

# INCANTATION

## A Celtic Christmas




### FEATURING

Jacqui Dankworth  
Maggie Boyle  
Cathy Russell

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## A Celtic Christmas

- |  |      |   |      |
|--|------|---|------|
| <b>1. What is this Fragrance</b>                         | 4:14 | <b>8. Lullay thy Tiny Little Child</b>                | 3:51 |
| <i>arr. Hinnigan – Taylor – Maloney</i>                  |      | <i>arr. Hinnigan – Taylor – Maloney</i>               |      |
| Vocal – Maggie Boyle                                     |      | Vocal – Jacqui Dankworth                              |      |
| <b>2. I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing By</b>              | 3:39 | <b>9. The Angel Gabriel</b>                           | 3:10 |
| <i>arr. Nicholls</i>                                     |      | <i>arr. Hinnigan – Taylor – Maloney</i>               |      |
| <b>3. Torches</b>  | 3:48 | Vocal – Cathy Russell                                 |      |
| <i>arr. Hinnigan – Taylor – Maloney</i>                  |      | <b>10. The Child Divine/<br/>A Shepherd's Story</b>   | 3:20 |
| Vocal – Jacqui Dankworth                                 |      | <i>arr. Hinnigan – Taylor – Maloney</i>               |      |
| <b>4. Our Lady</b>                                       | 3:42 | Vocal – Jacqui Dankworth                              |      |
| <i>arr. Hinnigan – Taylor – Maloney</i>                  |      | <b>11. Spiritual</b>                                  | 3:50 |
| Vocal – Jacqui Dankworth                                 |      | <i>arr. Hinnigan – Taylor – Maloney</i>               |      |
| <b>5. How Hard it Bloweth/<br/>A Solis Ortus Cardine</b> | 3:20 | Vocal – Jacqui Dankworth                              |      |
| <i>arr. Hinnigan – Taylor – Maloney</i>                  |      | <b>12. The Wexford Carol /<br/>A Virgin most Pure</b> | 5:25 |
| <b>6. The Virgin Mother</b>                              | 3:35 | <i>arr. Hinnigan – Taylor – Maloney</i>               |      |
| <i>arr. Hinnigan – Taylor – Maloney</i>                  |      | Vocal – Maggie Boyle                                  |      |
| Vocal – Cathy Russell                                    |      | <b>13. Jesu Redemptor Omnium</b>                      | 4:32 |
| <b>7. The Holly and the Ivy /<br/>In Dulci Jubilo</b>    | 2:51 | <i>arr. Hinnigan – Taylor – Maloney</i>               |      |
| <i>arr. Hinnigan – Taylor – Maloney</i>                  |      | <b>Total Time 49:25</b>                               |      |
| Vocal – Cathy Russell                                    |      |   |      |



In 1992, after ten years of Incantation's existence and many projects including albums, film scores and even two *Masses* composed and performed by us with Coventry Cathedral Choir, Mike Taylor and I decided we would like to try something different. We had the idea initially to make an album of 'alternative' Christmas carols, having become tired of the usual annual round of 'O Come All Ye Faithful' et al (fine tunes though they are) and got together with our friend and colleague Tony Maloney to start our research. This we did mainly in the library of the English Folk Song and Dance Society at Cecil Sharp House in London and we soon found there was a wealth of material from all over the world dating back as far as the fifth century AD – enough for a great many albums indeed.

Over the next two years we worked on the songs for this album whenever we had time to do so and have produced the first of a number of unjustly neglected music.

Our approach was to take well-known songs (such as *The Holly and the Ivy*) and to re-interpret them with different tunes (this one I learned from an English folk musician many years ago) or to take a notated tune which we had never heard before and simply interpret it in whatever way occurred to us without any constraints of tradition or style.

Some turned out as unadorned duets (e.g. *Our Lady, The Angel Gabriel*) others became much more elaborate as they developed from day to day in the studio and a couple of them turned into riotous jamborees which I remember with affection and a sore head!

It remains to say that we could not have made this album without the hard work expertise and goodwill of Olly and Kevin at Backtrack Studios and the time and talents of all our friends and colleagues listed here who made it such an enjoyable and at times moving experience.

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# INCANTATION

with

**Vocals** – Jacqui Dankworth, Cathy Russell, Maggie Boyle

**Backing vocals** – Paul Brennan, George Staines, Terry Thompson, Mike Taylor, Tony Maloney, Sally Evans.

## Plainchant Singers

Tenors – Christopher Hogan, Robert Burt  
Baritones – Colin Campbell, Robert Hollingsworth, Stephen Charlesworth, David Guest

## Musicians

Mike Taylor – Whistle, flute, alto flute, panpipes, quena, bodhran, percussion  
Tony Hinnigan – Whistle, panpipes, quena, charango, guitar, bass guitar, cello, keyboards, percussion  
Tony Maloney – Vibraphone, percussion, keyboards  
James Woodrow – Classical Guitar  
Ollie Nicholls – Keyboards  
Dermot Crehan – Violin  
Catherine Musker – Viola  
Chris Laurence – Double Bass  
Paul Brennan – Uilleann Pipes, Whistle

Kevin Boyle – Banjo  
Terry Thompson – Accordion  
Ron Bryans – Bass Trombone  
Steve Sidwell – Baroque Trumpet

## Pipe Major

Danny Flemming, Scots Guards  
(by kind permission of Lt. Col. Commanding) – Scottish Bagpipes

## Drum Sgt

Cecil McCready, Irish Guards (by kind permission of Lt. Col. Commanding) – Snare and Tenor Drums

**Producers:** Tony Hinnigan, Mike Taylor, Tony Maloney

**Engineers** – Ollie Nicholls, Kevin le Morvan

Recorded and mixed at Backtrack Studios  
Cover Image Paddy Gunnery, assisted by Hazel Moira

This album is dedicated to Cathy Russell (1963 – 1993)