

RUTTER PSALMFEST



The Choirs of St Albans Cathedral Royal Philharmonic Orchestra • Andrew Lucas

John RUTTER

(b. 1945)

	Psalmfest (1993)	50:25
1	O be joyful in the Lord (Psalm 100)	3:44
2	I will lift up mine eyes (Psalm 121)	8:31
3	Praise the Lord, O my soul (Psalm 146)	4:11
4	The Lord is my shepherd (Psalm 23)	5:03
5	Cantate Domino (Psalm 96/Veni Creator Spiritus)	5:14
6	The Lord is my light and my salvation (Psalm 27)	7:14
7	O clap your hands (Psalm 47)	3:37
8	O how amiable are thy dwellings (Psalm 84)	6:24
9	O praise the Lord of heaven (Psalm 148)	6:26
10	This is the day (2011) (Psalms 118, 148, 91, 121 & 27)	5:04
11	Lord, Thou hast been our refuge (2008) (Psalm 90)	10:37
12	Psalm 150 (2002) (Psalm 150)	5:37



John Anthony Birch (9th July, 1929-28th April, 2012) was an organist, choral director and teacher. He studied at the Royal College of Music, London, where eventually he became a professor of organ from 1959-1997. Birch was Organist and Master of the Choristers at Chichester Cathedral from 1958 to 1980 where he was active in commissioning new choral works for the Cathedral Choir, including pieces from many leading composers including Leonard Bernstein, William Walton, Lennox Berkeley, and Herbert Howells. In 1982, Birch became Director of Music at Temple Church, succeeding Sir George Thalben-Ball. Two years later he was appointed Curator-Organist at the Royal

Albert Hall and was also the long-serving organist for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, recording widely, particularly in orchestral repertoire, holding both of these positions until his death. He also worked closely with John Rutter, featuring on several of Rutter's recordings. He held an honorary MA from the University of Sussex and the Lambeth degree of Doctor of Music. In his will he left generous bequests to several foundations and organisations. Part of the bequest to St Albans Cathedral has been used to finance this recording in his memory.

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Psalmfest · This is the day · Lord, Thou hast been our refuge · Psalm 150

inspiration to composers, and have been set to music innumerable times. They were, of course, written with musical setting in mind, and they have a satisfying inbuilt rhetorical structure which lends itself to music: the first half of each verse builds up towards a climax followed by a pause, then the second half falls away again to a relaxed ending - the poetic equivalent of a gothic arch. The style of language of the original Hebrew, moreover, has generally drawn out the best in translators, and such psalms as are not purely narrative are often beautiful and musical-sounding purely as poetry. In the English Church the two most familiar translations probably remain those of the 1611 Bible and the 1662 Book of Common Praver. the latter version kept alive from its continued use today in cathedral worship. In fact the 1662 versions are often older than those of 1611, being based largely on Miles Coverdale's translations from the first English Bible of 1535, and they are the ones I have generally turned to when undertaking psalm settings.

The most powerful reason composers remain attracted to the psalms, however, is perhaps because they express such a rich gamut of intensely human and timeless emotions; hope, faith, trust, joy, and wonder and then, some uncomfortable ones which Christians may struggle with but which everyone has experienced: selfpity, jealousy, vengefulness, spite, anger, and sometimes a sense of having been abandoned by God.

For whatever combination of reasons. I seem to have composed quite a number of psalm settings over the years, and this album gathers together twelve of them. Psalmfest (1993) is a collection of nine of these settings. written over a period of some twenty years. Seven of the movements had previously been written and published separately as anthems, though Cantate Domino was previously unpublished and, exceptionally, O how amiable are thy dwellings was newly composed. Three of the eight pre-existing movements were adapted to incorporate soprano and baritone soloists, including The

For centuries the psalms of David have been a source of Lord is my shepherd, which in its original choir-only version had been included in my Requiem of 1985.

The slightly complicated history of Psalmfest does not, I hope, obscure its simple purpose, which was to open up a group of my psalm settings to concert audiences rather than just church congregations. The complexity and style of the music varies from movement to movement, but, in the spirit of King David, melody and song are never far away, and above all I sought always to be true to the emotional and spiritual sense of the texts.

Psalmfest was first performed in the Morton Meverson Hall, Dallas, then in Carnegie Hall, New York, in June 1993. The original performers were the combined high school choirs of Garland, Texas.

The three individual psalm settings making up the remainder of this album were written for special occasions, two of these taking place in St Paul's Cathedral, London, the third in Westminster Abbey. This is the day (2011), its text drawn from five psalms, was composed for the wedding in Westminster Abbey of Prince William and Kate Middleton (the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge). Lord, Thou hast been our refuge (2008) was written for the annual City United Guilds service in St Paul's Cathedral; this magnificent cathedral was also the scene of Her Maiesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee service in 2002, for which I was asked to compose a setting of Psalm 150. Taking advantage of the unique architecture and acoustics of St Paul's, I specified that for the interpolated Latin portions of the text a trio of choristers should sing from high up in the dome gallery, an effect skilfully simulated in the present recording, which took place in the magnificent but domeless St Albans Cathedral.

John Rutter

This recording was made possible by a bequest to the Cathedral by the late Dr John Birch, organist of the RPO, to whose memory this recording is dedicated.

Psalmfest

1 1. 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 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. O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands. Glory be to the Father; glory be 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 2. 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 he that shall keep thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy comino in: from this time forth for evermore. Amen.

Psalm 12

3 3. Praise the Lord, O my soul

Praise the Lord, O my soul; while I live will I praise the Lord: yea, as long as I have any being, I will sing praises unto my God. O put not your trust in princes, nor in any child of man: for there is no help in them. For when the breath of man goeth forth he shall turn again to his earth: and then all his thoughts perish. Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help: and whose hope is in the Lord his God; Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: who keepeth his promise for ever; Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong; who feedeth the

hungry. The Lord looseth men out of prison: the Lord giveth sight to the blind. The Lord helpeth them that are fallen: the Lord careth for the righteous. The Lord careth for the strangers; he defendeth the fatherless and widow: as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down. The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore: and throughout all generations. 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 146

4 4. The Lord is my shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full. But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

5 5. Cantate Domino

Cantate Domino canticum novum.

O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth. Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name: be telling of his salvation from day to day. Declare his honour unto the heathen: and his wonders unto all people. For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised: he is more to be feared than all gods. As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols: but it is the Lord that made the heavens. Glory and worship are before him: power and honour are in his sanctuary. Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name: bring presents, and come into his courts. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: let the whole earth stand in awe of him. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be clad: for he cometh to judge the earth.

from Psalm 96

Veni Creator Spiritus,
Mentes tuorum visita:
Imple superna gratia
Quae tu creasti pectora.
(Come, O Creator Spirit, come,
And make within our hearts thy home;
To us thy grace celestial give,
Who of thy breathing move and live.)

9th-century hymn

Cantate Domino canticum novum.

6 6. The Lord is my light and my salvation

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall 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, vet 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 I 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. Hearken 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

from Psalm 27

7 7. 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 trump. O sing praises, sing praises unto our God: O sing praises, sing praises unto our God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. O clap your hands together, all ye people.

from Psalm 47

8 8. O how amiable are thy dwellings

O how amiable are thy dwellings: thou Lord of hosts! My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house; they will be alway praising thee. Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee: in whose heart are thy ways. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: hearken, O God of Jacob. Behold, O God our defender: and look upon the face of thine Anointed. For one day in thy courts: is better than a thousand. I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God: than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness. For the Lord God is a light and defence: the Lord will give grace and worship. and no good thing shall he withhold from them that live a godly life. O Lord God of hosts: blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.

from Psalm 84

9 9. 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. 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 heavens, praise him, praise the Lord of heaven. Amen.

Psalm 148

10 This is the day

This is the day which the Lord hath made:
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

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,
let them praise the Name of the Lord;

For he shall give his angels charge over thee: to keep thee in all thy ways.

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:

o that the sun shall not burn thee by day: neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil:

vea, 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.

He shall defend thee under his wings.

Be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord.

Psalm 118 (line 1), 148 (lines 2-4), 91 (lines 5 and 10), 121 (lines 6-9), and 27 (line 11).

⊞ 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 Maiesty 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

12 Psalm 150

O praise God in his holiness: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him in his noble acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Laudate Dominum in sanctis eius:

laudate eum in firmamento virtutis eius.
Praise him in the sound of the trumpet:

praise him upon the lute and harp.

Laudate Dominum, laudate, laudate.

Praise him in the cymbals and dances:

praise him upon the strings and pipe.
Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals:

praise him upon the loud cymbals.

Let every thing that hath breath: praise the Lord.

Alleluia. amen.

Psalm 150. Latin verses from the Vulgate

Psalm translations from the Book of Common Prayer (1662)

Elizabeth Cragg



Elizabeth Cragg studied at the Royal College of Music and has sung with many of Europe's leading conductors, including Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Mark Elder, Vladimir Jurowski, Sir Neville Marriner, Sir Roger Norrington and Trevor Pinnock. Concert appearances include Mozart's Mass in C minor with The Sixteen and The Bach Choir, Handel's Messiah with The Sixteen and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Haydn's The Creation at the Three Choirs Festival, Mozart's Concert Arias with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Handel's Dixit Dominus and Bach's St Matthew Passion with The English Concert, Bach's Cantatas with The Hanover Band and Purcell's Dido and Aeneas with the OAE at the BBC Proms. Operatic engagements include Flowermaiden 1 in Parsifal (Royal Opera House and at the BBC Proms), First Niece in Peter Grimes (Berlin Philharmonic and Salzburg), Second Niece in Peter Grimes (Jurowski/LPO).

Pascal Charbonneau



Pascal Charbonneau studied at McGill University in Montreal, Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Engagements have included David (David et Jonathas) at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Edinburgh International Festival, Opéra Comique and Brooklyn Academy of Music, Acis (Acis and Galatea) in Venice (La Fenice) and Aix-en-Provence, Jack (Into the Woods), Medoro (Orlando Paladino), Tobias (Sweeney Todd) and Freddy (My Fair Lady) at the Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris, Tobias (Sweeney Todd) with the Munich Radio Orchestra, Aljeja (From the House of the Dead) for Opéra National du Rhin, Mozart's Requiem with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, Paolino (Il matrimonio segreto) for Opéra de Rennes, Art (Knight Crew) (Glyndebourne), and Prince Saphir (Barbe-Bleu) for Opéra National de Lorraine.

Mike Allen



Mike Allen started playing the cornet at the age of seven and performed with several brass bands before he joined the world famous Black Dyke Mills Band aged sixteen. He studied for a degree in music at Huddersfield Polytechnic, studying cornet with Phillip McCann and trumpet with David James and in 1985 moved to London to study trumpet with John Wallace and David Mason at the Royal College of Music. He has played with many of England's symphony and chamber orchestras and was for many years a member of the London Brass Virtuosi. He has also appeared as a soloist with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. He has been Co-principal Trumpet of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra since 2006.

Tom Winpenny



Tom Winpenny is Assistant Master of the Music at St Albans Cathedral, where he accompanies the daily choral services and directs the Abbey Girls Choir. Previously, he served as sub-organist at St Paul's Cathedral, London. He has broadcast frequently on BBC Radio and featured on American Public Media's *Pipedreams*. He was organ scholar at King's College, Cambridge, graduating with a music degree, and twice accompanying the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast worldwide. As a soloist, he has performed in the United States, Europe and throughout Britain. Recent engagements include recitals in Norwich Cathedral (UK) and Kristiansand Cathedral (Norway). His wide-ranging discography includes music by Mozart, Liszt, John McCabe and Malcolm Williamson. For Naxos, his solo recordings include music for organ by Judith Bingham (8.572687) and Messiaen's La Nativité (8.573332) and L'Ascension (8.573471).

St Albans Cathedral Choir

Director: Andrew Lucas

St Albans Cathedral Choir was re-founded in 1877 when the Abbey church became a Cathedral. Unlike many English Cathedral choirs, there is no choir school; the boys rehearse before and after going to the normal schools in the area and sing a service of Choral Evensong on three weekdays and three services with the 'Lay Clerks' (men) each weekend. The Lay Clerks are a dedicated group of musicians who, in the main, earn their living outside the music profession. Under Lucas's direction they have made nine international concert tours, broadcasts on radio and television and has made five recordings; previous releases for Naxos are music by Rutter (8.572653) and Mozart (8.573092).

Boy choristers

Barnabas Elbourn Alexander Hall Rory Hall George Throup Thomas Johnson Tom Pazzi-Axworthy Eric Kocharyan Gus McMahon Theo Gannon
Theo Whiterod
Freddie Pazzi-Axworthy
Lucas Roseden
Louis Postema
Matthew Cox
Aidan Tanner

Lay Clerks
Neil Baker
Roger Mullis
Tony Price
Simon Barton
Derek Harrison
William Glendinning
Simon Colston
David Martin-Smith

Oliver Martin-Smith

Jack Tebbutt
Caspar Singh
Alan Hebert
Ken Burgess
Geoff McMahon
William Houghton
Christopher Head
William Thomas

Peter Martin



St Albans Abbey Girls Choir

Director: Tom Winpenny

Formed in 1996, the St Albans Abbey Girls Choir sings Evensong twice a week and consists of 26 girls aged 8-14 who attend local schools. Primarily an upper-voice choir, for certain weekend services each term and for other special events the girls sing with the Lay Clerks of the Cathedral Choir. The choir has broadcast Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3, and has made several recordings for Naxos including music by Felix Mendelssohn (8.572836). The choir has made concert tours to Ireland, Denmark and the United States, whilst concerts closer to home have included performances of Mozart's Requiem and Handel's Coronation Anthems. The choir celebrates its twentieth anniversary with a commission from Judith Weir, Master of the Queen's Music.

Choristers

Imogen Bernays Isabelle Blain Amelia Edwards Olivia Hardy Maisie James Alice Hilder Jarvis Penelope Hilder Jarvis Anna Hodgkins Amelia James Louisa Kataria Philippa Lawrence Amber Lythgoe

Saskia Lythgoe Lydia Pazzi-Axworthy Emily Price Katie Ripley Niamh Shepherd

Alexandra Snailham Fiona Snelling Phoebe Wakefield Lucy Walton Cecilia Young



Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Leader: David Juritz



Formed in 1946 the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra has flourished for seventy years, upholding the legacy of its founder Sir Thomas Beecham. Now under the inspiring leadership of Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Charles Dutoit, it continues to bring first-class performances of a wide range of musical repertoire to worldwide audiences. The Orchestra has always prided itself on the artistic calibre of its conductors, including Rudolf Kempe, Antal Doráti, André Previn and, more recently, Daniele Gatti. Other highly regarded artists include Principal Guest Conductor Pinchas Zukerman, Permanent Guest Conductor Grzegorz Nowak and newly appointed Principal Associate Conductor Alexander Shelley. The Orchestra also enjoys a busy schedule overseas, undertaking several international tours each year, with recent engagements including concerts in Mexico, Germany, Spain, Poland and China.

Andrew Lucas



Andrew Lucas has been Master of the Music at St Albans Cathedral and Music Director of St Albans Bach Choir since 1998, and was Artistic Director of the St Albans International Organ Festival from 1999 to 2007. Born in 1958, he studied at the Royal College of Music with John Birch and Herbert Howells and later with Peter Hurford and Piet Kee. Before 1998 he was Assistant Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral, London and a freelance musician, conductor, chorus-master and keyboard continuo. He has made many recordings as an organist from St Paul's and conducting at St Albans and has played concerts throughout the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States. This is his fourth recording for Naxos, the first as organ soloist (8.550955) and the others conducting music by Rutter (8.572653) and Mozart (8.573092).

The psalms of David have been a source of inspiration to composers for centuries, each text forming a poetic shape the equivalent of a gothic arch, and expressing a broad range of timeless emotions. Recorded here for the first time in its complete form, John Rutter's *Psalmfest* is a collection of nine settings for full orchestra as rich and varied as the original texts. The remaining psalm settings were written for special occasions, including the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in 2011.



JOHN RUTTER

(b. 1945)

1-9 Psalmfest (1993)*	50:25
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11 Lord, Thou hast been our refuge (2008)	10:37
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*WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDING

Elizabeth Cragg, Soprano 468 • Pascal Charbonneau, Tenor 468
Mike Allen, Trumpet 11 • Tom Winpenny, Organ 11 12

St Albans Cathedral Choir and Abbey Girls Choir 11-79-10

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra 11-46-1012

Andrew Lucas

This recording was made possible by a bequest to the Cathedral by the late Dr John Birch, organist of the RPO, to whose memory this recording is dedicated.

A detailed track list can be found on page 2 the booklet. The sung texts can be found inside the booklet, and may also be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/573394.htm

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