



JOHN RUTTER  
A SONG IN SEASON

THE CAMBRIDGE SINGERS  
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

*Collegium*  
RECORDS

---

# A SONG IN SEASON

**This album** gathers together twelve of my more recent sacred choral pieces, most of them inspired by times, seasons, occasions, places, texts, and by the people and choirs who invited me to write them.

The two pieces framing the collection, the *Wells Jubilate* and *Winchester Te Deum*, were written for important occasions in their respective cathedrals, the *Te Deum* for the installation of the Dean of Winchester Cathedral in 2006 and the *Jubilate* for a celebration of the completion of restoration work on Wells Cathedral in 2009; Matthew Owens, organist of Wells, had suggested that a *Jubilate* would make a suitable companion piece to the *Te Deum*. On such festive occasions I love the sound of choir, organ and brass, a combination I have used in a number of pieces including my *Gloria* and to which I happily returned here and in the Easter anthem *Most glorious Lord of life*, written in 2010 for the choir of Harvard Memorial Church.

St Paul's Cathedral was the magnificent setting for the first performance of *Lord, thou hast been our refuge*, written in 2008 for the annual United Guilds' Service, on which occasion the Lord Mayor and Livery Companies assemble in splendour to give thanks. I was commissioned to write the anthem by the Worshipful Company of Barbers—most of whose members are in fact surgeons. The Guild was marking its 700th anniversary, and the choice of Psalm 90 as text seemed obvious, particularly with its concluding verse 'prosper thou the work of our hands'.

My local cathedral, Ely, celebrated the 900th anniversary of the diocese in 2009, and *I am with you always* was written for a Festival Service in May of that year; a chorus formed from choirs in the diocese filled the octagon, and the slow, measured pace of the music was dictated partly by the practical consideration of keeping these large forces together. *Look to the day* was also premiered in Ely Cathedral, at a special service in 2007 organised by the charity Cancer Research UK. Their wish for the anthem they asked me to write was that it should give thanks for victories already won and look to those still to come.

---

Also in my locality, the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, and its renowned choir, have a special place in my heart. The unique acoustic of the chapel seems to call forth a certain kind of music, and *Veni Sancte Spiritus*, written in 1998 at the invitation of the choir's director Stephen Cleobury, perhaps reflects this in having a more mystical tone than might generally be associated with me—though an invocation to the Holy Spirit can hardly be down-to-earth.

The choir of my *alma mater*, Clare College Cambridge, has played a continuing and cherished part in my life. In 2009, to mark his final Christmas season as Director of Music, Timothy Brown invited me and two other Cambridge composers to write a *cappella* carols for the choir. For this I turned, as often before, to the great treasury of medieval English carol texts; *The King of Bliss* was the result. The influence of medieval music can be felt in its sometimes stark, open harmonies and irregular rhythms.

*O Lord, thou hast searched me out* was written in 2007 in memory of another great Cambridge choral director, Dr George Guest, who for almost forty years presided over the choir of St John's College. I chose the text as being appropriate for Ash Wednesday, when the anthem was to be first performed, discovering only later that it had been Dr Guest's favourite psalm: the opening verse is inscribed on his memorial plaque in St John's chapel.

Two voluntary organisations invited me to write, respectively, *Look at the world* (1996) and *Carol of the Magi* (2009). The first of these was for the Council for the Protection of Rural England, which was looking for a widely-usable choral song or anthem on the theme of the environment and our responsibility towards it; and the second was for Red Balloon, a Cambridge-based charity dedicated to the recovery of bullied children. The text of *Carol of the Magi* was nourished by two strangely converging influences: T. S. Eliot's *Journey of the Magi*, and the traditional folk belief in Mediterranean countries that in the face of every child we see the face of Christ.

I have included *To every thing there is a season* as an expression of the theme of this album, and also in memory of Edward Dalton, the choir director for whom I wrote it in 1997. He inspired generations of high school students to know and love choral music and to attain excellence in performance. I met him regularly on my conducting visits to New York and looked upon him as a friend, a support, and a role model to me and to many.

JOHN RUTTER

---

# A SONG IN SEASON

SACRED MUSIC BY JOHN RUTTER

**The Cambridge Singers**  
**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**  
**John Birch** (*organ*)  
conducted by **John Rutter**

Total playing time: 77' 07"

Words credits are given at the end of each text.

All compositions are by John Rutter.

- 1 **Wells Jubilate** (4' 35")
- 2 **Look to the day** (4' 03")
- 3 **To every thing there is a season** (6' 10")
- 4 **Carol of the Magi** (4' 58")  
Baritone solo: Gabriel Crouch  
Cello solo: Tim Gill
- 5 **O Lord, thou hast searched me out** (7' 17")  
Cor anglais solo: Leila Ward
- 6 **Most glorious Lord of life** (5' 24")  
Soprano solo: Grace Davidson

- 7 **Look at the world** (4' 34")
- 8 **Veni Sancte Spiritus** (7' 06")
- 9 **Lord, thou hast been our refuge** (10' 58")  
Trumpet solo: Brian Thomson
- 10 **I am with you always** (7' 19")
- 11 **The King of Blis** (3' 29")
- 12 **Winchester Te Deum** (10' 25")

Tracks 1, 6, and 12 are accompanied by brass ensemble with timpani, percussion, and organ.

Track 9 is accompanied by trumpet and organ.

Tracks 2, 4, 5, 8, and 10 are accompanied by other members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Track 11 is for unaccompanied choir.

Tracks 3 and 7 are taken from the Collegium album *Mass of the Children and other sacred music* (COLCD 129), released in 2003 and performed by the Cambridge Singers and City of London Sinfonia.

Tracks 1, 8, 9, 11, and 12 are published by Oxford University Press in all countries.

Tracks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 10 are published by Hinshaw Music, Inc. (in USA), Oxford University Press (in all other countries).

---

## The Cambridge Singers

**Sopranos:** Helen Ashby, Kate Ashby, Grace Davidson, Amy Haworth, Rebecca Hickey, Katy Hill, Kirsty Hopkins, Amy Moore, Amy Wood

**Altos:** Emma Ashby, Ruth Gibbins, Eleanor Harries, Melanie Marshall, Kim Porter, Abigail Smetham

**Tenors:** Ben Breakwell, James Clements, Benedict Hymas, Matthew Long, Nathan Vale, Simon Wall

**Basses:** Richard Bannan, Neil Bellingham, Gabriel Crouch, William Gaunt, Richard Latham, James Mustard, Jonathan Saunders

---

# TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

## 1 Wells Jubilate

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting: and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

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

*Psalm 100*

## 2 Look to the day

Look to the day when the world seems new again:

Morning so fresh you could touch the sky;

The earth smells sweet and ev'ry flower looks bright,

Shining in a dewy light as you wander by.

Taking the time to enjoy each moment;

Tasting the fruits spread along your way,

Knowing there's time to spare,

Dreams you can dream and share:

Look to the day, look to the day.

Look to the day when the earth is green again:

Promise of spring after winter's sleep.

The sounds of life returning fill the air,

Music that's forever there for your heart to keep.

Deep in the earth lay the seed of life renewed,

Quiet and strong till the time of spring:

---

Life in each bud and shoot,

Life in each flower and fruit,

Look to that day when earth shall sing.

Look to the light that will drive out darkness;

Look to the hope that will conquer fear.

God's strength uphold us till the fight is won,

Till we see our task is done when the day is here.

Look for that day when there shall be no more pain;

Sorrow and sighing shall pass away.

Pray for the day to come,

Trust that the day will come,

Look to that day, look to the day.

Lord, we give thanks for the gifts of life and health;

Plant a new seed in our hearts, we pray:

Help us to see, O Lord,

How it could be, O Lord;

Look to the day, look to the day.

*John Rutter*

## 3 To every thing there is a season

To every thing there is a season,

And a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.

To every thing there is a season,

And a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

A time to break down, and a time to build up.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

---

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
A time to get, and a time to lose;  
A time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
A time to rend, and a time to sew;  
A time to keep silence, and a time to speak.

To every thing there is a season,  
And a time to every purpose under the heaven:  
A time to love, and a time to hate:  
A time of war and a time of peace.

#### **[4] Carol of the Magi**

We rode all night through fields of darkness,  
Our guiding light the Eastern star;  
We came to Bethlehem, we all were weary:  
We'd travelled far that night, we'd travelled far.

We heard that here we'd find Messiah,  
Foretold by seers from days of old;  
We looked for palaces and found a stable:  
Could it be here, so bare and cold?

We entered in and there we saw him;  
It seemed we'd known him from long before:  
A child like any child, yet somehow different:  
The face of every child in him we saw.

We'd brought him gifts, and now we offered them;  
We knelt down low in silent prayer.  
With eyes that seemed to know both joy and sadness  
The child looked down as we knelt there.

*Ecclesiastes 3, vv.1–8*

---

So long ago, yet I remember  
That child who lay at Mary's knee;  
How strange that every child seems so much like him:  
His is the face I seem to see.

*John Rutter*

#### **[5] O Lord, thou hast searched me out**

O Lord, thou hast searched me out, and known me: thou knowest my down-sitting, and mine up-rising; thou understandest my thoughts long before.  
Thou art about my path, and about my bed: and spiest out all my ways.  
For lo, there is not a word in my tongue: but thou, O Lord knowest it altogether.  
Thou hast fashioned me behind and before: and laid thine hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me: I cannot attain unto it.  
Whither shall I go then from thy Spirit: or whither shall I go then from thy presence?  
If I climb up into heaven, thou art there: if I go down to hell, thou art there also.  
If I take the wings of the morning: and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;  
Even there [also] shall thy hand lead me: and thy right hand shall hold me.  
If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall cover me: then shall my night be turned to day.  
Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as the day: the darkness and light to thee are both alike.  
I will give thanks unto thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works.  
Try me, O God, and seek the ground of my heart: prove me, and examine my thoughts.  
O Lord, thou hast searched me out, and known me.

*Psalm 139, vv.1–11, 13, 23*

#### **[6] Most glorious Lord of life**

Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day  
Didst make thy triumph over death and sin,  
And having harrowed hell, didst bring away  
Captivity thence captive, us to win;  
This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,  
And grant that we for whom thou diddest die,  
Being with thy dear Blood clean washed from sin,  
May live for ever in felicity:  
And that thy love we weighing worthily,

---

May likewise love thee for the same again;  
And for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy,  
With love may one another entertain;  
So let us love, dear Love, like as we ought;  
Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

*Edmund Spenser (1553–99)*

The Day of Resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of gladness,  
The Passover of God!  
From death to life eternal,  
From earth unto the sky,  
Our Christ hath brought us over  
With hymns of victory.

*St John Damascene, (c.750), tr. J. M. Neale*

### **7 Look at the world**

Look at the world, everything all around us:  
Look at the world, and marvel ev'ry day.  
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,  
So many miracles along our way.

*Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation,  
Give us thankful hearts, that we may see:  
All the gifts we share, and ev'ry blessing,  
All things come of thee.*

Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower;  
Look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain;  
Look at the hills, look at the trees and  
mountains,  
Valley and flowing river, field and plain:  
*Praise to thee O Lord . . .*

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of  
summer  
Bringing the harvest before the winter's cold.  
Everything grows, everything has a season,  
Till it is gathered to the Father's fold:

*Praise to thee, O Lord . . .*

Every good gift, all that we need and cherish  
Comes from the Lord in token of his love;  
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty;  
His is the earth, and his the heavens above:

*Praise to thee, O Lord . . .*

*John Rutter*

---

### **8 Veni Sancte Spiritus**

Veni Sancte Spiritus,  
Et emitte caelitus  
Lucis tuae radium.

Veni pater pauperum,  
Veni dator munerum,  
Veni lumen cordium.

Consolator optime,  
Dulcis hospes animae,  
Dulce refrigerium.

In labore requies,  
In aestu temperies,  
In fletu solatium.

O lux beatissima,  
Reple cordis intima  
Tuorum fidelium.

Sine tuo numine,  
Nihil est in lumine,  
Nihil est innoxium.

Lava quod est sordidum,  
Riga quod est aridum,  
Sana quod est saucium.

Flecte quod est rigidum,  
Fove quod est frigidum,  
Rege quod est devium.

*Come, thou holy Paraclete,  
And from thy celestial seat  
Send thy light and brilliancy:*

*Father of the poor, draw near;  
Giver of all gifts, be here;  
Come, the soul's true radiancy:*

*Come, of comforters the best,  
Of the soul the sweetest guest,  
Come in toil refreshingly:*

*Thou in labour rest most sweet,  
Thou art shadow from the heat,  
Comfort in adversity.*

*O thou Light, most pure and blest,  
Shine within the inmost breast  
Of thy faithful company.*

*Where thou art not, man hath nought;  
Every holy deed and thought  
Comes from thy Divinity.*

*What is soiled, make thou pure;  
What is wounded, work its cure;  
What is parchèd, fructify;*

*What is rigid, gently bend;  
What is frozen, warmly tend;  
Straighten what goes erringly.*

---

Da tuis fidelibus,  
In te confidentibus,  
Sacrum septenarium.

*Fill thy faithful, who confide  
In thy power to guard and guide,  
With thy sevenfold Mystery.*

Da virtutis meritum,  
Da salutis exitum,  
Da perenne gaudium.

*Here thy grace and virtue send:  
Grant salvation in the end,  
And in heaven felicity.*

*The Golden Sequence (13th cent.)*

*(tr. J. M. Neale)*

### **9 Lord, thou hast been our refuge**

Lord, thou hast been our refuge: from one generation to another.  
Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made: thou art  
God from everlasting, and world without end.  
For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday: seeing that is past as a watch in the night.  
As soon as thou scatterest them they are even as a sleep: and fade away suddenly like the grass.  
In the morning it is green, and groweth up: but in the evening it is cut down, dried up, and withered.  
The days of our age are threescore years and ten; and though men be so strong that they come to  
fourscore years: yet is their strength then but labour and sorrow; so soon passeth it away, and we  
are gone.  
So teach us to number our days: that we may apply ourselves unto wisdom.  
Turn thee again, O Lord at the last: and be gracious unto thy servants.  
O satisfy us with thy mercy, and that soon: so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.  
Comfort us again now after the time that thou hast plagued us: and for the years wherein we have  
suffered adversity.  
Shew thy servants thy work: and their children thy glory.  
And the glorious Majesty of the Lord our God be upon us: prosper thou the work of our hands upon us,  
O prosper thou our handywork.  
Lord, thou hast been our refuge. Amen.

*from Psalm 90*

### **10 I am with you always**

Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

*Matthew 28, v.20*

---

I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more;  
but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.  
At that day ye shall know that I am in the Father, and ye in me, and I in you.  
He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth  
me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him.  
Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your  
heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

*John 14, vv. 18–21, 27*

### **11 The King of Blis**

*Gloria in altissimis,  
For nowe is borne the King of Blis.*

When Criste was borne, an angell bright  
To shepherdes keeping shepe that nyght  
Came and seyde with heav'nly light,  
'Now Crist is borne, the King of Blis.'

They dred gretely of that same light  
That shone so bright that tyme of nyght  
Through the vertu, the grace, and myght  
Of Goddes Son, the King of Blis.

The angell seyde, 'Drede ye nothing;  
Beholde, to you grete joye I bringe,  
And unto alle that be lyving,  
For now is born the King of Blis.'

'Go to Bethlem, and there ye shall  
With Marie mylde in an oxe stall  
Fynde an infante that men shall call  
The Son of God and King of Blis.'

---

They went forth to Bethlehem that stounde,  
And, as he tolde, a childe they founde  
In an ox stall in ragges wounde,  
The Son of God and King of Blis.

The shepherdes they went home ageyn,  
Magnifying God, in certayne,  
In alle that they had heard and seyn  
Of Goddes Sonne, the King of Blis.

On Twelfth Daye came kinges three  
With golde, incense, and myrrh so free,  
Unto Bethlem to seek and see  
The Sonne of God and King of Blis.

*Gloria . . .*

## **12 Winchester Te Deum**

We praise thee, O God: we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship thee: the Father everlasting.  
To thee all angels cry aloud: the heavens and all the Powers therein.  
To thee Cherubin and Seraphin: continually do cry,  
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of thy Glory.  
The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee,  
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee.  
The noble army of Martyrs praise thee.  
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee;  
The Father of an infinite Majesty,  
Thine honourable, true, and only Son;  
Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.  
Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ.

*James Ryman (15th cent.)*

---

Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.  
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man: thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.  
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death: thou didst open the Kingdom of heaven  
to all believers.  
Thou sittest at the right hand of God: in the glory of the Father.  
We believe that thou shalt come: to be our Judge.  
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants: whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.  
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints: in glory everlasting.  
O Lord, save thy people: and bless thine heritage.  
Govern them: and lift them up for ever.  
Day by day we magnify thee;  
And we worship thy Name: ever world without end.  
Vouchsafe, O Lord: to keep us this day without sin.  
O Lord, have mercy upon us.  
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us:  
As our trust is in thee.  
O Lord, in thee have I trusted: let me never be confounded. Alleluia.

*Early Church hymn, possibly 6th cent*

---

Recording produced by Thomas Hewitt Jones  
assisted by Matthew Bennett  
Tracks 3 and 7 produced by Simon Eadon  
Recorded in All Hallows' Church, Gospel Oak, London, June 2010  
(except tracks 3 and 7, recorded in Henry Wood Hall, London, June 2002)  
Custom three-manual digital organ supplied by Rodgers Classical Organs

Cover design: Wallis Agency  
Layout: Nick Findell

© 2003 and 2010 Collegium Records  
© 2010 Collegium Records

**Collegium Records**

P.O. Box 172, Whittlesford, Cambridge CB22 4QZ, England. [www.collegium.co.uk](http://www.collegium.co.uk)

**COLCD 135**

**STEREO DDD**

Made in the EU