

The twelve disks of Christmas

Desert Island Disks meets the Twelve Days of Christmas. So twelve not eight. Not to be boring, this list consists of pieces of music that are generally unknown, or else are familiar but have been performed in an unfamiliar arrangement. I had to miss out on Metallica, unfortunately.

1. [Delius](#) Sleigh Ride

Not the more familiar Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson although it does share the same Christmassy feel with the reindeer bells. Also reminiscent of Prokofiev's Troika.

2. [Vaughan Williams](#) Carol for viola and orchestra

A movement from a suite for viola and orchestra. The fact that it has been used for grade exams doesn't detract from its beauty.

3. [Saint-Saëns](#) Christmas Oratorio

Not the more familiar Christmas Oratorio by Bach but nevertheless quite typical of Saint-Saëns' craftsmanship.

4. [Mark O'Connor](#) Appalachian Christmas Tour — Sleigh Ride

Yet another sleigh ride, but this one is bluegrass with a hint of Grappelli.

5. [Tchaikovsky](#) December-Christmas Waltz (The Seasons) (piano)

Not the Seasons from Vivaldi nor Glazunov nor even Piazzolla. Here's the orchestral version.

6. [Whitney Houston](#) One wish for Christmas

Forget Maria or Celine, this is the Queen of Pop.

7. [Finzi](#) In terra pax (Christmas Scene)

A not-so-well known work of Finzi's. For high voice and strings. One of his very last works, a setting of two verses from Robert Bridges' *Noel: Christmas Eve* (1913).

8. [Oscar Peterson](#) Christmas Waltz

Oscar Peterson, what can one say?

9. [The Sixteen](#) Hail Mary Full of Grace.

Conducted by Harry Christophers, *Christus Natus Est: An Early English Christmas*.

10. [Rimsky-Korsakov](#) Christmas Eve Suite.

The suite from his opera of the same name based on Gogol's short story, *Evenings on a Farm Near Dikanka*.

11. [Enya](#) O come, O come Emmanuel.

The very familiar hymn of Advent in a haunting, beautiful and ethereal rendition by Enya.

12. [Torelli](#) Christmas Concerto

Not the Op.6 No.8 Christmas Concerto by Corelli but the Op.8 No.6 one by Torelli. Locatelli and Manfredini's versions are also worth checking out.

Merry Christmas!