

MP 249

The trouble about Christmastime, in a programme like this, is that there's never time to play all the Christmas-music one wd. like to — the old and the new, the popular and the unfamiliar, the light and the more serious, longer and beautiful music that Christmas has inspired. This year I've just discovered an album of contemporary carols all composed by Miriam Therese Winter, the ~~American~~ American medieval missid sister who gave us Joy in like the Rain, Spirit of God and other now established songs some few years ago. A friend who listened to them last week said they didn't sound like Christmas --- you can judge for yourself in a few minutes. The words are new, and, I think, at least as good as those of some of the well-worn favourites. After all, the music of most carols is Christmasy because that's the way we think of it... and even the words aren't necessarily any better than your own words & thoughts in prayer about the history and the mystery of what we celebrate. Many carols, old and new, are rejoicing songs: you can enjoy ---