

Birthday Madrigals

Birthday Madrigals was written by John Rutter in 1995 to celebrate the 75th birthday of the great jazz pianist George Shearing, a devotee of choral music and a personal friend of the composer. The texts of the five poems come from the era of the Elizabethan madrigal, and two are by Shakespeare. The style of the music is influenced by jazz but is fundamentally derived from the tradition of the English madrigal itself and its descendant, the part-song.