

1. *Merry Christmas*—the consolors (2:39)  
(s. pugh) nashboro single #956
2. *Glory To The New Born King*—angelic gospel singers (2:48)  
(m. allison) nashboro single #946
3. *Jesus Christ, The Baby*—maggie ingram & the six trumpets (2:32)  
(m. ingram) nashboro single #707
4. *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*—brother joe may (5:01)  
(p.d.) nashboro single #908
5. *No Room At The Inn*—the consolors (3:47)  
(s. pugh) nashboro single #933
6. *New Born King*—six trumpets (2:52)  
(g. williams) nashboro single #839
7. *Vision Of The Sheperd*—maggie ingram & the silver stars (2:49)  
(m. ingram) nashboro single #751
8. *Christmas Bells*—reverend cleophus robinson (2:33)  
(t. house) nashboro lp #7089
9. *King Of Kings*—maggie ingram & the silver stars (2:21)  
(m. ingram) nashboro single #751
10. *The Christmas Song*—reverend cleophus robinson (3:22)  
(m. torne/b. wells) edwin h. morris music co. inc. (ascap)  
nashboro lp #7089 and #7309
11. *A Child Is Born*—the swanee quintet# (4:04)  
(l. wallace) nashboro lp #7309
12. *Silent Night*—brother joe may (3:17)  
(p.d.) nashboro single #908 and nashboro lp #7309
13. *If They Only Knew*—b.t. banks\*# (4:01)  
(b.t. banks) nashboro lp #7309
14. *My Sweet Lord*—the v.c. & m. choir\* (3:53)  
(g. harrison) zero productions (bmi) creed lp #3029

# Nashboro

## *Nativity*

A christmas gospel collection vol. 1



# Nashboro *Nativity*

volume 1

(christmas gospel collection)

nashboro 452072

over the course of nashboro's long and influential mid-eastern predominance in the afro-american gospel community, the label issued, on a consistent basis, a series of christmas masterpieces. some of this festive fare has given artists like sister lucille pope and maggie ingram a chance to give of their best work. on our first of two holiday volumes, we open with the consolors, sullivan pugh and his wife tola, from miami. in 1969, the pair recorded "mercy christmas," a slow measured song accompanied with organ and chimes, slightly off-time. As always, the

pughs' volatile voices ignite the song. sullivan's raw-edged guitar adds urgency. sullivan, a self-taught musician, plays a regular electrified solid bodied instrument, lap steel fashion. this means he wears the guitar strap in the regular way but awkwardly tucks his left hand through from behind, taking care to cradle the instrument in the hawaiian face up tradition.

A jubilant "glory to the new born king" follows by the indomitable angelic gospel singers of philadelphia from 1968. maggie ingram from ambrose, georgia is perhaps one of the most neglected and certainly one of the most underrated talents on the nashboro label. Her smooth, silvery tone shadings and exquisite mellismas send shivers down the spine at times. "jesus christ, the baby," her first nashboro release from 1961, backed by the six

trumpets of miami, florida, is full of delicate tones and brilliant moments. in 1965, brother joe may, hailed as the thunderbolt of the midwest, cut the beautiful nativity tune, "sweet little jesus boy," a song first made memorable by marion williams who sang it in the langston hughes stage production of black nativity in the early sixties.

may's rendition is one of restrained passion, an unusual approach reminiscent of professor alex bradford. the song was released at a time in his career when may could fill a church with more people than any other solo performer on the gospel highway. "no room at the inn" is a consolors standout. sullivan's anguished pleas are fueled with feeling as tola's lyric-feeding thickens the message.

The six trumpets are the subject of an upcoming re-issue collection. ten singles were issued on nashboro by this group who, as maggie ingram recalls, had strictly sung acappella before 1961. "new born king" is sung with grace and compassion. both "vision of the shepherd" ("noel, noel") and "king of kings" ("silent night") supported by the silver stars of richmond, virginia, are maggie ingram masterpieces. recorded at the dawn of her career in 1962, these simply rendered heart songs are of rare beauty and were never surpassed. "vision of the shepherd" is possibly one of nashboro's six best gospel singles of all time.

maggie's voice aches as the tight-fit group drives the song along in the purest quartet tradition. maggie's mid-song narrative adds purpose and never lets you tire of the refrain. "king of kings" is awesome and pits maggie's silvery narrative tones against a soft bass singing lead and the sweeping harmonies of



THE ANGELIC GOSPEL SINGERS



THE PILGRIM JUBILEE SINGERS





originally written and recorded by harrison and phil spector in 1970, it was again waxed a year later by billy preston and once more produced by harrison for the same



record company. ronnie mack, writer of the chiffons' 1963 monster hit, "he's so fine," accused harrison of ripping off his song. the plagiarist suit was eventually settled.

nashboro nativity volume 1 presents a variety of artists singing in a gamut of different forms of styles, from the six trumpets' traditional quartet rendition of "new born king" to the glowing atmospheric interpretation of "the christmas song" by reverend cleophus robinson. we hope with our bold selection from a wide range of diverse styles something here touches you this christmas.

*Executive Producers:*

patti drosins and rob santos

*Reissue produced and compiled by:*

robert r. kim and opal louis nations

*Originally produced by:*

shannon williams

*Compiled by:*

robert r. kim and opal louis nations

*Art Direction and Design:*

laurey bennett

*Liner notes by:*

opal louis nations

*Mastered by:*

walter devenne

*Project Assistant:*

michael russell

*Special thanks:*

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