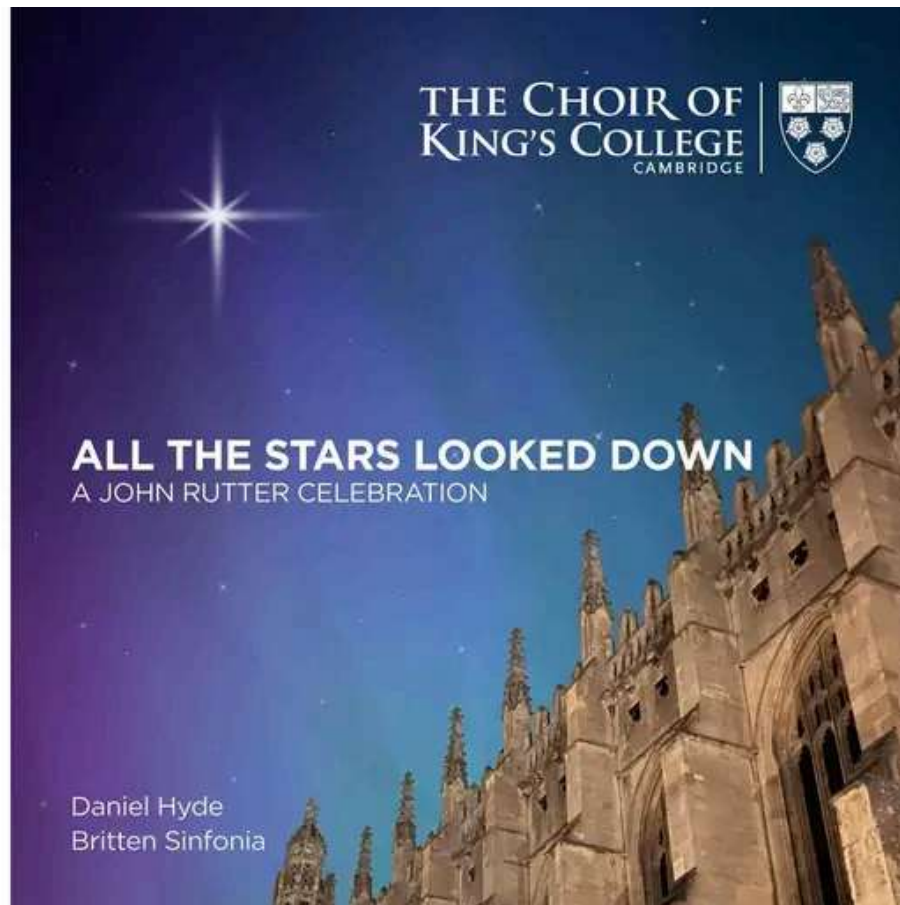








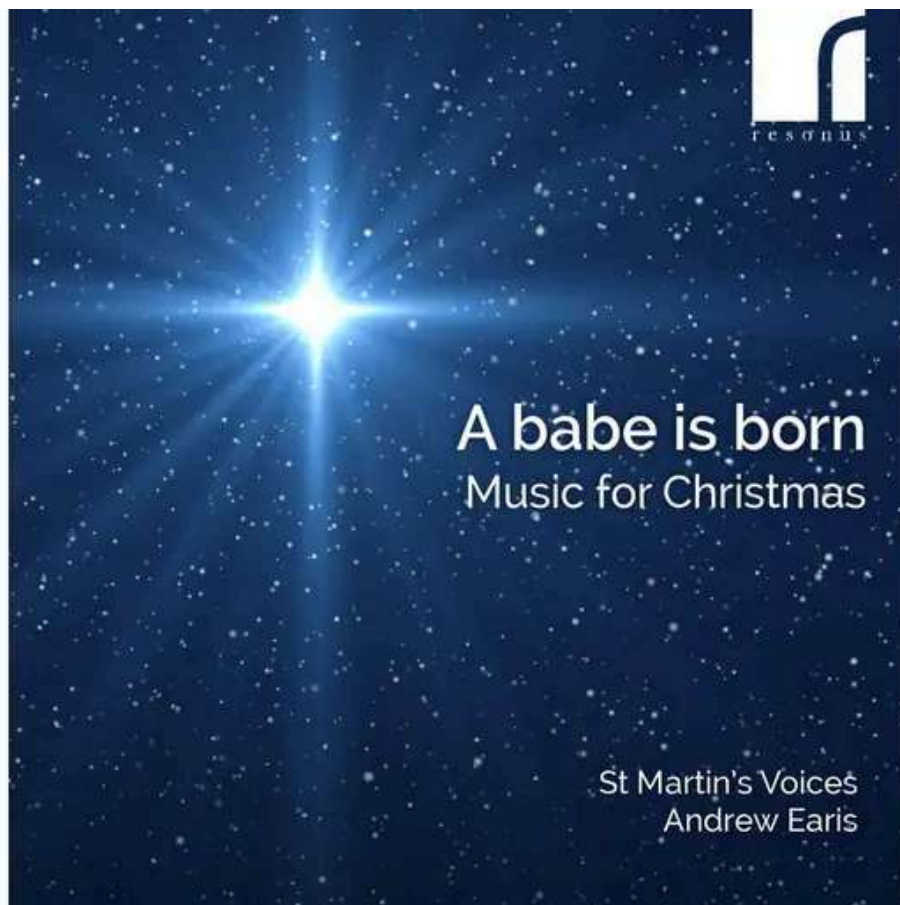
Fiona Maddocks  
*Classical Music Critic*



**Best for old favourites All the Stars Looked Down/Rutter/Choir of King's College, Cambridge (*KCC*)**

This joyful 80th birthday tribute to the composer John Rutter – evergreen, go-to master of choral music – builds on his long association with the choir of King's College, Cambridge. It offers a mix of the well-known – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, O Come, All Ye Faithful – with Rutter's now equally popular carols and arrangements: O Holy Night, All Bells in Paradise. The men and boys of the fabled college choir, with Britten Sinfonia, are directed by Daniel Hyde.





### **Best for novelty A Babe Is Born: Music for Christmas**

*(Resonus)*

The nativity is told through 18 recent settings by today's best choral composers, including Cecilia McDowall, Gabriel Jackson and Owain Park, with Grace-Evangeline Mason and Kerensa Briggs of the younger generation. James Whitbourn's ecstatic *Our Gold* and Emily Hazrati's

Coventry Carol are among highlights, sung by St Martin's Voices, directed by Andrew Earis.

### Related articles:

---

'It's like finding myself again': Julian Lloyd Webber picks up his cello after 10 years



---

Vive la farce: Handel's Partenope returns to ENO





**Best for repertoire O Holy Night/Choir of St John's College,  
Cambridge**

(Signum)

Now established as a mixed-voice choir, this is Cambridge college St John's second album under director Christopher Gray. He maintains the choir's practice of true variety: from early anonymous to Mendelssohn, Robert Howells, John Rutter, Errollyn Wallen – her lovely Peace on



Earth – and Jonathan Dove. The centrepiece is Poulenc's *Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël*.



## THE OBSERVER

about

Join

Contact us

FAQs

About us

Work with us

Careers

PDF Edition

Journalism school

Events

Shop

Follow

The Observer



The Observer  
Magazine



The ObserverNew  
Review



The Observer Food  
Monthly

