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**SCHOLA CANTORUM PRESENTS “THE GIFT OF MUSIC”—  
CHORAL INSPIRATIONS FROM JOHN RUTTER**

Composer, conductor, arranger, and editor John Rutter has gifted us with music in a myriad of ways. On May 16 and 17, in concerts in both Palo Alto and Los Altos, choral group Schola Cantorum salutes this prolific musician with a range of works associated with him during his multifaceted career.

The 90-voice choir has performed John Rutter’s carols and larger orchestral works since Greg Wait became Schola’s conductor. “His music is melodic and accessible to all audiences,” Wait says. “Most people are familiar with John Rutter as a composer of Christmas music. But he’s so much more.” In addition to composing and arranging an eclectic body of works, Rutter conducts the Cambridge Singers in the UK, and for Oxford University Press has edited volumes of European sacred music, opera choruses, and folk songs from America and the British Isles.

With the volume of works this masterful musician has produced and recorded, Wait had some 600 pieces from which to choose. The concert will include early English madrigals, Renaissance and Baroque pieces, a broad representation of Rutter’s recorded music, and four of his compositions, including *The Gift of Music*.

John Rutter refers to choral music as “...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.” Choral singing, he says, “...is kind of an emblem of what we need when so much of the world is at odds with itself. Just to express, in symbolic terms, what it’s like when human beings are in harmony.”

The concerts will be held at two locations: First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto on Saturday, May 16 at 7:30 PM, and Los Altos United Methodist Church on Sunday, May 17 at 3:00 PM. Tickets are \$25 general admission, ages 25 and under free with student ID. Visit [www.ScholaCantorum.org](http://www.ScholaCantorum.org), or call 650-254-1700.

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