We asked Bill Roberts, Professor of Church Music, what’s his favorite Christmas music. Here are his picks:  

**Recommendimg a few Christmas recordings is a most difficult assignment, because there are so many wonderful recorded performances to choose from among. Culling through the approximately fifty in my collection, here are six, each by a different performing group.**

1. **A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.** King’s College, Cambridge. EMI Classics.  _This is the most highly acclaimed choir of men and boys, and for good reason. One of their claims to fame is creating the Festival of Lessons and Carols, now produced by choirs all over the world. Here you can experience the service by the same institution that created it. This choir has made many recordings of the service over the years. This one’s a favorite._  Tower.com

2. **A Little Christmas Music.** The King’s Singers with guests Kiri Te Kanawa and the City of London Sinfonia. EMI Digital. _This highly acclaimed men’s ensemble arose from the ranks of “lay-clerks,” men of the choir of King’s College, Cambridge. They are popular entertainers around the world, fusing beautiful singing with highly creative programming._  Tower.com

3. **Christmas on Fifth Avenue.** The Choir of St. Thomas Church, New York City. Pro Organo CD 7200.  _If your own church’s Christmas celebration is modest in scope, you might enjoy the contrast of this grand, festive service, featuring brass, choir and congregation._  Tower.com

4. **A Robert Shaw Christmas: Angels on High.** Robert Shaw Chamber Singers. Telarc. _The U.S.’s most noted choral director, conducting a performance late in his career, featuring carols both familiar and less well known. The choral sound is near perfection, and so is the artistry. Finally a choir with women in it!_  Tower.com

5. **Sing We Christmas.** Chanticleer. Teldec. _This San Francisco based men’s ensemble tours the world with their elegant a capella singing. This recording features music from the Renaissance, as well as Negro Spirituals and other American tunes._  Tower.com

6. **Christmas Star: Carols for the Christmas Season.** The Cambridge Singers and Orchestra. Collegium CSCD 503. _Popular English composer John Rutter’s wonderful professional choir presents traditional carols from various cultures, accompanied by orchestra. The performance of Appalachian carol I wonder as I wander is worth purchasing the entire recording._  Amazon.com

This doesn’t even include recordings of George F. Handel’s Messiah, which people listen to more during Advent and Christmas than any other time of year. My favorite is the one conducted by my colleague who was formerly musician at Trinity Church, Wall Street, NY, which may be purchased on their website at [http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/shop/categories/music](http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/shop/categories/music)