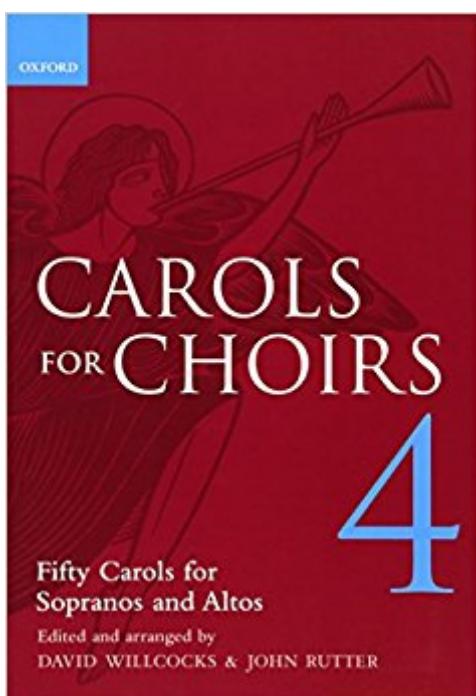


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# Carols For Choirs 4: Fifty Carols For Sopranos And Altos (... For Choirs Collections) (Bk.4)



## Synopsis

50 carols for sopranos and altos (suitable for boys', girls', or women's choirs). It contains mostly simple arrangements of the best-loved carols, some less well-known ones, and four original pieces by Britten (2), Rutter, and Hadley. Most of the Christmas hymns are presented in two versions; for choirs only, unaccompanied, and for choir and audience/congregation, with accompaniment. Orchestral accompaniments for many of the carols are available on hire.

## Book Information

Series: . . . for Choirs Collections

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## Customer Reviews

John Rutter was born in London in 1945 and studied music at Clare College, Cambridge. His compositions embrace choral, orchestral, and instrumental music, and he has edited or co-edited various choral anthologies, including four Carols for Choirs volumes with Sir David Willcocks and the Oxford Choral Classics series. From 1975 to 1979 he was Director of Music at Clare College, and in 1981 he formed his own choir, the Cambridge Singers. He now divides his time between composition and conducting and is sought after as a guest conductor for the world's leading choirs and orchestras. Born in 1919, David Willcocks began his musical career as a chorister at Westminster Abbey, later winning scholarships to Clifton College and King's College, Cambridge. Following war service, he was elected Fellow of King's College, and later became Organist of Salisbury and Worcester Cathedrals, conducting the Three Choirs Festival whilst at Worcester. Willcocks returned to King's College, Cambridge as Director of Music from 1957-1974, with the first

collection of his arrangements in the Carols for Choirs series publishing in 1961. He was Director of Music at the Royal College of Music from 1974-1984, and was knighted in the Queen's Silver Jubilee Honours List in 1977. Willcocks also conducted The Bach Choir for 38 years, retiring in 1998. Sir David died in September 2015.

I had the pleasure of participating in a workshop with David Willcocks, and received this book as part of it. It was first published in 1987, but Sir David had some amusing anecdotes to share about how he and John Rutter, another name to reckon with in choral music circles, put it together. This is what I like about it:<sup>\*</sup> These gentlemen are giants in the English choral music scene, and personify the English choral tradition in everything they do. So it's a pleasure to find that they have included many carols from other countries, as well as the English ones. It's very hard to find non-English-language carols, so this is a nice little collection.<sup>\*</sup> Their 4-part arrangements are imaginative but easy enough to sight-sing.<sup>\*</sup> It also includes a listing of church festivals other than Christmas, with the names and page numbers of carols that would be appropriate for each.<sup>\*</sup> For ease of navigation as you're singing, the verses are in Roman type while the refrains are in italics.<sup>\*</sup> For reasons that are not clear, they have chosen to include the text in the original language in some cases, but not all. The foreign language texts are immediately under the English translations, so you can sing in either language.<sup>\*</sup> At the very end of the book is the order of service for the traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, with instructions on the appropriate rank of each person to read, from chorister to bishop. If you are only going to buy one carol book, this and the Oxford Book of Carols are the best ones to consider. The Oxford has more in it, and is hugely more expensive, so I recommend this one! It'll take you several Christmasses to sing your way through it.

Every choir should own this book. The arrangements cover a wide range of levels, but include some of the most beloved descants and harmonizations of beloved Christmas carols (with a few Easter and other holidays sprinkled in as well). Every choir's soprano section should have the descants to O Come, All Ye Faithful and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing memorized (and the organist should have the harmonizations that accompany them memorized as well!).

This carol book has terrific carols and some very unusual ones. They range from easy to hard so most choirs can benefit from them. It actually has an outline and readings from the Service of Lessons and Carols which could be very valuable for the music director and church leader. My particular used copy just happened to have notes in it from David Willcocks himself. Can you

imagine!!! This was just too good to be believed. I love nothing more than this service of lessons and carols, so the best is here. There are also some Easter Carols --worth the price.

One book was perfect and the other one was fine, although several pieces had been highlighted for their part...so I will try to give that book to that part....the covers, pages, binding, etc. was all wonderful. Thanks for following up!If you come across more used for \$3, I would love to have them!

This book has so many great choices - it truly is a must have for any choir

This an exceptional collection which every choral singer will want to add to their musical library.

It took a while for shipment, but the book arrived OK. Thanks!

Absolutely marvelous collection with wonderful descants and interesting arrangements. I have given copies to many people because I love this book so MUCH!!! If you've ever lived in England, or ever loved CDs of King's College Choir or St. John's College Choir from Cambridge, England, you will discover the arrangements in this great book!

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