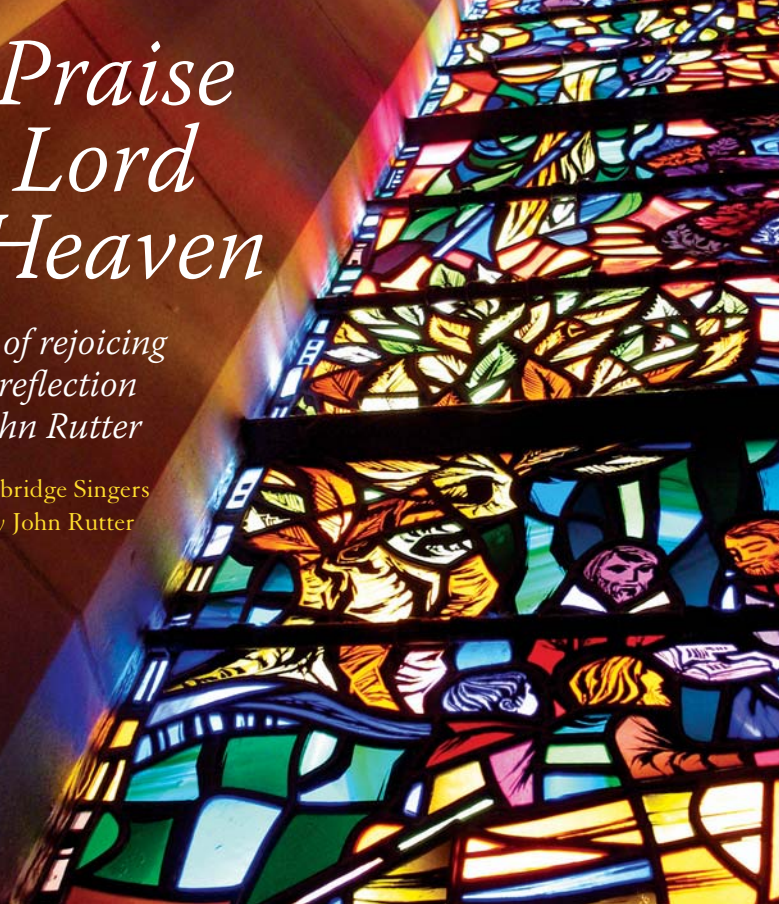


O Praise the Lord of Heaven

*Music of rejoicing
and reflection
by John Rutter*

*The Cambridge Singers
directed by John Rutter*



O Praise the Lord of Heaven

Music of rejoicing and reflection
by John Rutter

The music heard on this album was written for a variety of choirs and occasions over a period of many years. The earliest piece, *The Falcon*, is the largest and most ambitious; it was written in 1969 while I was still a student, for the choir and orchestra of the Cambridge University Musical Society and the choristers of King's College. At its heart is the medieval Corpus Christi Carol – an allegorical poem on the theme of Christ's Passion – framed by a psalm of rejoicing and a visionary prayer for peace.

My lifelong love of the psalms is reflected in three other pieces here – *O praise the Lord of heaven*, written for Westminster College Choir, Princeton in 1980; *I will lift up mine eyes*, written concurrently with my *Gloria* in 1974 for a choir in Omaha, Nebraska; and the brief but festive *Choral Fanfare*, written for a Carnegie Hall concert in 1989.

Canterbury Cathedral was the awe-inspiring setting for the 1988 première of the *Te Deum*, the occasion a centenary celebration of the Guild of Church Musicians, and the music pays homage to the grandeur and tradition of the cathedral. A similar ceremonial feeling underlies two of the hymn settings, *All creatures of our God and King* and *Now thank we all our God . . .* I do love the sound of fanfares in a great building and on a great occasion.

Gentleness and quiet reflection have perhaps a deeper place in my heart, and those qualities are to the fore in *Go forth into the world in peace* (1988) and *The peace of God* (1991), together with the two hymns which, unusually, I arranged with harp accompaniment for a Cambridge Singers recording in 2000, *The King of love my Shepherd is* and *Amazing grace*.

As an itinerant composer and conductor, I cherish my long association with the only choir I can call my own, the Cambridge Singers. Its members are busy freelance professional singers, and they meet only when we have a recording to make. In the choir's thirty-year existence the membership has inevitably changed, but its dedication to excellence remains unwavering and ever-inspiring.

JOHN RUTTER

O Praise the Lord of Heaven

Music of rejoicing and reflection by John Rutter

The Cambridge Singers

*City of London Sinfonia

**Choristers of St Paul's Cathedral

†John Scott (*organ*) ††Andrew Lucas (*organ*)

†††Thelma Owen (*harp*)

John Rutter conductor

*tracks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13–16 **tracks 14, 15

†tracks 1, 6, 16 ††tracks 13–15 †††tracks 7, 11

Total playing time: 75' 20"

Note: words credits are given at the end of each text.

All tracks are composed or arranged by John Rutter.

[1] O praise the Lord of heaven (5' 57")

[2] The peace of God (3' 06")

[3] A Choral Fanfare (2' 01")

[4] Christ the Lord is risen again (2' 48")

[5] I will lift up mine eyes (7' 11")

[6] All creatures of our God and King (4' 45")

Melody from *Geistliche Kirchengesang*, 1623

[7] The King of love my Shepherd is (4' 08")
Irish traditional melody

[8] Te Deum (7' 18")

[9] Go forth into the world in peace (2' 31")

[10] Behold, the tabernacle of God (4' 12")

[11] Amazing grace (4' 17")
Early American melody

[12] A Choral Amen (1' 08")

[13]–[15] THE FALCON (21' 30")

[13] First movement: *Vivace e ritmico* (5' 14")

[14] Second movement: *Lento* (10' 04")

[15] Third movement: *Passacaglia* (6' 11")
Note: the movements follow on without breaks

[16] Now thank we all our God (3' 34")
Melody by J. Crüger (1598–1662)

See page 15 for publishing information.

1 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.

Music: John Rutter
Words: Psalm 148

2 The peace of God

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the
knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God
Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Music: John Rutter
Words: from the Book of Common Prayer (1662)

3 A Choral Fanfare

Blow up the trumpet in the new moon: even in the time appointed, and upon our solemn feast-
day: for this was made a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob.

Music: John Rutter
Words: Psalm 81, vv. 3, 4

4 Christ the Lord is risen again

Christ the Lord is risen again!
Christ hath broken every chain!
Hark, the angels shout for joy,
Singing evermore on high,

Alleluya!

He who gave for us his life,
Who for us endured the strife,
Is our Paschal Lamb today!
We too sing for joy, and say

Alleluya!

He who bore all pain and loss
Comfortless upon the Cross,
Lives in glory now on high,
Pleads for us, and hears our cry.

Alleluya!

Now he bids us tell abroad
How the lost may be restored,
How the penitent forgiven,
How we too may enter heaven.

Alleluya!

Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, today thy people feed;
Take our sins and guilt away,
That we all may sing for aye,

Alleluya!

Music: John Rutter
Words: M. Weisse (c.1480–1534)
tr. C. Winckworth (1827–78)

5 I will lift up mine eyes

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills: from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh even from the Lord: who hath made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel: shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord himself is thy keeper: the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
So that the sun shall not burn thee by day: neither the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: yea, it is even thee that shall keep thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in: from this time forth for evermore.
Amen.

Music: John Rutter
Words: Psalm 121

6 All creatures of our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:
*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice;
Ye lights of evening, find a voice:

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire, so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light:

7 The King of love my Shepherd is

The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth.

Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them his glory also show:

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One:
*O praise him, O praise him.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Music: melody from 'Geistliche Kirchengesang'
1623, arr. John Rutter
Words: W. H. Draper (1855–1933),
based on St Francis of Assisi (1181–1226)*

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy Cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight,
Thy unction grace bestoweth:
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house for ever.

*Music: Irish traditional, arr. John Rutter
Words: H. W. Baker, based on Psalm 23*

8 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. 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: 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.

*Music: John Rutter
Words: from the Book of Common Prayer (1662)*

9 Go forth into the world in peace

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing

God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Music: John Rutter

Words: from the Book of Common Prayer (1928), slightly altered

[10] 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.

Music: John Rutter

Words: Sarum antiphon

[11] Amazing grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Music: Early American melody, arr. John Rutter
Words: John Newton; v. 6 added by unknown author

[12] A Choral Amen

Amen.

Music: John Rutter

The Falcon

[13] 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)

14 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 praegustatum 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 pependit 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.)*

15 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,

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.)

16 Now thank we all our God

Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore. Amen.

Music: J. Crüger, 1647, arr. John Rutter
Words: M. Rinckart (1586–1649), tr. C. Winckworth

Tracks 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13–15, and 16, are published by Oxford University Press in all countries.
Tracks 2, 3, 8, and 9 are published by Hinshaw Music, Inc. (in USA), Oxford University Press (rest of world).
Track 1 is published by Hinshaw Music, Inc., in all countries.
Tracks 7 and 11 are published by Hinshaw Music, Inc. (in USA), Collegium Music Publications (rest of world).



Collegium
RECORDS

CSCD 522

STEREO/DIGITAL DDD

Made in the EU

Recorded in Henry Wood Hall, London:

Tracks 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 16 (October 1989)

Recorded by the BBC Transcription Recording Unit.

Produced by Jillian White

Tracks 2, 12 (May 2005)

Recorded and produced by Simon Eadon

Recorded in the Great Hall of University College School, London:

Track 5 (January 1986); Tracks 1, 10 (January 1991)

Recorded by the BBC Transcription Recording Unit.

Produced by Jillian White

Tracks 13–15 (October 1991)

Recorded and produced by Campbell Hughes

Assisted by Simon Weir

Recorded in the Church of St Alban the Martyr, Holborn, London:

Tracks 7, 11 (February 2000)

Recorded and produced by Geoff Miles, for Floating Earth Ltd.

Cover Design: Nick Morris

Layout: Nick Findell

Photo: Stained glass window – Washington National Cathedral.

© 1986, 1989, 1991, 2000, 2005 Collegium Records

© 2013 Collegium Records