

# Southend Bach Choir

Presents a

# Summer Concert

*including*

***Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo***

with guests including

**Southend Wind Orchestra**

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2016

7:30 pm

Trinity Methodist Church

Westcliff-On-Sea



Programme



# The Southend Bach Choir

Musical Director - Colin Edwards

Southend Bach Choir began life in 1943 as an evening class of the Municipal College in Southend under the direction of its founder Dr Harold May, FRCO. Known as the Municipal College Choir it gave its first performance in December 1943 in a programme that consisted of selections from Handel's Messiah. As the Municipal College Choral Society the choir became well known, singing major works in Southend and further afield. In 1968 the choir became the Southend Bach Choir, and in 1993, under the direction of Gerald Bates, celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a memorable performance of Bach's Mass in B Minor. In 2001 the Choir welcomed its present Musical Director Colin Edwards, as he returned to his home town after many years in the North West. The choir performs a number of concerts each year in many venues in and around Essex, including a popular Christmas concert. Recent concerts have included The Concert for Remembrance – The Armed Man; Crucifixion; Rejoice - English Choral Music by Rutter, Britten, Vaughan Williams & Tippett; Made in Britain – music by John Rutter, Bob Chilcott, Andrew Lloyd Webber and the Beatles; Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle; An Evening of Gilbert & Sullivan; Mozart's Trinitatis Mass; Haydn's Creation Mass; Handel's Messiah. The choir values its work in the community and regularly takes its music to sheltered housing and homes within the Southend area and also supports local charities. In 2015, the choir were very pleased and proud to take part in the BBC Essex Radio Carol Concert.

We welcome the Southend Wind Orchestra under its conductor David Clark to our concert. We are also delighted to welcome baritone Michael Lafferty, double bassist Tom Marshall, and percussionist John Dalton.

## THE SOUTHEND WIND ORCHESTRA

Musical Director: David Clark

Patron: Philip Sparke

Founded in April 2002 by its current Musical Director David Clark, Southend Wind Orchestra has made a significant contribution to the local music scene, and has rapidly built a reputation for excellence. Members come from all over Essex, with an age-range encompassing students through to senior citizens, including a number of experienced music teachers. The orchestra regularly gives concerts at local venues around South Essex and has performed at the bandstands in Priory Park, Southend and Castle Park, Colchester. We also work with other musical groups in Southend to put on shared concerts.

Southend Wind Orchestra offers high playing standards – a minimum of grade 6 for rank and file players, principals and many others of grade 8 and beyond; and a challenging repertoire, which embraces the full range of contemporary and traditional music written for the symphonic wind band. If you would like further information about Southend Wind Orchestra – where the next concert is, how to book us for a concert for your organisation or how to become a member please phone: 01702 206156; e-mail: [info@southendwindorchestra.org](mailto:info@southendwindorchestra.org); visit [www.southendwindorchestra.org](http://www.southendwindorchestra.org); or follow us on Twitter @swo\_uk.

**David Clark (Musical director)** - Born in Northumberland and trained at Bede College, Durham, David Clark taught in middle, special and secondary schools. For 13 years he was Head of Creative Arts and Director of Music at a local comprehensive school and also Principal of Southend Music School. He was then appointed 14-19 Strategy Manager for Southend schools, followed by seven years working as a self-employed consultant, managing educational projects.

For 23 years David was the Musical Director of Leigh Orpheus Male Voice Choir, building their membership from 30 to 130. In 2002 he founded Southend Wind Orchestra, performing a challenging contemporary repertoire. David has been Musical Director of The Orpheus Singers since its inception in 2008. In September 2012 he was honoured to be appointed Musical Director of The Southend Band, the civic brass band and in January 2014 he formed a new mixed voice choir, The DaCapo Singers.

## Our Guest Soloist

**Michael Lafferty (Baritone)** - London-based baritone, Michael Lafferty, is currently in his 2nd year of undergraduate study at Trinity Laban Conservatoire under the tuition of Lynton Atkinson. He currently sings with Genesis Sixteen, the Old Royal Naval College Chapel Choir as a choral scholar, and with Rodolfus Choir, Inner Voices (Scholar), Trinity Laban Chamber Choir and the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields. Michael was the recipient of the Lillian Ash French Song Prize in February 2016, a semi-finalist of the Somerset Song Prize in May 2015, and was awarded the 'most promising young singer' prize at the Freda Parry Scholarship competition in September 2014. Michael's operatic roles have included Dr Falke in Johann Strauss' Die Fledermaus, Papageno in Mozart's The Magic Flute, Aeneas/Chorus in Opera Lyrica's production of Dido and Aeneas and he has recently finished productions of Puccini's Manon Lescaut with Brent Opera playing the role of Innkeeper/Sergeant.

## Our Accompanist

**Roger Humphrey** - studied Organ, Piano, and conducting at the Royal College of Music, where he gained a degree of Bachelor of Music and was awarded his master of Arts degree at City of London University in 1993. He has held positions of Director of Music at Southend School for Boys, and lecturer in Performing Arts at South East Essex College. Roger is conductor of the Southend Choral Society, Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church, Southchurch, and accompanist to the Southend Bach Choir. He is also founder of the Southend Girls Choir, and a Director of the Southend Summer School for Performing Arts. Roger was appointed Director of the Southend Boys Choir in 1996 by the Southend Borough Council. In January 2000 Roger was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts for services to Music and the Arts.

# Programme

## SOUTHEND BACH CHOIR

**Songs of the Fleet** (op 117)

Words: Henry Newbolt

Music: Charles Villiers Stanford

Michael Lafferty (Baritone)

Roger Humphrey (Piano)

1. Sailing at Dawn
2. The Song of the Sou'-Wester
3. The Middle Watch
4. The Little Admiral
5. Farewell

## SOUTHEND WIND ORCHESTRA

**Tall Ships**  
**Greenwich**  
**Thames Journey**

Ron Goodwin  
Barrie Hingley  
Nigel Hess

## *INTERVAL*

## SOUTHEND WIND ORCHESTRA

**Southend Celebration**  
**Shelter Island**  
**The Catskills**

Philip Sparke  
Nigel Hess  
Nigel Hess

## SOUTHEND BACH CHOIR

**Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo**

Words: Michael Flanders

Music: Joseph Horovitz

Michael Lafferty (Baritone)

Tom Marshall (Double Bass)

John Dalton (Percussion)

Roger Humphrey (Piano)

***Please join the choir for light refreshments at the end of the concert.***

## Programme Notes

### **Songs of the Fleet** (op 117)

Like many of Charles Villiers Stanford's larger choral works, *Songs of the Fleet* was premiered at a national festival, in this case the Leeds Festival of 1910. It was based on the poems of Henry Newbolt. Newbolt, whose private life was colourful to say the least, is remembered as a poet, novelist, historian and government adviser whose report "The Teaching of English in England" had a major and long-lasting impact on education. Stanford's music is both vivid and expressive. "The Song of the Sou-Wester" captures the elemental force of the storm whilst "The Middle Watch", in contrast, atmospherically reflects the stillness of the night. The final number, "Farewell" is a song of moving pathos and emotion which gained much popularity during World War 1 when the words had an obvious significance.

### **Tall Ships** (1996)

The 1996 Royal Tournament, held annually in London, opened to the music of Tall Ships, played by the Massed Bands of The Royal Marines; this is powerful music from a master of the big screen – and the big occasion.

### **Concert Overture : Greenwich** (1999)

Written especially for the Millennium, this overture describes the various characteristics of this historic part of London, from the grandeur of Wren's architecture to the ticking of the famous Greenwich clock.

### **Thames Journey** (1991)

The journey begins at the source of the River Thames at Kemble in Wiltshire, first with just a few drops of water, but gaining strength as the flow starts. A horn solo introduces the main theme, based on an old Wiltshire melody "Through the Groves", which dates back to the eighteenth century. A solo trumpet announces that the voyage has well and truly begun, and very soon we cross into Oxfordshire, passing close to the village of Brampton – where morris dancing was invented, with its jingles and stamping sticks. Along the river we can glimpse many Elizabethan manor-houses, and, at Godstow we pause to view the nunnery, founded in 1133, hearing an ancient plainsong melody, "Domino", from the school of Notre Dame in about 1200. Then Oxford itself, with its dreaming spires and steeple bells, and the abbey at Abingdon.

The World Poohsticks Championships are held on the river at Little Wittenham, an event to which trombones and tubas pay tribute. As we cross borders again into Berkshire, an old folk tune of that county, although of Irish origin, is heard – "The Pride of Kildare". A well-known boating-song intrudes, reminding us of halcyon days spent in Henley, but soon we arrive at Windsor with "Here's a Health unto His Majesty" a popular song during the reign of Charles II. Passing Runnymede,

where the Magna Carta was signed in 1215, we sight Hampton Court and hear Henry VIII's gentle "Greensleeves". Rounding a bend in the river, "The Lass of Richmond Hill" greets us with a broad smile. As we sail through Barnes, the house where composer Gustav Holst lived is spotted closely followed by Miss Pinkerton's Academy (from "Vanity Fair") at Hammersmith. A wave to Lambeth, and Big Ben hoves majestically into view. Nostalgically we remember London Bridge before arriving at Greenwich, starting-point of many a heroic voyage, and we hear the sailors' hymn "Eternal Father, Strong to Save". Smelling the salt in the air, we can sense the open sea and as the journey reaches its end and the pier at Southend comes and goes, our Wiltshire melody sweeps out to meet the ocean. The Thames Journey is complete.

### **Southend Celebration (2014)**

Commissioned by Southend Wind Orchestra to mark its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **East Coast Pictures (1985)**

The suite was inspired by several visits to a small part of the USA's East Coast, an area which provides great extremes in the geography and the people. Tonight we are playing two of the three movements:

**Shelter Island** : a small island situated almost at the end of Long Island, a few hours' drive east of New York. In the summer it becomes a crowded tourist trap – but in the winter it is gloriously deserted, and bravely faces the onslaught of the Atlantic, shrouded in sea mists and driving rain. This picture is a fond memory of a winter weekend on Shelter Island.

**The Catskills** : In upstate New York lie the Catskill Mountains – an extraordinary combination of tranquility and power, peace and majesty. Once seen they call you back again and again.

### **Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo**

Written in 1970 *Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo* records Noah's adventures whilst fulfilling God's commission to build an ark to save mankind and all the creatures of the earth from the impending catastrophic flood. The work chronicles God's displeasure with men and women, the building of the ark, embarkation of the animals, the flood itself, aimless drifting and the eventual release ("running down the gangplank") onto dry land. In the course of our journey we travel along to the accompaniment of waltzes, a samba and a square dance. We hear from the well-educated Raven who has clearly read Edgar Allen Poe before we reach the wonderful mathematical finale, "two by two".

The truly witty and sophisticated libretto was written by Michael Flanders and the equally stylish music by Joseph Horovitz who, along with the Queen, celebrated his 90th birthday this year.

*The Southend Bach Choir would like to thank the following  
retail outlets for their support in advertising our concert  
tonight:*

Pavarotti Italian Restaurant, Westcliff-on-Sea

Anke's Coffee Lounge, Westcliff-on-Sea

Eliza's Boutique, Westcliff-on-Sea

La Pizzeria, Westcliff-on-Sea

Wiener German Café, Westcliff-on-Sea

Occasions Boutique, Shoeburyness

Rakela Hairdressers, Westcliff-on-Sea

San Fairie Ann Restaurant, Southend-on-Sea

Health Spa Water, Westcliff-on-Sea

Sainsburys, Southend-on-Sea

Robinsons Solicitors, Shoeburyness

Bridgwater Newsagents, Westcliff-on-Sea

Cornerstone Charity Shop, Leigh-on-Sea

Spa Newsagents, Hockley

Salmons Shoe Menders, Hockley

55+ Day Centre, Hockley

Ashby Butchers, Southchurch

## OUR PATRONS

Mrs J. Bishop-Laggett Mrs J. Restorick

Mr S.C. Burford Mr. T. Harding

Miss J. Hardy Mr. R. Partridge

*Southend Bach Choir is very grateful to the Patrons  
for their continued encouragement and support*

**For details of the Patron Scheme  
phone Sue Burford on 01621 829551**

## OUR NEXT CONCERT

### Brahms Requiem

Saturday 19th November 2016 at 7.30pm

St Augustine's Church, Thorpe Bay

## WHY NOT JOIN US?

Southend Bach Choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings  
from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at Blenheim Primary School, Leigh-on-Sea.  
Whether you are an experienced singer or a musical beginner  
you will be

## VERY WELCOME

For further information please contact:  
Ian Alston (Chair) on 01702 589209  
or visit our website:

[www.southendbachchoir.org.uk](http://www.southendbachchoir.org.uk)



Southend Bach Choir  
Registered Charity No. 274370