

Southend Bach Choir

Presents

Mozart Requiem Mass

&

Dvorak Mass in D

with

Soloists from Trinity Laban Conservatoire

Saturday 16th March 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Church
Southchurch



Programme



The Southend Bach Choir

Music Director – Roger Humphrey

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 past Music Director Colin Edwards until 2023.

Dedicated to the memory of Colin Edwards

As many will know, Colin was tragically killed in a road traffic accident in October 2023 at the time when we were rehearsing for our November Concert which was to feature the two pieces we are performing this evening. Colin's death being so close to the concert, the choir decided to cancel that particular event. Colin gave over 22 years of service to the choir for which we are all truly thankful. In recognition of that service and his unwavering commitment to choral singing within our borough, we are dedicating tonight's concert in memory of Colin.

Our Future

We were so grateful to Roger Humphrey for stepping into the void after Colin's death keeping us rehearsing as a choir and then at the end of last year, leading us for our Christmas concert. We are so pleased to announce that Roger has agreed to take on the Music Director role on a permanent basis following 40 years as our accompanist.

Why Not Join Us?

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 and finish at 9.30pm with a short break for coffee and conversation around 8:30.

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

Our Guest Soloists

Madeleine McConnell Smith (Soprano) - is completing her Master of Music in Vocal Performance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, under the tutelage of Sarah Pring, where she is a recipient of the Morag Noble Scholarship. Prior to this, Madeleine studied under Geraldine Cassidy at Leeds Conservatoire where she received *The Cooke Webster Music Prize*.

Madeleine's previous soloist repertoire includes; *Mass in C* (Mozart), *Beatus Vir* (Monteverdi) and *Misa Criolla* (Ramirez) as well as Opera North's Emerging Talent Recitals and the Trinity Laban Sinfonia Strings Baroque Concert. She is soon to feature at an upcoming concert celebrating the musical works of classical pianist and composer, Stephen Hough.

Madeleine has a passion for opera and has been fortunate enough to work with both larger opera companies such as Opera North, smaller touring companies, as well as opera projects at Trinity Laban. Roles have included 'Fiordiligi' *Così fan tutte*, 'Donna Anna' *Don Giovanni*, 'Snegurochka' *The Snow Maiden*, 'Gilda' *Rigoletto*, 'Isabel/Kate' *Pirates of Penzance* and 'Katherine of Aragon' *Try Me Good King*, an original opera written and devised by Jennifer Hamilton.

Madeleine wants to thank the Trinity Laban Morag Noble Scholarship, the Stevenage Arts Council and her family for their continued support.

Rebecca Chandler (mezzo Soprano) - is studying at Trinity Laban conservatoire. She enjoys singing trouser roles and played the role of Romeo in Trinity Laban's opera 'Strozzi'. She most recently played Kathryn Parr in Trinity Laban's production 'Try Me Good King'. Her voice is well suited to early music which is something she looks forward to exploring more. She has sung as the soloist in John Rutter's Magnificat, Schubert's Mass in G, Karl Jenkins' 'Armed Man', Faure's Requiem, Haydn's Missa Sancti Nicolai and Vivaldi's Gloria. In 2019 she was fortunate to win the Keldwyth Cumbrian Young Musicians Award. She loves to perform Gilbert and Sullivan and has sung roles in *Pirates of Penzance*, *Trial by Jury*, *Utopia Limited*, *Gondoliers*, *Mikado* and *Princess Ida* through Cumbrian societies. Rebecca has benefited from singing in many choirs from a young age, performing genres from classical to gospel, musical theatre, and jazz.

Eamonn Walsh (Tenor) - originally from Cork, Ireland, Eamonn studied a BMus Degree on scholarship at Maynooth University graduating with a first class honours in 2021. Eamonn went on to work with the Irish National Opera Chorus, performing in *Fidelio* (Gaiety, 2021) and *Carmen* (Bord Gais, 2022), as well as with NI Opera chorus in their production of *La Traviata* (Belfast, 2022). Eamonn was a choral scholar at Christchurch Cathedral, Dublin and was a member of the Maynooth University Chamber Choir with whom he performed as a soloist on RTE Christmas and Easter broadcasts as well as for the president of Ireland. In 2023 Eamonn received the Kathleen Creed Scholarship to study a Masters in Music at Trinity Laban

Conservatoire. Recent operatic roles include Rudolfo (*La Bohème*) and Tamino (*die Zauberflöte*) in TL's opera scene productions. Other recent engagements include Prince Charming in Cork Opera House's *Sleeping Beauty* and Eabhar in dlr Mill Theatre's *Tír na nÓg*.

Johannes Gerges (Bass) - is a 23-year-old bass studying for a professional diploma at Trinity Laban where he is recipient of the Crompton scholarship. A student of Robert Alderson, Johannes just completed his masters, also at Trinity, having been awarded the Morag Noble and Kathleen Roberts scholarships. This will be Johannes' fourth appearance alongside the Southend Bach Choir having performed Haydn's *Harmoniemesse*, Stainer's *Crucifixion* and Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury* in previous concerts. Johannes has also made appearances alongside Opera Kensington and the London Philanthropic Orchestra, including a programme of highlights from *Don Giovanni*, as Leporello, in aid of King's College Hospital. Johannes has appeared in masterclasses with Roderick Williams, Ailish Tynan, Laurent Naouri, James Newby, James Black, Ubaldo Fabbri, Marco Voleri, Andrew Shore and Simon Bailey. On Sunday mornings, he sings as a choral scholar at St. Laurence's Church, Catford.

Our Accompanist

Christopher Moore - was born in Sussex and educated in Hertfordshire and at Durham University, where he graduated BA (with Honours) in Music. After a year's further study at the College of St Nicolas, Addington Palace (Royal School of Church Music) he worked in schools and churches in Dorset, London and Sussex before moving to Cambridge in 1986 to take up the post of Director of Music at Great St Mary's, later moving to the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs. In 1998 he moved to Sudbury, Suffolk, and then to London where he was Acting Organist to the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. In 2004 he moved to South Africa to be Director of Music at the Cathedral of St Michael and St George, Grahamstown, but later returned to the UK to take up the post of Director of Music at St Michael and All Angels, Croydon. For thirty years he was an examiner for the ABRSM and for twenty years a director of the English Hymnal Company. For two years he was Assistant Director of Music at St Mary-le-Tower in Ipswich and for five the conductor of the Bury Friendly Orchestra and the Tudor Rose Singers. Christopher now lives in Clare, Suffolk, and is busy as pianist, organist, harpsichordist, accompanist and teacher as well as being involved in many aspects of musical life both in this district and further afield. His last church post was Choir Director at St Mary's church in Bury St Edmunds before retiring in 2018. He is pianist of the Sokolowski Trio and the Linnet Ensemble.

He studied the organ with Martin Neary at St Margaret's Westminster, Conrad Eden at Durham Cathedral and Timothy Farrell at Addington Palace.

He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and of Trinity College London, and an honorary Fellow of the Guild of Church Musicians. He also holds the Archbishop of Canterbury's Diploma in Church Music.

Programme

Choir

Dvorak Mass in D Major, Op. 86

Our Guest Soloists

Handel Total Eclipse (Samson)
Sung by **Eamonn Walsh**

Handel E Gelosia (Alcina)
Sung by **Madeleine McConnell Smith**

Handel Alma Mia (Floridante)
Sung by **Rebecca Chandler**

Handel The Trumpet shall sound (Messiah)
Sung by **Johannes Gerges**

Please join the choir for light refreshments during the interval.

Choir

Mozart Requiem in D Minor, K. 626

Thank you for joining us at our concert tonight.

We hope you enjoyed it.

We look forward to seeing you at our concerts throughout the year.

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 receive regular updates about choir events and activities 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

membership@southendbachchoir.org.uk.

For further information about the Southend Bach Choir

secretary@southendbachchoir.org.uk

www.southendbachchoir.org.uk

or social media pages:



Southend Bach Choir



southendbachchoir

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.

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:
membership@southendbachchoir.org.uk**

OUR NEXT CONCERT

An evening of English music

Saturday 13th July, 2024

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our concerts in the coming years will take place on:

23rd November, 2024

21st December, 2024

12th April, 2025

12th July, 2025

For

secretary@southendbachchoir.org.uk

or visit our website and social media

www.southendbachchoir.org.uk



Southend Bach Choir



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