



BE THOU  
MY VISION

SACRED MUSIC BY  
JOHN RUTTER

THE CAMBRIDGE  
SINGERS



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## *John Rutter writes . . .*

The church anthems I have composed over the years are scattered among several Cambridge Singers recordings, and this CD came about because it seemed a good idea to gather a selection of them together into one place.

The term 'anthem' sometimes causes some puzzlement. It is nothing more than a piece of music for choir which is sung at a certain point in a church service, and it can be a setting of any sacred text in any language, though if it is in Latin the term 'motet' is preferred when the service is a Mass rather than an Anglican office. Anthems can be short or long, simple or complex, accompanied or for choir alone (the term for this is *a cappella*), and among the twenty-one anthems on this disc you will find examples of all these types. In church the accompaniment is generally for organ, but the use of instruments or even whole orchestras is not uncommon, especially in the United States, and most of my anthem accompaniments exist in both organ and orchestral versions. The orchestral versions (which I have to admit I prefer, because I love writing for orchestra) are the ones recorded here.

Almost all my church music has been written in response to commissions or invitations from churches or individuals connected with them – in my earlier years, from the USA more than anywhere else – generally in celebration of some special occasion or anniversary. I remember many of these people and places fondly.

There is no reason not to enjoy church music outside of church, and I hope this recorded recital gives you pleasure.

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# BE THOU MY VISION

## Sacred Music by John Rutter

The Cambridge Singers • City of London Sinfonia  
directed by John Rutter

Total playing time: 75' 09"

All compositions are by John Rutter

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

- 1 Be thou my vision (4' 18")
- 2 Open thou mine eyes (2' 37")
- 3 I will sing with the spirit (3' 02")
- 4 A Gaelic Blessing (1' 48")
- 5 Wings of the morning (5' 40")
- 6 O be joyful in the Lord (3' 17")
- 7 All things bright and beautiful (2' 43")
- 8 I will lift up mine eyes (7' 10")
- 9 As the bridegroom to his chosen (3' 22")

- 10 A Prayer of Saint Patrick (1' 30")
- 11 Loving Shepherd of thy sheep (3' 20")  
*Soprano solo: Caroline Ashton*
- 12 Look at the world (4' 33")
- 13 O clap your hands (3' 12")
- 14 The Lord is my light and my salvation (7' 14")  
*Clarinet: David Rix*
- 15 Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace (2' 55")
- 16 I believe in springtime (3' 02")
- 17 God be in my head (1' 29")
- 18 A Clare Benediction (3' 07")
- 19 For the beauty of the earth (3' 39")
- 20 Thy perfect love (2' 44")
- 21 The Lord bless you and keep you (2' 39")

Tracks 1–3, 5, 7, 9–12, 14, 16, 18, 19 and 21 are published by Oxford University Press (UK and most other countries) and by Hinshaw Music Inc. (USA).

Tracks 6, 8, 13, 17 and 20 are published world-wide by Oxford University Press.

Tracks 4 and 15 are published by Hinshaw Music Inc. (USA) and by RSCM Publications (in all other countries).

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## 1 BE THOU MY VISION

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;  
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;  
Be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart::  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;  
Great heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*(Irish, c.8th century tr. Mary Byrne, 1880–1931, versified Eleanor Hull, 1860–1935)*

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## 2 OPEN THOU MINE EYES

Open thou mine eyes and I shall see:  
Incline my heart and I shall desire:  
Order my steps and I shall walk  
In the ways of thy commandments.

O Lord God, be thou to me a God  
And beside thee let there be none else,  
No other, naught else with thee.

Vouchsafe to me to worship thee and  
serve thee  
According to thy commandments  
In truth of spirit, in reverence of body,  
In blessings of lips,  
In private and in public.

*(Lancelot Andrewes, 1555–1626,  
from Preces Privatae)*

## 3 I WILL SING WITH THE SPIRIT

I will sing with the spirit, alleluia.  
And I will sing with the understanding also, alleluia.

*(1 Corinthians 14, v.15)*

## 4 A GAELIC BLESSING

Deep peace of the running wave to you,  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,  
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,  
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,  
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you.

*(adapted from an old Gaelic rune)*

## 5 WINGS OF THE MORNING

If I take the wings of the morning,  
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;  
Even there shall thy hand lead me,  
And thy right hand shall hold me.

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If I climb up into heaven, thou art there:  
If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.  
O Lord, thou hast searched me and known me.  
Thou knowest my down-sitting and my uprising,  
Thou understandest my thought afar off.  
Thou compassest my path and my lying down,  
And art acquainted with all my ways.  
For there is not a word in my tongue,  
But lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether:  
Whither shall I go from thy spirit?  
Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?  
Lord, thou art there.

If I take the wings of the morning,  
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;  
Even there shall thy hand lead me,  
And thy right hand shall hold me.  
If I say, surely the darkness shall cover me;  
Even the night shall be light about me.  
Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee:  
But the night shineth as the day.

If I take the wings of the morning,  
Thou art there, O Lord, thou art there.

*(from Psalm 139)*

## **[6] O BE JOYFUL IN THE LORD**

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

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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)*

## **[7] ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL**

*All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning,  
That brightens up the sky;

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden –  
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

*(Mrs. C. F. Alexander, 1818-95)*

## **[8] 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;

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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 he that shall keep thy soul.  
The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in: from this time forth for  
evermore. Amen.

*(Psalm 121)*

### 9 AS THE BRIDEGROOM TO HIS CHOSEN

As the bridegroom to his chosen,  
As the king unto his realm,  
As the keeper to the castle,  
As the pilot to the helm,  
As the captain to his soldiers,  
As the shepherd to his lambs,  
So, Lord, art thou to me.

As the ruby in the setting,  
As the honey in the comb,  
As the light within the lantern,  
As the father in the home,  
As the eagle in the mountains,  
As the sparrow in the nest,  
So, Lord, art thou to me.

As the fountain in the garden,  
As the candle in the dark,  
As the treasure in the coffer,  
As the manna in the ark,  
As the firelight in the winter,  
As the sunlight in the spring,  
So, Lord, art thou to me.

As the sunshine in the heavens,  
As the image in the glass,  
As the fruit unto the fig-tree,  
As the dew unto the grass,  
As the rainbow on the hilltop,  
As the river in the plain,  
So, Lord, art thou to me.

*John Tauler, 1300–61, tr. E.F. Bevan,  
1827–1909;*

*lines 5 and 6 of each stanza added, J.R.*

As the music at the banquet,  
As the stamp unto the seal,  
As refreshment to the fainting,  
As the wine-cup at the meal,  
As the singing on the feast-day,  
As the amen to the prayer,  
So, Lord, art thou to me.

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### 10 A PRAYER OF SAINT PATRICK

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ above me, Christ beneath me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

*(from Saint Patrick's Breastplate, 5th cent.,  
tr. Mrs. C. F. Alexander)*

### 11 LOVING SHEPHERD OF THY SHEEP

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep,  
Keep thy lamb, in safety keep;  
Nothing can thy power withstand,  
None can pluck me from thy hand.

Loving Shepherd, ever near,  
Teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;  
Suffer not my steps to stray  
From the straight and narrow way.

I would bless thee every day,  
Gladly all thy will obey,  
Like thy blessed ones above,  
Happy in thy perfect love.

Where thou leadest I would go,  
Walking in thy steps below,  
Till before my Father's throne,  
I shall know as I am known.

*(Jane Leeson, 1807–82)*

### 12 LOOK AT THE WORLD

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

*Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation,*

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*Give us thankful hearts, that we may see:  
All the gifts we share, and every 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:

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:

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:

*(John Rutter)*

### **13 O CLAP YOUR HANDS**

O clap your hands together, all ye people: O sing unto God with the voice of melody.  
For the Lord is high, and to be feared: he is the great King upon all the earth.  
He shall subdue the people under us: and the nations under our feet.  
He shall choose out an heritage for us: even the worship of Jacob, whom he loved.  
God is gone up with a merry noise: and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.  
O sing praises, sing praises unto our God: O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.  
For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.  
(O clap your hands together, all ye people.)

*(Psalm 47, vv. 1–7)*

### **14 THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid? Though an host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid: and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him. One thing have desired of the Lord, which I will require; even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle: yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone. Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness: I will sing, and speak praises unto the Lord. Harken unto my voice, O Lord, when I cry unto thee: have mercy upon me and hear me. My heart hath talked of thee, Seek ye my face: thy face, Lord, will I seek. O hide not thou thy face from me, nor cast thy servant away in displeasure. Thou hast been my succour: leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. When my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord taketh me up. Be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord.

*(Psalm 27 excerpted)*

### **15 LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE**

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy; and all for thy mercy's sake. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

*(tr. from St Francis of Assisi, 1181–1226)*

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**16 I BELIEVE IN SPRINGTIME**

I believe in springtime: fresh and new and bright;  
I believe in morning dew and shining morning light.  
I believe in sunbeams, melting all the snow;  
And I believe when winter's done  
The streams will run and rivers flow.  
I believe in eagles soaring up so high;  
I believe in trees and mountains reaching to the sky.  
I believe in green things; all the gifts of earth;  
Growing up from tiny seeds that spring has brought to birth.  
I believe in summer; I believe in fall:  
But most of all I believe in God  
Who made it and blessed it all.

I believe in people, living all as one;  
Sharing all their songs and laughter, happiness and fun;  
I believe in friendship: taking time to care;  
And feeling sure of someone else,  
And someone feeling glad you're there.  
Then I start to wonder how it all might be  
If the world could live together just like you and me.  
I believe in hoping; I believe in prayer;  
I believe in trying hard and learning how to share.  
I believe in dreaming; and, when dreams are through,  
Then I believe in trusting God  
To help me make dreams come true.

*(John Rutter)*

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**17 GOD BE IN MY HEAD**

God be in my head and in my understanding.  
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.  
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.  
God be in my heart and in my thinking.  
God be at mine end and in my departing.

*(From the Sarum Primer, 1545)*

**18 A CLARE BENEDICTION**

May the Lord show his mercy upon you;  
May the light of his presence be your guide:  
May he guard you and uphold you;  
May his spirit be ever by your side.  
When you sleep, may his angels watch over you;  
When you wake, may he fill you with his grace:  
May you love him and serve him all your days,  
Then in heaven may you see his face.

*(John Rutter)*

**19 FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH**

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild:

For each perfect gift of thine  
To our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine,  
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

*(F. S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, slightly altered)*

### 20 **THY PERFECT LOVE**

Jesu, my love, my joy, my rest,  
Thy perfect love close in my breast  
That I thee love and never rest;  
And make me love thee of all things best,  
And wounde my heart in thy love free,  
That I may reign in joy evermore with thee.

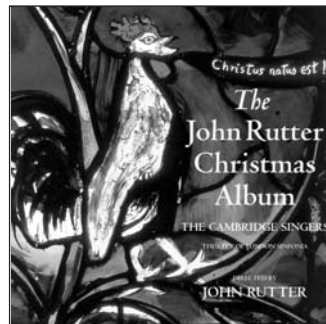
*(15th century English)*

### 21 **THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU**

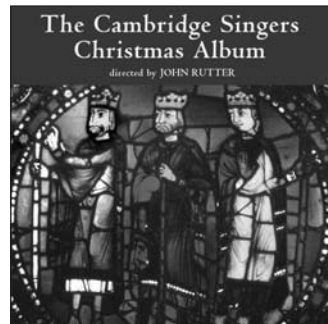
The Lord bless you and keep you: the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

*(Numbers 6, v. 24)*

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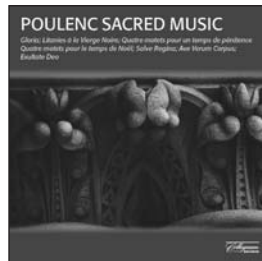
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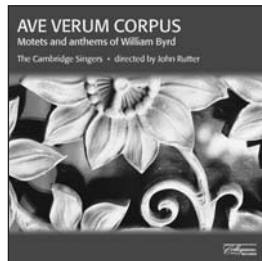
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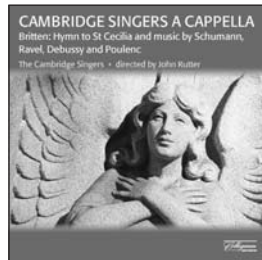
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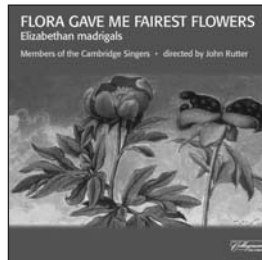
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Tracks 2, 4, 7, 10, 13, 17, 19, and 21 are taken from  
the Collegium album *Gloria* (COLCD 100), recorded October 1983.

Track 8 is from *Requiem* (COLCD 103, n/a), recorded January 1986.

Tracks 1, 6, 8, 14, 15, 16, and 20 are from *Te Deum* (COLCD 112), recorded October 1989.

Track 11 is from *Hail! gladdening Light* (COLCD 113), recorded October 1990.

Tracks 3, 5, 12, and 18 are from *Mass of the Children* (COLCD 129), recorded June 2002.

Album produced by Jillian White (except for COLCD 129 tracks, produced by Simon Eadon).  
COLCD 100, 103, and 129 were recorded in the Great Hall of University College School, London.

COLCD 113 was recorded in the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral.

COLCD 112 was recorded in Henry Wood Hall, London.

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