

The Falcon

The Falcon (1969) was Rutter's first large-scale choral work, premiered in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, 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. Gregorian chant is used, sung by a boy's choir – the inclusion of this was probably influenced by Rutter's participation in the original recording of Britten's *War Requiem* as a member of the boys' choir.