

Southend Bach Choir

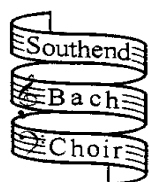
Presents

Glories of English Music

Music by Rutter, Stanford & Chilcott

Saturday 13th July 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

West Leigh Baptist Church
Leigh-on-Sea



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.

We are so pleased that we have joined with our friends from West Leigh Baptist Church this evening in our joint concert. We thank the church for all their support in helping organise tonight and for the use of their lovely church.

Thank you for coming this evening and we hope you enjoy our concert of English Music.

West Leigh Baptist Church

West Leigh Baptist Church was founded in 1914 and has been dedicated to serving our community, aiming to be a blessing to those in the area. We try to do this through youth and children's provision, the Southend Foodbank, Parish Nurses and others services.

Over a decade ago, we planned to construct a new building on our site to better serve the community and church family. As Christians, we believe that the church is defined by its people, not its buildings. However, having a suitable building is a great resource for meeting and serving our community. Due to financial constraints, we had to undertake our building project in two phases. With Phase 1 now fully paid off, we are wanting to complete the project.

Phase 2 will include a sports hall, intended for frequent use by both the community and our youth children in the church, as well as by our Parish Nurse ministry. Additionally, the building will feature specialized rooms for our Parish Nurses to meet with patients and provide holistic care. We will also have a kitchen to cater for events, benefiting both our church family and the wider community.

Thank you so much for supporting our project by attending tonight's concert.

Our Guest Soloist

Nicholas Bacon (*Baritone*) - A recent Master's graduate of King's College London, Nicholas spent four years as a Choral Scholar in King's College London's Chapel Choir, under the guidance of Dr Joseph Fort. During this time he studied under Robert Rice, having previously taken lessons with Andrew Kennedy and Matthew Hargreaves. Having gained his DipABRSM in Violin aged 15, Nicholas also led King's College London's Symphony Orchestra, and is a member of KCL's Strand Quartet.

As a soloist, Nicholas has performed at many well-known concert venues, including The Barbican Centre, Westminster Abbey, and St John's Smith Square, as well as in performances of Handel's Messiah with the London Handel Orchestra, and the St John and St Matthew Passions with the Hanover Band. Since 2021, he has recorded numerous CDs as part of King's College London's Chapel Choir, including Rachmaninov's All Night Vigil, and in 2021 sang in remembrance services for the Duke of Edinburgh. In 2023, on tour in Venice, Nicholas played the part of Peter (The Father) in performances of excerpts from Engelbert Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel, alongside KCL's Opera Society and Symphony Orchestra. More recently, he has performed Mendelssohn's Elijah and Bach's St Matthew Passion (Christus), and continues to perform regularly as a soloist and choral singer."

Our Accompanist

Rosemary Pennington - Rosemary was born in Southend, but lived in other parts of the United Kingdom before returning in 1985. She is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where she studied piano, accompaniment and percussion. After gaining a postgraduate teaching diploma, she developed a career in increasing positions in arts management. She has worked for 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 currently holds a position at Southend City Council, with responsibility for arts and culture.

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.

Our Music Director

Roger Humphrey – Roger studied organ, piano and conducting at the Royal College of Music, London and University of London. Post graduate work included studies at the City of London University and Guildhall School of Music. He has held positions of Director of Music at Southend High School for Boys and lecturer in Performing Arts at South Essex College. Currently Roger teaches part time at the

Westcliff High Schools. In addition to conducting The Southend Bach Choir, Roger is musical director of Southend Choral Society and Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church, Southchurch, with whom he has taken the choir to many cathedrals across the UK. Roger is the founder and Musical Director of Southend Girls' Choir and Director of Southend Boys' Choir, positions he has held for over 30 years. Roger has taken these choirs on many overseas concert tours to Poland, Belgium, France, Holland, Italy, Spain, Canada, US, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia and Seychelles. These tours have included performances in The Sydney Opera House, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Cathedrals in Paris, New York, Chicago, Washington, Milan, The Seychelles, Florence, St Peter's Basilica, Rome, St Mark's, Venice and many other major venues and concert halls across Europe, Canada, US, Singapore, and Australia. Roger has conducted the choirs in major London concert halls, including Royal Festival Hall and Barbican, and prepared the choirs for many performances at the BBC Proms. Roger directed performances of Britten's "Noye's Fludde" during the centenary year of Britten's birth, involving over 450 musicians of all ages performing in Southend, Tilbury Cruise Terminal and Southwark Cathedral. For several years Roger was Musical Director of the Seychelles Festival of Music.

Southend Bach Choir is recruiting singers

We are holding an Open Evening on Tuesday 17th September 2024

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

Time 7.15 pm

On that evening we will be rehearsing choruses from Handel's Messiah

Refreshments will be served

No auditions & reading music is an advantage but not a requirement

We are a very friendly choir - join us to share the health and mental benefits of choral singing.

Programme

Rutter Te Deum

Stanford Songs of the Fleet

Featuring

Nicholas Bacon

Sailing at Dawn

The Song of the Sou-wester

The Middle Watch

The Little Admiral

Farewell

Chilcott The Lily and the Rose

O Danny Boy

Over the Wave

Skye Boat Song

Solos – Nicholas Bacon

Vaughan Williams The Vagabond

Let Beauty Awake

The Roadside Fire

Stanford The Blue Bird

Rutter Gloria

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

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 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

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. Burford Mr T. Harding Mr J. Wall Mr D. Smith
Miss C. Kirkham Mrs J. Bliss Mr M. Bliss Mr R. Hair
Mr P. Hepworth Mr M. Luxford

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

For details of the Patron Scheme:

Email: membership@southendbachchoir.org.uk

OUR NEXT CONCERT

Handel's Messiah

Saturday 23rd November, 2024

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our concerts in the coming years will take place on:

21st December, 2024

12th April, 2025

12th July, 2025

For further information please contact:

secretary@southendbachchoir.org.uk

or visit our website and social media:

www.southendbachchoir.org.uk



Southend Bach Choir



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Southend Bach Choir
Registered Charity No. 274370