

Southend Bach Choir

Presents

Brahms
German Requiem

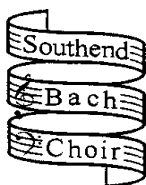
with

Lieder and piano music

Saturday 19th November 2016

7:30 pm

St Augustine's Church
Thorpe Bay



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.

Eine Deutsches Requiem

The piano duet version of Brahms' s arrangement of his Eine Deutsches Requiem, which we will be using this evening, was used as the accompaniment at the first British performance of the work in 1871. It was given in the home of Lady Thompson and as a result the arrangement is sometimes known as the London Version of the Requiem.



PAT SMITH - 1934 - 2016

It is appropriate that we are dedicating our performance of the German Requiem in memory of Pat Smith, who died earlier this year. Pat was a member of the choir for 48 years, a committed member throughout that time working tirelessly for the good of the choir. A Committee member for many years, Pat organized and ran fundraising events. In 2006, despite increasing mobility problems, she also took on the task of Choir Librarian – a role she continued until 2014. She was still an active committee member and singing with the choir up to the time of her death – she will be greatly missed.

Our Guest Soloists

Alice Usher (Soprano) - studies with Alison Wells at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, where she is a Trinity College London Scholar and holds the Eva Malpass Scholarship. She is a graduate of SOAS (University of London) and was a choral scholar at St Catharine's College, Cambridge.

Alice's chorus experience includes Madama Butterfly with Bury Court Opera in March 2016, Ninfa/Chorus in Orfeo and chorus in *Così fan tutte* with Hampstead Garden Opera, Otello with Southgate Opera, L'elisir d'amore with Southgate Opera, Suor Angelica with The Beethoven Ensemble, Ariodante with Cambridge Handel Opera Group and The Mikado with Welsh National Youth Opera. She is also a member of the Philharmonia Chorus student scheme.

Solo oratorio work includes Handel's Ode to St Cecilia, Finzi's *In terra pax*, *Te Deum* by Teixeira, and *Missa Romana* by Pergolesi. In 2013, Alice was featured on BBC Radio 3 as soprano soloist in the *Missa Mirabilis* by Stephen Hough, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, conducted by David Robertson.

Recent operatic performances include the role of Kate Pinkerton and chorus in Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* with Bury Court Opera and Southbank Sinfonia in Ischia and Anghiari, Italy. In July 2016, Alice played Sarah in the newly-commissioned opera *Banished* by Stephen McNeff at Blackheath Halls, directed by Elaine Kidd and conducted by Jessica Cottis. In April 2016, Alice played Tatyana in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* in Opera Scenes. In February 2016, Alice devised and sang in the student-led project *Frauenliebe und -leben: A chamber opera*, and in December 2015 she performed the role of Donna Elvira in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* in Opera Scenes at Trinity Laban.

Anastasios Michalis (Baritone) - from Greece and Cyprus, has been based in London since 2012. He has performed in various venues, including the Royal Opera House, the Greek National Opera, Kensington Palace and the Athens Concert Hall-Megaron. He has also given recitals at the Embassies of the USA, Russia and Venezuela in Athens, and the Russian and Bulgarian Embassies in London.

Anastasios specialises in romantic and contemporary repertoire. He has participated in many world premieres of contemporary composers' works in London and Athens. He has also recorded albums which have been released in the UK, Greece, Germany, USA and India.

Anastasios is currently completing his masters' degree studies at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London. A speaker of Greek, English, Spanish, French, Italian and German, Anastasios' studies are generously supported by the Crompton Scholarship, Mrs Chrsanthy Lemos and Life Action Trust.

Rosemary Pennington - studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where she studied piano, accompaniment and percussion. After gaining a Post Graduate teaching diploma, she held a variety of positions in the field of arts administration, including concert agencies in London, as personal assistant to the Director of the Edinburgh International Festival, and has worked freelance as concert manager for festivals and concert halls. She is currently cultural development officer (arts) for Southend Borough Council. As a pianist,

Rosemary has played both as soloist and accompanist in many major concert halls in London and beyond. She has accompanied choirs in Australia, Canada, US, Seychelles and across Europe, including playing for televised broadcasts and recordings. She is Assistant Musical Director to the Southend Girls' Choir, and accompanist to the Southend Boys' Choir, Southend Festival Chorus and Southend Choral Society.

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

Fantasie in F minor for piano four hands D. 940 (Schubert)

Rosemary Pennington & Roger Humphrey (Piano)

Suleika 1 (Schubert)

Alice Usher (Soprano)

Von ewiger Liebe (Brahms)

Anastasios Michalis (Baritone)

INTERVAL

Eine Deutsches Requiem op 45 (Brahms)

Alice Usher (Soprano)

Anastasios Michalis (Baritone)

Rosemary Pennington & Roger Humphrey (Piano)

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

There will be a retiring collection in aid of St. Augustine's Church.