



NAXOS



JOHN RUTTER

Anthems, Hymns and
Gloria for Brass Band

arr. Luc Vertommen

Black Dyke Band

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus

Nicholas Childs • Darius Battiwalla

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Anthems, Hymns and Gloria for Brass Band

John Rutter was born in London and educated at Highgate School in North London. As a young boy soprano he took part in the first recording of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* under the composer's baton in 1963. Rutter began to develop speedily into the multi-faceted composer of international repute that he is today.

He then read music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he was a member of the choir and served as director of music from 1975 to 1979. Rutter had tutorial responsibility for the undergraduates coupled with the daily running of the chapel choir. The choir was one of the first in Cambridge to mix male and female voices. Rutter started the choir's rise to international fame.

In 1981 Rutter founded his own choir, the Cambridge Singers, which he conducts and with which he has made many recordings (including of his own works). John Rutter resides at Hemingford Abbots in Cambridgeshire and frequently conducts choirs and orchestras around the world. In 1980, he was made an honorary Fellow of Westminster Choir College, Princeton, and in 1988 a Fellow of The Guild of Church Musicians. In 1996, the Archbishop of Canterbury conferred a Lambeth Doctorate of Music upon him in recognition of his contribution to church music. Rutter worked as an arranger and editor and collaborated with Sir David Willcocks on the successful *Carols for Choirs* anthology series.

Rutter's music is eclectic and shows influences of the French and English choral traditions of the early 20th century as well as influences from light music and American classic songwriting. Almost every choral anthem and hymn has an orchestral accompaniment in a more colourful form in addition to the standard organ or piano accompaniment.

Church music has played a significant and cherished part in John Rutter's life. Most of his sacred music has been written in response to commissions and primarily intended for use in the context of a church service.

Gloria, a concert work, despite the use of a religious text, in fact marks the occasion of Rutter's very first

engagement in the United States. The work was commissioned by The Voices of Mel Olsen in Omaha, Nebraska, who invited Rutter to direct the first performance on 5 May 1974. The words come from the second section (the Hymn of Praise) of the Ordinary of the Mass, which in the liturgy follows the Kyrie. The familiar opening words are those of the angels proclaiming the birth of Jesus, as found in the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke. Rutter's setting is based largely on one of the Gregorian chants with which the text is associated. He describes the three movements as '...roughly corresponding to traditional symphonic structure', the mood of the sections being respectively '...exalted, devotional and jubilant by turns'. The use of organ, brass and percussion makes for plenty of joyful noise unto the Lord in the outer movements and yet also for a hauntingly ethereal, softly and introspective middle section. Rutter had his first great international success with this vivaciously exhilarating work in 1974.

A decade later this amazing feat would be achieved again in a composition that remains one of the most popular works in the repertoire. The *Requiem* (1985) was composed in memory of John Rutter's father, who died the previous year. The *Pie Jesu* for soprano solo is a personal prayer to Christ and one of the seven sections of the work to form an arch-like meditation on themes of life and death.

Rutter's years as director of music at Clare College, Cambridge inevitably inspired plenty of music. Clare College has remained close to Rutter's heart in the years since 1979, and he has offered further gifts of music. Two works designed to provide a contemplative mood in which to end chapel services can be found here. *Go Forth into the World in Peace* (1988) was written for the choir of Clare College and their director of music Timothy Brown to take on a tour of the US in the 1980s. The brief, tender choral blessing *A Clare Benediction*, written in 1998, was named in honour of his alma mater, Clare College, Cambridge.

Friendship pure and simple is one key inspiration for John Rutter's music. *As the Bridegroom to His Chosen* was written for the wedding of Jeremy Taylor and Mary Mure, two members of Rutter's own Cambridge Singers. There are few better examples of the classic Rutter talent for writing gracious, melting melodies that caress the mind for days.

What Sweeter Music was written especially for King's College Choir in 1987.

The Lord Bless You and Keep You was written in 1981 in memory of Edward Chapman, sometime director of music at Highgate School in London.

Distant Land was originally written in 1991 as a choral piece (subtitled *A Prayer for Freedom*) inspired by the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. John Rutter was encouraged to make an orchestral version of it by Mark Wilkinson at Universal Classics, who suggested that a

number of his shorter choral pieces with orchestra might work in a purely orchestral form.

John Rutter's anthems *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and *For the Beauty of the Earth* for mixed voices are short sacred choral works in the tradition of the Anglican church music. The choral song *This is the Day* was composed for the wedding of HRH Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton and first performed in Westminster Abbey on 29 April 2011.

All Creatures of our God and King was written for Simon Lindley and the boys of St Albans School, and *Now thank we all our God* was written in 1974 for John W.R. Taylor and the Staffordshire County Youth Choir and Orchestra. Both were published as *Two Hymns of Praise* (with introductory fanfares).

Luc Vertommen

Gloria

13 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.)

14 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.

15 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)

13 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.)

14 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, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

15 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)

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus

Patrons: Samuel West and Petroc Trelawny

Music Director: Darius Battiwalla



challenging and exciting programme under the vibrant and inspiring leadership of its music director, Darius Battiwalla. It has participated in the Proms on a number of occasions.

www.sheffieldphil.org

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus is South Yorkshire's foremost large mixed-voice chorus, singing regularly with leading orchestras including the BBC Philharmonic, the Northern Sinfonia and the Manchester Camerata, and with internationally renowned conductors such as Gianandrea Noseda, Nicholas Kraemer and James Burton. The Chorus is proud to be resident chorus at Sheffield City Hall, performing with orchestra in residence the Hallé and acclaimed soloists as part of the Sheffield International Concert Season. The Chorus was founded in 1935 as the resident chorus for the new Philharmonic Society's series of concerts in Sheffield City Hall. It was formed from two Sheffield choirs whose origins date back to the 1860s. The Chorus continues to sing with leading conductors and orchestras and fulfils a

Darius Battiwalla



Darius Battiwalla has been music director of the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus since 1997. He has conducted the choir in performances with the Hallé Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the Northern Sinfonia, and directed from the harpsichord with the Manchester Camerata. Since he took over as music director, the choir has performed from memory for the first time, and has appeared at the BBC Proms and on recordings for Chandos with the BBC Philharmonic. In 2006 Battiwalla returned to work with the Melbourne Chorale. Before taking up his post at Sheffield he was chorusmaster of Leeds Philharmonic Chorus. He has worked regularly as guest chorusmaster or conductor with many other choirs including the CBSO Chorus, Huddersfield Choral Society and Netherlands Radio Choir. Recent highlights include working with the Lucerne Festival Academy in preparation for a performance of Berio's *Coro* conducted by Simon Rattle, and serving as guest chorusmaster for the Northern Sinfonia for Paul McCreesh.

www.sheffieldphil.org/about-us/our-music-director/

Black Dyke Band



Black Dyke Band holds the highest rank in the worldwide brass band community. Critics have rightfully declared it to 'stand alone' in the history of brass bands. Black Dyke has continued to win significant competitions under its music director, Nicholas Childs, and in 2015 the band became European Champion Band for the 13th time – in 2014 the band, for the 30th time, was declared British Open Champions. The band has also been National Champion of Great Britain on 23 occasions. In 2009, and again in 2011, 2012 and 2013, it became Champion Band at the English National Championships. Black Dyke Band is the most recorded band in the world, with over 360 recordings and the number growing every year. Under Nicholas Childs, it has received multiple CD of the Year awards in the brass press. In 2007 Black Dyke was invited to take part in the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

The band has appeared in major concerts halls around the world from New York to Tokyo. Its performing and recording schedule can be considered among the busiest and most productive of any British brass band. The band logo of the stag's head and Latin quotation are taken from the armorial bearings granted in 1857 to John Foster, founder of the band. The quotation translates to 'Act Justly and Fear Nothing.'

www.blackdykeband.co.uk

Nicholas Childs



Nicholas Childs has achieved the highest international reputation as a performer, teacher, conductor, interpreter and advocate of new music, and producer of pace-setting recordings. He has been marked with continued contest success, including the British Open, National and European Brass Band Championships. Further acclaim has come for his many innovative concerts and world premieres. His recordings with Black Dyke Band have been heralded as the very best in the brass band world, winning multiple CD of the Year awards. Childs gives particular emphasis to the development of the brass band movement through his commitment to training outstanding young musicians both at the collegiate level as well as within the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band, and the National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain, of which he is founder and music director. He currently serves as professor of music at the Royal Northern College of Music.

John Rutter, Britain's most successful contemporary choral composer, has written most of his sacred music to commission, and for use in church services. Composed for his first American tour, *Gloria* was also his first great international success, combining an ethereal quality with moments of exhilaration. Two other popular works are also represented: *Pie Jesu* from the *Requiem*, and *This is the Day*, composed for the wedding of HRH Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011.

John
RUTTER
(b. 1945)



Two Hymns of Praise (1974) 8:28	9 The Lord Bless You and Keep You (1981) 2:50
1 No. 1. Now thank we all our God 4:25	10 All Things Bright and Beautiful (1983) 2:49
2 No. 2. All creatures of our God and King 4:01	11 For the Beauty of the Earth (1980) 3:44
3 A Clare Benediction (1998) 2:58	12 This is the Day (2011) 4:38
4 What Sweeter Music (1987) 4:22	Gloria (1974) 18:10
5 Requiem: Pie Jesu (1985) 3:21	13 I. Allegro vivace 5:15
6 As the Bridegroom to His Chosen (1989) 2:58	14 II. Andante 7:16
7 Go Forth into the World in Peace (1988) 2:30	15 III. Vivace e ritmico 5:37
8 Distant Land (A Prayer for Freedom) (1991) 4:48	All works arranged by Luc Vertommen (b. 1968)

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

Richard Marshall, Cornet Solo 5

Black Dyke Band • Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus 13–15

Nicholas Childs 1–12, Darius Battiwalla 13–15, Conductor

Recorded: 4 July and 17 October 2019 at Morley Town Hall, West Yorkshire 1–12
and 21 October 2019 at St Oswald's Church, Sheffield, South Yorkshire 13–15, UK
Producers: Nicholas Childs, Philip Hardman • Engineer and editor: Philip Hardman
Assistant engineer: Stephen Scott • Booklet notes: Luc Vertommen • Publisher: Band Press VOF
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