

APPLEBY CLASSICAL MUSICIAN DONATES PROFITS TO THE FLOOD RECOVERY FUND

Following the success of his composition Svalbard, which reached number 3 in the iTunes charts last Christmas, Appleby composer, flautist and broadcaster Ben MacDougall has recorded and released his new arrangements of *Oh Holy Night* and *Silent Night* in aid of flood relief work following the terrible floods in Cumbria. All profits from sales of the recordings, which are available for download only on the iTunes music store, are to be donated to the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund, which is run by the Cumbria Community Foundation. The albums also feature full backing tracks, which can be downloaded on the same basis and Ben is providing a free download of the sheet music on his own website so people can play along. BBC Radio Cumbria launches the singles this Sunday and national radio and TV are to follow.

www.benmacdougall.com

"I released a similar recording a couple of years ago to the world flute community and was humbled when thousands downloaded the tracks, both to listen to and to play over Christmas. My arrangements were then performed in live concerts across the world, from San Francisco to Qatar. I saw a wonderful opportunity to do something similar to help those suffering after the recent floods in my home county of Cumbria and to provide support for the Cumbria Community Foundation in its amazing work. Basically, I felt that this was a way for me to help in the best way I know how. I urge everyone to buy a copy - enjoy listening to the music, playing it for your family and friends, and helping those who are suffering over the Christmas period."

Ben MacDougall has been described as one of the most exciting new faces on the classical music scene. As both a composer and flute player he has performed in the UK and across the globe - most recently spending time in the USA working on flute and composition with conductor Lorin Maazel. Ben is currently composer-in-residence for the Reykjavik Music Group of the year, The Elektra Ensemble, and is due to have his choral work *Kyrie Eleison* premiered in the coming months. In 2007, Ben was a finalist in BBC2's series Classical Star. Ben also writes a regular column for *Classical Music* magazine and is the presenter of *Simply Classics* for BBC Radio Cumbria.

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