



THE FALCON
TWO FESTIVAL ANTHEMS
by JOHN RUTTER

Patricia Forbes
The Cambridge Singers
Choristers of St Paul's Cathedral
City of London Sinfonia
conducted by John Rutter

Collegium
RECORDS

John Rutter

MAGNIFICAT THE FALCON TWO FESTIVAL ANTHEMS

Patricia Forbes (*soprano*)

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(*Organist and Choirmaster: John Scott*)

John Scott and Andrew Lucas (*organ*)

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The passage from St Luke (chapter 1, verses 46–55) known as the Magnificat – a poetic outpouring of praise, joy and trust in God, ascribed by Luke to the Virgin Mary on learning that she was to give birth to Christ – has always been one of the most familiar and well-loved of scriptural texts, not least because of its inclusion as a canticle in the Catholic office of Vespers and in Anglican Evensong. Musical settings of it abound, though surprisingly few of them since J. S. Bach's give the text extended treatment. I had long wished to write an extended Magnificat, but was not sure how to approach it until I found my starting point in the association of the text with the Virgin Mary. In countries such as Spain, Mexico and Puerto Rico, feast days of the Virgin are joyous opportunities for people to take to the streets and celebrate with singing, dancing and processions. These images of outdoor celebration were, I think, somewhere in my mind as I wrote, though I was not fully conscious of the fact till afterwards. I *was* conscious of following Bach's example in adding to the liturgical text – with the lovely old English poem 'Of a Rose' and the prayer 'Sancta Maria', both of which strengthen the Marian connection, and with the interpolated 'Sanctus' (to the Gregorian chant of the *Missa cum júbilo*) in the third movement, which seems to grow out of the immediately preceding thought 'et sanctum nomen eius'. The composition of *Magnificat* occupied several hectic weeks early in 1990, and the première took place in May of that year in Carnegie Hall, New York.

The Falcon (1969) was my first large-scale choral work, premièred in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge by the Cambridge University Musical Society Chorus and Orchestra with the Choir of King's College, conducted by Sir David Willcocks. The kernel of the work is the medieval poem that gives it its title, a poem rich with symbols of the Eucharist, the Grail legend and the Glastonbury thorn. Out of this poem grew the idea of a larger work moving from images of a warlike Old Testament Jehovah, via the sacrifice of Christ as portrayed in the Falcon poem, to the visionary prospect of peace found in the Book of Revelation. As in several of my choral pieces, Gregorian chant is used, sung in this case by a boys' choir – the inclusion of which was, I am sure, influenced by my participation in the original recording of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* as a member of the boys' choir.

The two festival anthems were written for special occasions: *O praise the Lord of heaven* in 1980 for the annual Commencement ceremony of Westminster Choir College, Princeton (held in Princeton University chapel), and *Behold, the tabernacle of God* in 1981 for the consecration of the newly-completed north transept of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. In both cases the music was intended for ceremonial events in large, impressive buildings, and this to an extent dictated its rather broad and rhetorical style. *O praise the Lord of heaven* is recorded here in its original scoring for brass, timpani, percussion and organ; *Behold, the tabernacle of God* was written with organ accompaniment, which I subsequently scored for full orchestra, in which form it is heard here.

JOHN RUTTER

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Total playing time: 69' 10"

Magnificat (37' 05")

Patricia Forbes (*soprano*)

The Cambridge Singers

City of London Sinfonia

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Magnificat anima mea | (6' 50") |
| 2 | Of a Rose, a lovely Rose | (5' 00") |
| 3 | Quia fecit mihi magna | (5' 20") |
| 4 | Et misericordia | (4' 42") |
| 5 | Fecit potentiam | (3' 35") |
| 6 | Esurientes | (6' 15") |
| 7 | Gloria Patri | (5' 02") |

The Falcon (21' 25")

The Cambridge Singers
Choristers of St Paul's Cathedral
Andrew Lucas (*organ*)
City of London Sinfonia

- 8 First movement: Vivace e ritmico (5' 14")
9 Second movement: Lento (10' 09")
10 Third movement: Passacaglia (6' 05")

(Note: the movements follow on without breaks.)

Two Festival Anthems

- 11 **O praise the Lord of heaven** (5' 55")

The Cambridge Singers
John Scott (*organ*)
Members of the City of London Sinfonia

- 12 **Behold, the tabernacle of God** (4' 10")

The Cambridge Singers
City of London Sinfonia

The Cambridge Singers

Sopranos: Caroline Ashton, †Donna Deam, Ruth Gomme, †Lucinda Houghton, Celia Jackson, Karen Kerslake, Simone Mace, *Joanna Maggs, †Jocelyn Miles, *Rachel Platt, †Lesley-Jane Rogers, Juliet Schiemann, *Penny Stow, †Nancy-Jane Thompson, Clare Wallace, *Susanna Watson, Julia Wilson-James

Altos: Nicola Barber, Peter Gritton, Phyllida Hancock, Mary Hitch, Frances Jellard, Melanie Marshall, Susanna Spicer, †Penny Vickers, Lucy Winkett

Tenors: †Paul Badley, †Simon Berridge, *John Bowen, Harvey Brough, †David Dunnett, Andrew Gant, Paul Gordon, †Christopher Hogan, †Gerry O'Beirne, *Mark Le Brocq, Angus Smith

Basses: †Michael Chambers, †Stephen Charlesworth, *Simon Davies, †Don Greig, Bruce Hamilton, *Andrew Hammond, *Patrick Lee-Browne, James Mure, †Daniel Pailthorpe, Charles Pott, Benjamin Thompson, *Wen-Ho Tsai, †Julian Walker
*January sessions only †October sessions only

Magnificat is published by Hinshaw Music, Inc. (P.O. Box 470, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514, USA) for the USA, and by Oxford University Press (Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, England) for all other countries. *The Falcon* and *Behold, the tabernacle of God* are published by Oxford University Press for all countries. *O praise the Lord of heaven* is published by Hinshaw Music, Inc.

This recording is dedicated to the memory of Joanna Maggs.

Magnificat

1 Magnificat anima mea

Magnificat anima mea Dominum: et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.
Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae: ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.

(My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his hand-maiden: for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.)

2 Of a Rose, a lovely Rose

*Of a Rose, a lovely Rose,
Of a Rose is all my song.*

Hearken to me, both old and young,
How this Rose began to spring;
A fairer rose to mine liking
In all this world ne know I none.

Five branches of that rose there been,
The which be both fair and sheen;
The rose is called Mary, heaven's queen.
Out of her bosom a blossom sprang.

The first branch was of great honour:
That blest Marie should bear the flow'r;
There came an angel from heaven's tower
To break the devil's bond.

The second branch was great of might,
That sprang upon Christmas night;
The star shone over Bethlem bright,
That man should see it both day and night.

The third branch did spring and spread;
Three kinges then the branch gan led
Unto Our Lady in her child-bed;
Into Bethlem that branch sprang right.

The fourth branch it sprang to hell,
The devil's power for to fell:
That no soul therein should dwell,
The branch so blessedfully sprang.

The fifth branch it was so sweet,
It sprang to heav'n, both crop and root,
Therein to dwell and be our *bote:
So blessedly it sprang.

Pray we to her with great honour,
She that bare the blessed flow'r,
To be our help and our succour,
And shield us from the fiendes bond.

*Bote = salvation

(15th-century English)

3 Quia fecit mihi magna

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est: et sanctum nomen eius.

(For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.)

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
*(*from the Ordinary of the Mass)*

(Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are filled with thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.)

4 Et misericordia

Et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.
(And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.)

5 Fecit potentiam

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo: dispersit superbos mente cordis sui. Deposuit potentes de sede, et exaltavit humiles.

(He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.)

6 Esurientes

Esurientes implevit bonis: et divites dimisit inanes. Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus misericordiae suae. Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in saecula.

(He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel. As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.)

7 Gloria Patri

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.

(Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.)

*Sancta Maria, succurre miseris, iuva pusillanimes, refove flebiles: ora pro populo, interveni pro clero, intercede pro devoto femineo sexu: santiant omnes tuum iuvamen, quicumque tuum sanctum implorant auxilium. Alleluia.

(*Antiphon at Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

(Holy Mary, succour those in need, help the faint-hearted, console the tearful: pray for the laity, assist the clergy, intercede for all devout women: may all feel the power of your help, whoever prays for your holy aid, Alleluia.)

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

(As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.)

(English translation of the Magnificat from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer)

The Falcon

8 First movement

O sing unto the Lord a new song: for he hath done marvellous things.

With his own right hand, and with his holy arm: hath he gotten himself the victory. The Lord declared his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel: and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.

Come shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands: sing, rejoice and give thanks.

Praise the Lord upon the harp: sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.

With trumpets also, and shawms: O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King. Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is: the round world and they that dwell therein.

Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord: for he is come to judge the earth.

(from Psalm 98)

9 Second movement

Lully, lullay, lully, lullay,

The falcon hath borne my make away!

He bare him up, he bare him down,
He bare him into an orchard brown.

In that orchard there was an hall
That was hanged with purple and pall.

And in that hall there was a bed,
It was hanged with gold so red.

And in that bed there lieth a knight,
His woundes bleeding day and night.

At that bed's foot there lieth a hound,
Licking the blood as it runs down.

By that bedside there kneeleth a may,
And she weepeth both night and day.

And at that bed's head there standeth a stone,
'Corpus Christi' written thereon.

(15th century)

Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine.
Vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine.
Cuius latus perforatum fluxit aqua et sanguine.
Esto nobis prae gustatum mortis in examine.

O Jesu dulcis, O Jesu pie,
O Jesu, fili Mariae.

(14th century)

*(All hail, O true Body, of the blessed Virgin born,
Which in anguish to redeem us didst suffer upon the cross;
From whose side, when pierced by spear, there came forth both water and blood:
Be to us at our last hour the source of consolation.*

*O loving, O holy,
O Jesu, thou Son of Mary.)*

I have laboured sore and suffered death,
And now I rest and draw my breath;
But I shall come and call right soon
Heaven and earth and hell to doom;
And then shall know both devil and man
What I was and what I am.

(15th century)

Surrexit Dominus de sepulchro, alleluia, alleluia;
Qui pro nobis pendit in ligno, alleluia, alleluia.

(Antiphon for Easter Day)

*(The Lord is risen from the tomb, alleluia, alleluia;
Who for us hung on the cross, alleluia, alleluia.)*

10 Third movement

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men.
He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people,
And God himself will be with them.
They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more;
The sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will lead them to springs of living water.

Urbs Jerusalem beata,
Dicta pacis visio,
Quae construitur in caelis
Vivis ex lapidibus,
Et angelis coronata,
Ut sponsata comite.

(c. 7th century)

*(Blessed city Jerusalem, vision of peace, built in heaven from living stones, and crowned by
the angels like a bride for her consort.)*

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes,
And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying,
Neither shall there be any more pain,
For the former things are passed away.

(from the Book of Revelation)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi;
Dona nobis pacem.

(from the Ordinary of the Mass)

(Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant us peace.)

[11] O praise the Lord of heaven

O praise the Lord of heaven: praise him in the height.
Praise him, all ye angels of his: praise him, all his host.
Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars and light.
Praise him, all ye heavens: and ye waters that are above the heavens.
Let them praise the Name of the Lord: for he spake the word, and they were made;
 he commanded, and they were created.
He hath made them fast for ever and ever: he hath given them a law which shall not be
 broken.
Praise the Lord upon earth: ye dragons, and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and vapours: wind and storm, fulfilling his word;
Mountains and all hills: fruitful trees and all cedars;
Beasts and all cattle: worms and feathered fowls;
Kings of the earth and all people: princes and all judges of the world;
Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name of the Lord: for his
 Name only is excellent, and his praise above heaven and earth.
He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall praise him.

(Psalm 148)

[12] Behold, the tabernacle of God

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men;
And the spirit of God dwelleth within you:
For the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.
For the love of whom ye do this day celebrate the joys of the temple with season of
festivity.

(Sarum antiphon)



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