



## John Rutter

*“Choral music is not one of life’s frills. It’s something that goes to the very heart of our humanity, our sense of community, and our souls. You express, when you sing, your soul in song. And when you get together with a group of other singers, it becomes more than the sum of the parts. All of those people are pouring out their hearts and souls in perfect harmony, which is kind of an emblem for what we need in this world, when so much of the world is at odds with itself...that just to express, in symbolic terms, what it’s like when human beings are in harmony. That’s a lesson for our times and for all time. I profoundly believe that.”*

*~John Rutter (The Importance of Choir- interview with Brendan Lyons on [jwpepper.com](http://jwpepper.com))*

Born in London, United Kingdom in 1945, John Rutter enjoyed improvising on the piano and singing, from a very early age. When he began going to school and taking lessons, people noticed his natural musical abilities right away. Throughout his time in school, Rutter was able to participate in various choral events with renowned composers, thereby furthering his compositional techniques. Even in school he was composing and trying new ideas in music. At 18 years old, he composed the Shepherd’s Pipe Carol which helped initiate his rise to fame as a choral composer shortly after. Rutter later attended Clare College, Cambridge where he began to compose even more music than before and was able to study with well-known composers of the time.

Rutter’s fame began to spread to the United States, when he composed and premiered his *Gloria* in Omaha, Nebraska in 1974. He then returned to Cambridge, except this time as a professor, where he taught for a few years. Rutter quit his teaching job in order to focus on his composing, which he still does to this day. When he is not composing, he can often be found conducting, lecturing, and presenting at festivals and concerts. Rutter also started a choral group called the Cambridge Singers, and will often premier and record his own music with this ensemble. Over the last thirty years, Rutter has received many different honors and awards, ranging from being made a honorary fellow at various universities, to receive the distinguished CBE award from the Queen of England. Rutter even composed a choral work for the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

When composing, Rutter will often work the entire day, late into the night, stopping only for meals. He will work on a piece until it is finished, instead of writing some of coming back to it later. He believes in discipline and works hard to create excellence in his music. The music of John Rutter is known all over the world and countless people will sing and listen to his music this holiday season. His music contains harmonies that are unique and contribute to the stories told through song.

*“It is wonderful to go to a choral concert, but I think the deepest joy of all is to actually sing.”*

*~ John Rutter*