

Southend Bach Choir

Presents

Gilbert & Sullivan's Trial by Jury (Concert Performance)

Suite from Merrie England & Blest Pair of Sirens

with

Soloists from Trinity Laban Conservatoire

Saturday 15th July 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

St Andrew's Church
Westcliff-on-Sea



Programme



The Southend Bach Choir

Musical Director - Colin Edwards

The 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 of that year. The programme consisted of selections from Handel's Messiah.

In its early years the Municipal College Choral and Orchestral Society sponsored the birth of the College Opera Group, which became independent in 1950. In this year the choir's name reverted to "The Municipal College Choral Society" and many challenging concerts followed.

In 1968 the choir became the Southend Bach Choir, and in 1993 under the baton of Gerald Bates, (Musical Director 1987-2001) the Choir celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a memorable performance of Bach's B Minor Mass. Upon Gerry's retirement in 2001 the choir welcomed its present Musical Director Colin Edwards.

The choir will be celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2023.

WHY NOT JOIN US?

The Southend Bach Choir is a very happy and friendly group of people singing a wide range of music. We meet for rehearsal every Tuesday evening in school term time at:

***St Andrew's Church
Southview Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9PW***

Rehearsals commence at 7.30pm with a break for coffee and conversation and finish at 9.30pm. Each week we receive professional training from our Musical Director, learning new works and preparing for our performances.

Singing in a Choir is a great hobby. It is not only very enjoyable, but you make new friends, and have the opportunity of learning to sing wonderful music. Whether you are an experienced singer or a musical beginner you will be very welcome.

If you are interested in singing with the choir, please speak to any one of us during the interval or after the concert.

Please note: we recommence our rehearsals after the summer break on the 5th September, 2023

Our Guest Soloists

Nathan Stubbings (*Tenor*) - Born on the Isle of Wight, Nathan Stubbings began performing at age 15 and soon played roles such as Freddy in "My Fair Lady" and Kipps in "Half a Sixpence." Nathan began studying music in 2018 after receiving a scholarship at Ryde School, and after scholarship awards from the West Wight Arts Association, the Godshill Grammar School Endowment Foundation, and the Mike Howley Trust, he was able to audition for conservatoires across the UK. Since moving off the Island, Nathan has been studying classical voice at Trinity Laban Conservatoire in Greenwich, from which he will graduate in 2024. Nathan is hoping to make a West End debut in the near future, and has begun preparing for auditions next year. In the meantime, he is delving into classical repertoire, and having previously sung with the Southend Bach Choir, is very excited to be doing so again.

Johannes Gerges (*Bass*) - is a 23-year-old bass who has just completed his MMus in vocal performance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance where he was a recipient of the Kathleen Roberts scholarship, under the tutelage of Robert Alderson. In July 2022, Johannes performed the role of Fra Domenico in the premiere production of Jennifer Hamilton's jukebox opera Strozzi, a work celebrating the life and music of the early baroque Venetian composer Barbara Strozzi. More recently, Johannes performed Fra Domenico as well as the role of Antonio Bosso in a production of Strozzi in Norfolk with the Yorke Trust. Johannes has performed as a professional soloist in Stainer's Crucifixion, the Beethoven Mass in C, the Haydn Harmonie-Messe, the Fauré Requiem, Eternal Light Requiem (Howard Goodall) and the Haydn Nelson Mass. In December 2022, Johannes performed two galas at Danesfield House Hotel with Opera Kensington. In aid of King's College Hospital, Johannes performed Leporello in a concert featuring highlights from Don Giovanni with the London Philanthropic Orchestra in May 2023. As a young artist with the SongEasel programme, Johannes has given workshops in schools across South East London promoting Art Song. Johannes has performed in masterclasses with Andrew Shore, Laurent Naouri, Ailish Tynan, James Newby, Simon Bailey, Ubaldo Fabbri, Marco Voleri and James Black. On Sunday mornings he sings as a choral scholar at St. Laurence's Church in Catford.

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

E. German

Merrie England Suite

Sing a down, adown
The Yeomen of England *with* Johannes Gerges
Long live Elizabeth!
The month O' May *with* Rosalind Hayman
Dan Cupid hath a garden *sung by* Nathan Stubbings
Robin Hood's Wedding

Merrie England, a comic opera in the tradition of those of Gilbert and Sullivan, was composed by Edward German to a libretto by Basil Hood. It was first performed at London's Savoy Theatre in 1902.

Set in Tudor England the somewhat convoluted plot revolves around the love between Sir Walter Raleigh and one of Queen Elizabeth I's Maids of Honour, Bessie Throckmorton. A love letter from Sir Walter goes missing and is found by Jill-all-alone, who is considered by the community to be witch. Jill hands this letter to the Earl of Essex who believes Sir Walter to be his rival for Queen Elizabeth's heart. Essex, in an attempt to gain favour with the Queen and to do down his rival, hands the Queen the letter. Initially the Queen is pleased with the compliments to "Bessie". However, on discovering that it was really intended for her maid, banishes Sir Walter, imprisons Bessie Throckmorton and orders Jill-all-alone to be burnt as a witch. Although Bessie and Jill manage to escape from the prison the Queen intends to poison Bessie.

When the Earl of Essex realises that Sir Walter is no rival for the Queen's affection, he tries to make amends. He arranges for one of the foresters, to appear disguised as Herne the Hunter who, according to legend, only appears when the sovereign contemplates a crime. The Queen gives way and Bessie and Sir Walter are reunited and Jill-all-alone is pardoned.

The court participates in a re-enactment of Robin Hood and Maid Marian's wedding in which Sir Walter and Bessie play the principal roles.

Guest Soloist

Nathan Stubbings

Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes (from "The Gondoliers")

words W.S. Gilbert, music Arthur Sullivan

Guest Soloist

Johannes Gerges

Nightmare Song (from "Iolanthe")

words W.S. Gilbert, music Arthur Sullivan

C.H.H. Parry

Blest Pair of Sirens

Blest Pair of Sirens is a setting of John Milton's ode *At a solemn Musick*, first performed in 1887 at London's St James' Hall.

INTERVAL

Please join the choir for light refreshments during the interval.

Gilbert & Sullivan

Trial by Jury

Trial by Jury, with words by W.S. Gilbert and music by Arthur Sullivan was first performed at London's Royalty Theatre in 1875. Angelina, the Plaintiff, is suing Edwin, the Defendant, for breach of promise of marriage. And so the plot unfolds...

The Learned Judge: Johannes Gerges
Edwin, The Defendant: Nathan Stubbings
Angelina, The Plaintiff: Rosalind Hayman
Council for the Plaintiff: Peter Walker
Usher: Ian Alston
Foreman of the Jury: Andrew Hannah

Thank you for joining us at our concert tonight.

We hope you enjoyed it.

Why not come to our next concert

25th November, 2023

Mozart Requiem

Dvorak Mass in D

Have you thought about becoming a Patron?

Are you a regular attendee at our concerts?

Ever felt you'd like to support the choir but don't want to take up a singing position?

Do you like attending our social events?

If so, the Southend Bach Choir Patron scheme may be for you. There is no fixed fee to join this scheme, though Patrons may make a donation if they wish. Patrons can expect to receive an annual letter or email giving the news of future choir activities together with a review of previous events and an invitation to continue their patronage. They will also receive a complimentary ticket to every concert and be invited to other choir events including the AGM.

If you are interested in becoming a patron or would simply like further information then please complete the form below and hand to any choir member or contact us via email on:

membership@southendbachchoir.org.uk.

**For further information about the Southend Bach Choir
please contact:**

secretary@southendbachchoir.org.uk

visit our website:

www.southendbachchoir.org.uk

or social media pages:



Southend Bach Choir



southendbachchoir

OUR PATRONS

Mrs J. Restorick Mr K. Treverton
Mr S.C. Burford Mr T. Harding Mr J. Wall Mr D. Smith
Miss C. Kirkham Mrs J. Bliss Mr M. Bliss Mr R. Hair

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

For details of the Patron Scheme:

Phone: Bee - 01702 553634

Email: membership@southendbachchoir.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our concerts in the coming years will take place on:

25th November, 2023

16th December, 2023

20th April, 2024

13th July, 2024

23rd November, 2024

21st December, 2024

For further information please contact:

secretary@southendbachchoir.org.uk

or visit our website:

www.southendbachchoir.org.uk



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