

TWO NEW ALBUMS FROM SALT LAKE VOCAL ARTISTS

Posted on [December 1, 2011](#) by [Edward Reichel](#)

DELIGHTFUL CHRISTMAS CD FEATURES MUSIC BY YOUNG AMERICAN COMPOSER DAN FORREST

SALT LAKE VOCAL ARTISTS, BRADY R. ALLRED, CONDUCTOR; *Never a Brighter Star: Music for the Christmas Season* (SLVA) ****

It's not easy finding a CD of new Christmas music or new arrangements of old standards that stands out from the myriad recordings available today, but the Salt Lake Vocal Artists' newest offering, *Never a Brighter Star*, fits the bill. This is an absolutely gorgeous album of new works and arrangements by the young American composer Dan Forrest, performed as only SLVA under Brady Allred can.

Forrest has written some very lovely and uplifting, and occasionally reflective, music for that captures the spirit of Christmas. The works are traditional, but wonderfully effective.

The album was recorded last July in Libby Gardner Concert Hall. Forrest accompanies the choir at the piano on several of the tracks, and there is also a small chamber ensemble made up of local musicians that plays on a few of the songs.

Allred is an exceptional choral conductor who always gets nothing less than a flawless performance from his singers, and they bring a richness and warmth to their singing that infuses their performances with depth and feeling.

This recording has everything one could desire in a Christmas album. It's a delightful addition to anyone's holiday collection.

‘LIVE IN SPAIN’ SHOWS SALT LAKE VOCAL ARTISTS’ VERSATILITY

SALT LAKE VOCAL ARTISTS, BRADY R. ALLRED, CONDUCTOR; *Live in Spain* (SLVA) ****

There is no mistaking the Salt Lake Vocal Artists. Their singing is clear, precise and articulate, and their sound is full, resonant and vibrant. With Brady Allred at the helm, no matter what the group sings, it's always of the highest caliber. It's really no surprise that they do so well on tours and in competitions – this is a group that continually keeps setting the bar for choral singing higher and higher.

Live in Spain, recorded during SLVA's tour to Spain last fall (a tour that culminated in several wins at the Tolosa Choral Contest), is a fabulous album with a wonderfully diverse repertoire

that includes Spanish and Basque music, pieces by Eric Whitacre and John Rutter, several stand out arrangements of George Gershwin, and much more. The singers handle this wide ranging program with ease. Their performances are beautifully crafted, dynamic, expressive, fluid and lyrical. In truth, there aren't enough adjectives to describe the artistry of this top notch ensemble. This is choral singing taken to the next level.