

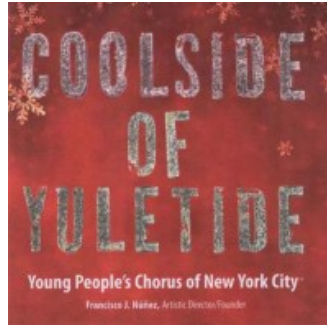
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Critica di Musica Classica 



di Marco Del Vaglio

A Vital Records CD sends a message of peace from Young People's Chorus of New York City, conducted by Francisco Núñez



One of the Christmas CD we'd like to bring your attention to is a Vital Records CD entitled *CoolSide of Yuletide*, a project that involves the Foundation for Small Voices and Young People's Chorus of New York City.

Young People's Chorus of New York City was founded in 1988 by Francisco Núñez and consists of young children from all economic backgrounds, races and religions.

The chorus sang all of the songs on the recording and two stars—Phil Stacey and Rosanne Cash—accompanied them on several pieces.

The disc contains 14 Christmas songs. Some of them are carols, with new and charming arrangements by Núñez and Jim Papoulis, while the other songs are original and expressly composed by Papoulis for this CD.

Some of the carols included are *Deck the Halls*, *Joy to the World*, *Oh Christmas Tree*, *We Three Kings*, *Little Drummer Boy*, *Angel Medley*-from Britain, *Abreme La Puerta* -from Dominican Republic and *Silent Night* -from Germany.

Of the original songs, the one that stood out the most was *How Many Christmases*, composed by Jim Papoulis with lyrics by Mike Greenly and performed by songwriter and singer Rosanne Cash with thousands of children from choirs from over the world. With its universal peace message, the song was utilized to promote the whole CD.

Also very evocative was *Where Are My Angels*, by Jim Papoulis with lyrics by his oldest daughter Caryl Martine, written in memory to Stephanie, wife of Jim and mother of Caryl Martine, who died from a terminal disease. In this piece the singer was Phil Stacey, popular *American Idol* finalist and he set the perfect tone to this sad and delicate song.

Concerning the execution, Young People's Chorus of New York City showed extreme versatility and exceptional performances in the fine arrangements of traditional carols and in the beauty of new songs.

In conclusion, *CoolSide of Yuletide*, besides being very good musical value also represents an example of brotherhood among people, and this is a good message for the forthcoming Christmas holidays.