



## Blazing fervour as 300 Opera North voices are adored

**Inspiration and the Orchestra of Opera North, Leeds Town Hall, Sunday, December 18, 2011**

**A**n infectious enjoyment of singing transmits itself from the 300 massed voices of Inspiration to their adoring audience. And there's something else; it is the physical chemistry of a close-knit company whose members behave as though they know each other and share with each other. This shines through the sheer power of the singing and infuses Inspiration's animated performance style. For a show entitled Everywhere

### REVIEW

Christmas Tonight, the sense of knowing and sharing could have scarcely seemed more pointed – or more poignant.

The Massed Voices and the versatile Orchestra of Opera North conducted by Gary Griffiths blew the cobwebs off traditional carols like O Come All Ye Faithful, Away in a Manger and Silent Night. Chestnuts Roasting, White Christmas, Silver Bells and Frosty the Snowman glittered like Christmas tree lights; the perky "DooDoos" in Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer sounded as sweet as sugar plums. Go Tell it on the Mountain was sung with blazing fervour;

Griffiths built up the long crescendo of Little Drummer Boy to a stupendous climax.

In an impeccably paced sweeping movement typical of Inspiration's slick stage presentation, each of the 300 singers switched on a tiny torch to penetrate the auditorium with the light of Christmas.

The velvety voice of radio and television presenter, Liz Green, linked the musical numbers with festive readings and the traditions of Christmas hospitality offered to travellers around the world. After all, Joseph and Mary were travellers in need of hospitality from an innkeeper who was indifferent to their plight.

*Geoffrey Mogridge*