

► MUSIC

# Have yourself a merry little Christmas on CD

**By Steve Israel**

The Times Herald-Record  
sisrael@th-record.com

**Ars Choralis – “Welcome Yule: American Christmas Cameos” (Siren Songs):**

It's a good thing this is first on the list because it's also the best. Ars Choralis is a 30-member Woodstock-based choir directed by Barbara Pickhardt. On “Welcome Yule,” which was produced by Saugerties resident John Hall, formerly of Orleans, Ars Choralis is joined by the 50-member Hudson Valley Youth Chorale on a selection of mostly traditional American songs, including the Salvation Army arrangement of “Lo, How a Rose,” the spiritual “Go, Tell It on the Mountain,” and the Appalachian folk song “Cherry Tree Carol.” The soaring voices are as pure and beautiful as soft swirling snow. To order, call 800-Buy My CD or through the Internet at [songs.com](http://songs.com)