THE SACRED MUSIC
OF JOHN RUTTER

Gloria

The Cambridge Singers
The Philip Jones Brass Ensemble
The City of London Sinfonia
conducted by John Rutter

GLORIA
The Sacred Music of John Rutter

The music heard on this recording represents a cross-section of the sacred choral pieces I have written over a period of some thirty years, from the 1970s to 2004. Two paramount considerations shaped it: first, the performers and occasions it was written for, and second the texts, which I always choose with great deliberation.

Gloria, the most substantial piece, was written as a concert work. It was commissioned by the Voices of Mel Olson, Omaha, Nebraska, and I directed the first performance on the occasion of a visit to the United States—the first of many—in May 1974. The Latin text, drawn from the Ordinary of the Mass, is a centuries-old challenge to the composer: exalted, devotional and jubilant by turns. My setting, which is based mainly on one of the Gregorian chants associated with the text, divides into three movements roughly corresponding with traditional symphonic structure. The accompaniment is for brass ensemble with timpani, percussion and organ—a combination which in the outer movements makes quite a joyful noise unto the Lord, but which is used more softly and introspectively in the middle movement.

Hymn to the Creator of Light, for unaccompanied double choir, was commissioned in memory of the composer Herbert Howells (whom I knew in the 1970s). The occasion was a special choral evensong in Gloucester Cathedral at the 1994 Three Choirs Festival at which a new stained glass window was dedicated to mark the centenary of the composer's birth.

The other pieces are all anthems, primarily intended for use in the context of a church service. They range in difficulty from very simple to fairly challenging, though it was my hope in writing them that none would be beyond the reach of a capable church choir. Although the accompaniments were originally for organ (or, in the case of *For the beauty of the earth* and *All things bright and beautiful*, for piano), I enjoyed scoring them for orchestra and prefer them in this form. The unaccompanied pieces, however, (*Cantate Domino, God be in my head, Open thou mine eyes*, and *A prayer of Saint Patrick*) reflect my love of the *a cappella* medium. *Wedding Canticle* is exceptional in that I wrote it with flute and guitar accompaniment.

Some of the texts are familiar and have been set to music many times—what composer, after all, could resist *God be in my head* or Psalm 150?—but it was a particular pleasure to happen upon such lovely texts as *Open thou mine eyes* or the *Gaelic Blessing* and set them to music for the first time.

JOHN RUTTER

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Total playing time 67' 24"
Note: Words credits are given at the end of each text.

GLORIA (17' 13")

1 **First movement:** Allegro vivace (4' 47")

2 **Second movement:** Andante (6' 58")
Soloists: Mary Seers, Mary Hitch, Caroline Ashton

3 **Third movement:** Vivace e ritmico (5' 26")

ANTHEMS

4 **All things bright and beautiful** (2' 43")

5 **Cantate Domino** (5' 15") *(choir unaccompanied)*

6 **O clap your hands** (3' 11")

7 **Wedding Canticle** (Blessed are all they that fear the Lord) (5' 25")
Flute: Jane Mitchell Guitar: Stewart French

8 **The Lord is my shepherd** (5' 12")
Oboe: Quentin Poole

9 **A Gaelic Blessing** (1' 48")

10 **Hymn to the Creator of Light** (7' 13") *(choir unaccompanied)*

11 **Arise, shine** (4' 45")
Organ: Mark Williams

12 **Praise ye the Lord** (1' 45")

13 **For the beauty of the earth** (3' 38")

14 **God be in my head** (1' 28") *(choir unaccompanied)*

15 **Open thou mine eyes** (2' 36") *(choir unaccompanied)*

16 **A prayer of Saint Patrick** (1' 30") *(choir unaccompanied)*

17 **The Lord bless you and keep you** (2' 38")

Tracks 1–3 with the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble, Gary Kettel and Eric Allen (timpani and percussion), and John Scott (organ). Tracks 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 17 with the City of London Sinfonia (leader: Simon Standage).

Tracks 1–3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 14 are published by Oxford University Press in all countries. Tracks 4, 7, 11, 13, 15, and 17 are published by Hinshaw Music, Inc. (in USA), Oxford University Press (in all other countries). Track 16 is published by Hinshaw Music in all countries. Track 9 is published by Hinshaw Music, Inc (in USA), RSCM Publications (in all other countries).

The Cambridge Singers

1983 (Tracks 1–4, 6, 8, 9, and 12–17)
Sopranos: Caroline Ashton, Diana Hawker, Celia Jackson, Marcelle Mace, Simone Mace, Joanna Maggs, Nancy-Jane Rucker, Mary Seers, Katie Sidwell, Clare Wallace
Altos: Julia Bishop, Jonathan Cooke, Mary Hitch, Nicola-Jane Kemp, Sara Tunnicliffe, Karen Williams
Tenors: Harvey Brough, David Dunnett, Howard Milner, Mark Padmore, Jeremy Taylor, David Watson
Basses: Richard Craddock, Gerald Finley, Nicholas Jones, James Mure, Charles Pott, Christopher Purves, Nicholas Sears, Russell Watson

2005 (Tracks 5, 7, 10, and 11)
Sopranos: Isabelle Adams, Miriam Allan, Katy Cooper, Grace Davidson, Katherine Fuge, Kate Hopkins, Kirsty Hopkins, Louise Kateck, Alexandra Kidgell, Elin Manahan Thomas
Altos: Frances Jellard, Melanie Marshall, Joanna Norman, Abigail Smetham, Elizabeth Weisberg
Tenors: Ben Breakwell, Jeremy Budd, Ross Buddie, John Harte, William Unwin, Simon Wall
Basses: Richard Bannan, James Birchall, Gabriel Crouch, Ben Davies, Gareth Jones, Richard Latham, Jonathan Saunders, Reuben Thomas

GLORIA

1 I. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te. Glorificamus te. Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. (Gloria in excelsis Deo.)

2 II. Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

3 III. Quoniam tu solus sanctus. Tu solus Dominus. Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe. Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen. (Gloria in excelsis Deo. Amen.)

(from the Ordinary of the Mass)

I. Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee. We bless thee. We worship thee. We glorify thee. We give thanks to thee for thy great glory. (Glory be to God on high.)
II. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
III. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen. (Glory be to God on high. Amen.)

(Translation from the Book of Common Prayer, 1662)

4 All things bright and beautiful

All things bright and beautiful.
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky;

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,—
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

(Mrs. C.F Alexander, 1818–95)

5 Cantate Domino

Cantate Domino canticum novum.
O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name: be telling of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his honour unto the heathen: and his wonders unto all people.
For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised: he is more to be feared than all gods.
As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols: but it is the Lord that made the heavens.
Glory and worship are before him: power and honour are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name: bring presents, and come into his courts.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad: for he cometh to judge the earth.

(from Psalm 96)

Veni Creator Spiritus,
Mentes tuorum visita:
Imple superna gratia
Quae tu creasti pectora.

(Come Creator Spirit,
Visit the minds of your people:
Fill with your divine grace
Their hearts.)

(9th-century hymn)

Cantate Domino canticum novum.

6 O clap your hands

O clap your hands together, all ye people: O sing unto God with the voice of melody.
For the Lord is high, and to be feared: he is the great King upon all the earth.
He shall subdue the people under us: and the nations under our feet.
He shall choose out an heritage for us: even the worship of Jacob, whom he loved.
God is gone up with a merry noise: and the Lord with the sound of the trump.
O sing praises, sing praises unto our God: O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.
For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.
(O clap your hands together, all ye people.)

(Psalm 47, vv. 1–7)

7 Wedding Canticle

Blessed are all they that fear the Lord and walk in his ways.
For thou shalt eat the labours of thine hands: O well is thee, and happy shalt thou be.
Thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine upon the walls of thine house.
Thy children like the olive branches round about thy table.
Lo, thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord.
The Lord from out of Sion shall so bless thee: that thou shalt see Jerusalem in prosperity all thy life long.
Yea, that thou shalt see thy children's children: and peace upon Israel.

(Psalm 128)

8 The Lord is my shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

(Psalm 23)

9 A Gaelic Blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you.

(adapted from an old Gaelic rune)

10 Hymn to the Creator of Light

Glory be to thee, O Lord, glory be to thee,
Creator of the visible light,
the sun's ray, the flame of fire;
Creator also of the light invisible and intellectual:

that which is known of God, the light invisible.
Glory be to thee, O Lord, glory be to thee,
Creator of the light.
for writings of the law, glory be to thee:
for oracles of prophets, glory be to thee:
for melody of psalms, glory be to thee:
for wisdom of proverbs, glory be to thee:
experience of histories, glory be to thee:
a light which never sets.
God is the Lord, who hath shewed us light.

(Lancelot Andrewes (1555–1626), trans. Alexander Whyte)

Light, who dost my soul enlighten;
Sun, who all my life dost brighten;
Joy, the sweetest man e'er knoweth;
Fount, whence all my being floweth.
From thy banquet let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep its treasure;
Through the gifts thou here dost give us,
As thy guest in heaven receive us.

(J. Franck (1618–1677), trans. Catherine Winkworth (adapted))

11 Arise, shine

Arise, shine, for thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,
and gross darkness the people:
But the Lord shall arise upon thee,
and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

And the Gentiles shall come to thy light,
and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
Lift up thine eyes round about, and see:
all they gather themselves together, they come to thee:
thy sons shall come from far,
and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.
The sun shall be no more thy light by day;
neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee:
but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light,
and thy God thy glory.

(Isaiah 60: 1–4, 19)

12 Praise ye the Lord

Praise ye the Lord.
Praise God in his holiness: praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him in his noble acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him in the sound of the trumpet: praise him upon the lute and harp.
Praise him in the cymbals and dances: praise him upon the strings and pipe.
Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals: praise him upon the loud cymbals.
Let every thing that hath breath: praise the Lord.

(Psalm 150, with antiphon)

13 For the beauty of the earth

For the beauty of the earth,
  For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
  Over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:

For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

(F. S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, slightly altered)

14 God be in my head

God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God be at mine end and in my departing.

(from the Sarum Primer, 1545)

15 Open thou mine eyes

Open thou mine eyes and I shall see:
Incline my heart and I shall desire:
Order my steps and I shall walk
In the ways of thy commandments.

O Lord God, be thou to me a God,
And beside thee let there be none else,
No other, naught else with thee.

Vouchsafe to me to worship thee and serve thee
According to thy commandments
In truth of spirit, in reverence of body,
In blessing of lips,
In private and in public.

(Lancelot Andrewes, 1555–1626, from Preces Privatae)

16 A Prayer of Saint Patrick

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ above me, Christ beneath me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

(from Saint Patrick's Breastplate, 5th cent., tr. Mrs. C. F. Alexander)

17 The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord bless you and keep you: the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

(Numbers 6, v. 24)

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