

For Immediate Release:
May 25, 2015

Composer and Conductor John Rutter, CBE, to be named Conductor Laureate by MidAmerica Productions on Memorial Day, May 25, 2015, in Carnegie Hall

Composer and conductor John Rutter, CBE, who is retiring from his active conducting career in the United States on May 25, 2015, will be named MidAmerica Productions' Conductor Laureate. On that date, he will give his final performance in Carnegie Hall, where he will have conducted more than 125 concerts, mostly of his own music, for MidAmerica Productions since 1988.

He has premiered and conducted many of his own works in Carnegie Hall, including his most recent large-scale work, *Canticles of Creation*, which will be given its New York Premiere under his own baton. He will also lead performances of his *Requiem*, as well as *Gloria* and *Te Deum*.

He will be conducting the New England Symphonic Ensemble, choruses from across the United States, and soprano Sherri Seiden, the soloist in his *Requiem*.

John Rutter

John Rutter was born in London in 1945 and received his first musical education as a chorister at Highgate School. He went on to study music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he wrote his first published compositions and conducted his first recording while still a student.

His compositional career has embraced both large and small-scale choral works, orchestral and instrumental pieces, a piano concerto, two children's operas, music for television, and specialist writing for such groups as the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble and the King's Singers. His larger choral works, *Gloria* (1974), *Requiem* (1985), *Magnificat* (1990), *Psalmfest* (1993) and *Mass of the Children* (2003) have been performed many times in Britain, North America, and a growing number of other countries.

He co-edited four volumes in the *Carols for Choirs* series with Sir David Willcocks, and, more recently, has edited the first two volumes in the new *Oxford Choral Classics* series, *Opera Choruses* (1995) and *European Sacred Music* (1996).

From 1975 to 1979 he was Director of Music at Clare College, whose choir he directed in a number of broadcasts and recordings. After giving up the Clare post to allow more time for composition, he formed the Cambridge Singers as a professional chamber choir primarily dedicated to recording, and he now divides his time between composition and conducting.

He has guest-conducted or lectured at many concert halls, universities, churches, music festivals, and conferences in Europe, Africa, North and Central America and Australasia. 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. He was honoured in the 2007 Queen's New Year Honours List, being awarded a CBE for services to music.

John Rutter's music is published by Oxford University Press, Hinshaw Music Inc. and Collegium Music Publications.

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