


A night sky filled with stars, featuring a prominent starburst in the upper center and the Milky Way galaxy stretching across the lower half. The bottom of the image shows a dark silhouette of a horizon.

HE IS BORN

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

VOCAL POINT



The idea of doing a Christmas album has been floating around the Vocal Point camp for several years. Those who have attended a VP concert know that we love Christmas music and will often sing it regardless of the time of year. But never have we been able to devote an entire show or recording to this special holiday—until now!

He Is Born is a collection of traditional holiday favorites plus some new carols wrapped in that rich, distinctive VP a cappella bow. This long-awaited album has been crafted to aid in commemorating the most nostalgic and meaningful aspects of the Christmas season. To help us celebrate, we've invited some special guests—including BYU Noteworthy, nationally acclaimed One Voice Children's Choir, and powerhouse vocalists Ryan Innes (Vocal Point alumnus) and Elisha Garrett—to join their voices with ours to make this a wonderful Christmas celebration.

Christmas is my favorite time of year—a time of rejoicing, of solemn thanksgiving, of gift giving, of pleasures both modern and traditional, and of being together with family and friends. In that spirit we are excited to share a little of our family Christmas celebration with you. My sincere hope is that *He Is Born* will become part of your Christmas for years to come.

—McKay Crockett, *He Is Born* producer, BYU Vocal Point director and alumnus

1 GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

*Traditional English carol; arr. McKay Crockett
BYU Music Publishing Group
Performed by BYU Vocal Point 2014–15
Soloists: Cody Phillips, Jordan Hale, Parker O'Very*

For some reason jazz and Christmas music just seem to fit together. And nowhere do they make a better pairing than in McKay Crockett's tasteful and mature arrangement—in 5/4 time!—of one of the oldest Christmas carols in the world.

2 HE IS BORN

*Aaron Edson; arr. BYU Vocal Point 2003–04
One South Publishing
Performed by BYU Vocal Point 2003–04
Featuring Ryan Innes (BYU Vocal Point 2005–06, 2006–07)*

Before 2006, Vocal Point had twice qualified to participate in the final round of the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella in New York, but they had turned down the invitations due to the event being held on a Sunday. However, when Vocal Point yet again won their semifinal round in 2006, the finals were moved to Saturday. This original Christmas ballad, written by Vocal Point alum Aaron Edson and sung by future *The Voice* contestant Ryan Innes, was part of their winning set. When the song ended, the crowd was stunned into silence.

3 SILENT NIGHT

*Joseph Mohr, Franz Xaver Gruber; arr. McKay Crockett
BYU Music Publishing Group
Performed by BYU Vocal Point 2015–16
Soloist: Logan Shelton*

Christmas can be a loud, hectic time of year. Yet amidst the crowds, excitement, and jubilation of the season, the quiet stillness of Christmas can speak to us. We invite you to ponder and reflect on what Christmas really means: because "Christ, the Savior, is born," we can indeed "sleep in heavenly peace."

4 SLEIGH RIDE

*Mitchell Parish, Leroy Anderson; arr. McKay Crockett
EMI Mills Music Inc.; Woodbury Music
Performed by BYU Vocal Point 2014–15
Soloist: Parker O'Very
Featuring Elisha Garrett*

Vocal Point is frequently asked to create unique arrangements for an upcoming performance, and we're always up for the challenge. This piece was arranged for an interfaith Christmas celebration at the historic Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, where we had an unforgettable night performing with the Hobble Creek Singers and Kevin Olusola of Pentatonix. Here we feature a rising star and brilliant vocalist, Elisha Garrett.

5 CHRISTMAS EVE / SARAJEVO 12/24

A cappella tribute to Trans-Siberian Orchestra
Paul O'Neill, Jon Oliiva; arr. Keith Evans
Paul O'Neill Publishing; Savatage Music; Robert Stellar Publishing
Performed by BYU Vocal Point alumni

Merry Christmas. Rock on.

6 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Traditional Latin hymn; arr. Trevor Johnson, Keith Evans
BYU Music Publishing Group
Performed by BYU Vocal Point 2013–14
Soloist: Trevor Johnson

In Vocal Point we don't like to take ourselves too seriously, but some pieces of music deserve an arrangement worthy of their gravity. In this arrangement, the underlying chant in the original Latin contributes to the sacredness of the hymn's message, which reminds us that Christmas is really about "victory o'er the grave" and "ransom[ing] captive Israel."

7 ONE SINGLE BELL

Denny Crockett; arr. McKay Crockett
BYU Music Publishing Group
Performed by BYU Vocal Point 2015–16
Soloists: Jordan Hale, Lyza Bull
Featuring One Voice Children's Choir

Christmas naturally brings out our inner child. The magic of this special holiday is reconfirmed through a child's eyes. Written as a lullaby carol, "One Single Bell" attempts to capture that wonderfully pure emotion. The thought of a single bell "ringing" in accompaniment to the heavenly sound of a child "singing" seemed an appropriately simple way to convey the sweet message of Christmas peace. Vocal Point is joined by the talented One Voice Children's Choir to proclaim "Jesus Christ is born!"

8 NUTTIN' FOR CHRISTMAS

Sid Tepper, Roy C. Bennett; addl. lyrics by Buck Mangum, Keith Evans, Robert Seely; arr. Buck Mangum
Chappell & Co. Inc.
Performed by BYU Vocal Point quartet: Trevor Johnson, Scott Shattuck, Keith Evans, Robert Seely

Sometimes it takes a lack of sleep to get the creative juices flowing. One night a few members of the group found themselves awake at 2 a.m. coming up with their own version of a holiday classic. Fueled by pizza and a bad case of the giggles, they penned these alternative lyrics (which may or may not resemble real-life events).

9 SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

John Frederick Coots, Haven Gillespie; arr. James L. Stevens (based on the version by Point of Grace)
Haven Gillespie Music Pub.; EMI Feist Catalog Inc.
Performed by BYU Vocal Point 2007–08
Soloists: Scott Sackett, Paul Bodily, Micah Lorenc

On Christmas Eve, children around the world become giddy with anticipation of Santa's arrival. And even though we're not exactly kids anymore, we have to admit that we sort of get excited too. Enjoy our tribute to Point of Grace's jazzed-up rendition.

10 INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

Traditional Polish carol, trans. Edith M. G. Reed; Nancy Byrd Turner (verse 3 lyrics); arr. McKay Crockett
Breakaway Publishing; Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (verse 3 lyrics)
Performed by BYU Vocal Point 2010–11
Soloist: Ben Murphy

Vocal Point had the privilege of singing this beautiful hymn at Lincoln Center in New York to a sold-out audience as part of the group's competition set at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella in 2011. And when NBC's The Sing-Off compiled an album of Christmas songs from groups featured on the show, this was Vocal Point's contribution. This version has since become the no. 1 downloaded rendition of the song on iTunes.

11 OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Attr. John Francis Wade, trans. Frederick Oakeley; arr. James L. Stevens
BYU Music Publishing Group
Performed by BYU Vocal Point 2014–15
Soloists: Kyle Lemperle, Taylor Whitlock, Alyssa Aramaki
Featuring BYU Noteworthy 2015–16

Teaming up with our sister group, BYU Noteworthy, we extend the invitation to all: "Come, let us adore Him." Celebrate the magic and the miracle of the Christmas season with us.

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CREDITS

BYU Vocal Point 2003–04

*Matt Bradbury, Dave Brown, Kevin Buskirk, Jake Butler,
Dan Dunn, Jimmy Dunn, Adam Ellison, Jeremiah Jackson,
Chase Weed; director: Bob Ahlander*

BYU Vocal Point 2007–08

*Paul Bodily, JJ Haines, Ben Henry, Ariel Johnson, Micah
Lorenc, Buck Mangum, Eric Sackett, Scott Sackett, Chase
Weed; director: James L. Stevens*

BYU Vocal Point 2010–11

*Michael Christensen, McKay Crockett, Keith Evans, Jake
Hunsaker, Ben Murphy, Tanner Nilsson, Robert Seely, Tyler
Sterling, Ross Welch; director: James L. Stevens*

BYU Vocal Point 2013–14

*Devin Flake, Adam Heimbigner, Trevor Johnson, Andy
Nielsen, Parker O'Very, Cody Phillips, Bryce Romney, Scott
Shattuck, Jake Tengelsen; director: McKay Crockett*

BYU Vocal Point 2014–15

*Devin Flake, Jordan Hale, Adam Heimbigner, Kyle
Lemperle, Andy Nielsen, Parker O'Very, Cody Phillips,
Bryce Romney, Scott Shattuck; director: McKay Crockett*

BYU Vocal Point 2015–16

*Devin Flake, Jordan Hale, Adam Heimbigner, Kyle
Lemperle, Spencer Myler, Cody Phillips, Carl Prince, Bryce
Romney, Logan Shelton; director: McKay Crockett*

GUEST ARTISTS

Ryan Innes

Elisha Garrett

One Voice Children's Choir

*Christian Affleck, Mitch Bandley, Lyza Bull, Matthew
Caldwell, Kenya Clark, Ronin Dallan, Mattea Denney,
Anna Hillstrom, Reese Oliviera, Chaela Ravarino, Hallie
Taylor, Satori Taylor, Saysia Taylor, Tanner Thompson,
Trinsica Tolman; conductor: Masa Fukuda*

BYU Noteworthy 2015–16

*Alyssa Aramaki, Sarah Cunha, Alyssa Flake, Rachael
Holt, Allyssa Jex, Jessica Johnson, Janae Klumpp, Tressa
Roberts, Taylor Whitlock; director: Keith Evans*

ALBUM CREDITS

Producer: McKay Crockett

Associate producer: Keith Evans

Executive producer: Ben Fales

*Recording and editing engineers: McKay Crockett
(tracks 1–8, 11), James L. Stevens (tracks 2, 9, 10),
Scott Wiley (track 2), Robert Seely (track 5)*

*Mixing engineers: Ed Boyer (all tracks except 2),
James L. Stevens (track 2)*

Mastering engineer: Troy Sales

Booklet notes: Keith Evans

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