

Montgomery Philharmonic 2017 - 18 Our 12th Season : Old Friends ... New Friends

Concert 2, Sunday, December 10, 2017 : Old Friends ... New Friends

Händel | Rutter | **Leavitt** | **Powell**

About John Milford Rutter –

John Rutter was born in September 1945 to an industrial chemist and his wife. He spent his childhood over the Globe pub on Marylebone Road and went to Highgate School in London. Rutter sang in the choir and was part of the choir that sang for the premiere of Benjamin Britten's conducting his *War Requiem* in 1963. He went on to earn a Doctor of Music at Clare College, Cambridge, and later was appointed Director of Music from 1975 to 1979. After resigning from Clare College, Rutter founded his own choir, the Cambridge Singers.

Most of Rutter's output is choir music, including hundreds of short works for churches and the Cambridge Singers. Rutter's music is influenced by the French and English choral traditions of the early 20th century and has a commercial influence of lighter music from American songwriting of the early 20th century. Most of Rutter's works are published with instrumental accompaniments, along with the traditional piano/organ accompaniment. Many are also published for concert band and choir.

It is interesting to note that, although most of Rutter's compositions are religious in nature, in an interview for the TV program *60 Minutes* he said that he was not a particularly religious man. He did write one mass, *Mass of the Children*, in 2003 after his son passed away while studying at Clare College.

Rutter's music is very popular in the United States because it is so accessible. Choirs all over the world say that his melodies are infectious and the harmonies are pleasing to the ear. His music lies well in the voice and the instrumental parts are attainable with very little rehearsal. *The Guardian* remarked that "it is as a writer of carols that he has really made his mark."

Rutter's music has also been criticized. British composer David Arditti didn't regard him as a sufficiently "serious" composer, saying that he is "hard to take seriously, because of the way in which his sheer technical facility or versatility leads to a superficial, unstable crossover style which is neither quite classical nor pop, and which tends towards mawkish sentimentality in his sugarily-harmonised and orchestrated melodies."

- **Born:** September 24, 1945, London, England
- **Nationality:** English
- **Compositions:** 9 large works for soloists, choir, and orchestra including a setting of Psalm 150 for the Queen's Golden Jubilee; *Mass of the Children*; 4 volumes of *Carols for Choirs*; edited the first 2 volumes of *Oxford Choral Classics*, *Opera choruses*, and *European Sacred Music*; 27 Christmas carols; 58 anthems for churches including a new anthem, "This is the Day," for the wedding of Prince William to Catherine Middleton in 2011; the opera *Bang!* for young people; 34 works for choir with various accompaniments; a piano concerto, music for television; small instrumental pieces
- **Wife:** Joanne Rutter
- **Children:** 2 Sons, Nick and Christopher (was killed while crossing the street in 2002 while studying music at Clare College)

Gloria (1974) – John Rutter (b. 1945)

John Rutter set the Latin Gloria part of the mass for a commission for The Voices of Mel Olson, a choir in Omaha, Nebraska. Mel Olson was the American choir director who introduced John Rutter's works to the United States. This was Olsen's first commission, so he traveled to London to meet with Rutter, giving him specific ideas about the composition. Rutter later said, "Much of the credit must go to Mel Olson ... because, in telling me what he was looking for in a new choral work, he was telling me what thousands of other choral directors were looking for too." Olson was so influential on Rutter's career that Rutter dedicated several works to him and his choirs.

Rutter divided the *Gloria* text into three parts – *Allegro vivace – Gloria in excelsis Deo*, *Andante – Domine Deus*, and *Vivace e ritmico – Quoniam in solus sanctus*.

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,
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will. We praise You, we bless You, we adore You, we glorify You, we give You thanks for Your great glory.

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis [coelestis], Deus Pater omnipotens.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God Almighty Father.

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe, Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis;
Lord Jesus Christ, Only-Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.
Who takes away the sins of the world, hear our prayer. You Who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

Instrumentation – SATB chorus, 4 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, 2 percussion (snare drum, suspended cymbals, glockenspiel, xylophone, crash cymbal), organ

Artifacts –

[Website of John Rutter](#)

[John Rutter on the importance of choirs](#)


1. Rutter: Gloria - Bernstein: Chichester Psalms - Poulenc: Quatre petites prières - Choir of Clare College Cambridge, Timothy Brown, Corydon Singers & Matthew Best
2. Rutter: Gloria - Magnificat - Te Deum - Ensemble DeChorum, St. Albans Cathedral Choirs, Andrew Lucas & Elizabeth Cragg
3. Rutter: Magnificat - Gloria - Choir of King's College, Cambridge, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Gonville & Caius College Choir & Stephen Cleobury

1. Gloria: Vocal score
2. Gloria
3. Gloria: The Sacred Music of John Rutter

YouTube.com Links –

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=79&v=Y-L_6jj2R6k

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8MATqJI19s>

Angel's Carol – John Rutter (b. 1945)

John Rutter wrote the *Angel's Carol* in 1980 for women's voices and harp. The piece is very popular in England and has been associated with Christmas Festivities since its premiere. The piece was so popular with choirs both in England and in the United States, that Rutter arranged the carol, later for a smaller pace in the animals at the farm. These types of

Instrumentation – SSAA Choir and Harp


1. John Rutter Christmas Album - Stephen Varcoe, The Cambridge Singers, John Rutter, City of London Sinfonia, Ruth Holton & Gerald Finley
2. Rutter: Music for Christmas - Polyphony, City of London Sinfonia & Stephen Layton

1. Very Best of John Rutter
2. The John Rutter Christmas Album

YouTube.com Links –

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAR_49lAv1k

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTl16egAmxA>