

Southend Bach Choir

Presents

A Carol Concert

in aid of SECE Mind

Saturday 20th December 2025 at 7.00pm

Kings Road URC, Westcliff-on-Sea



Programme





The Southend Bach Choir would like to wish everyone
a very Happy Christmas
and a peaceful New Year!

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 Choir and Orchestral Society sponsored the birth of the College Opera Group, which became independent in 1950. In this year the choir's name converted to Southend-on-Sea Municipal College Choral Society and many challenging concerts followed. At the end of 1963, it became the Southend-on-Sea College of Technology Choral Society! In 1968, still under the baton of Dr. Harold May, the choir became independent as the Southend Bach Choir. 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 "Mass in B minor". Upon Gerald's retirement in 2001, the choir welcomed Colin Edwards.

In 2023, following the sudden tragic loss of Colin, Roger Humphrey, who had served as our accompanist for 40 years, stepped into the role of Musical Director. Under his direction, the Southend Bach Choir continues to thrive, building on its rich history and looking forward to many more memorable performances.

Why not join us?

- *When?* We rehearse every Tuesday during school terms at 7:30-9:30pm
- *Where?* St Andrew's Church, Southview Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9PW
- No auditions and reading music is an advantage but not a requirement.
- ***If you are interested in singing with the choir, please speak to any one of us during the interval or after the concert!***

We are pleased to announce our association with *SECE Mind* this evening. To support this worthwhile local charity, there will be a retiring collection in aid of their work.





Programme

Conducted by: Roger Humphrey

Accompanist: Lorraine Everett

Choir & Audience

Once in royal David's city

arr. David Willcocks

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed
Mary was that mother mild
Jesus Christ, her little Child

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all
And His shelter was a stable
And His cradle was a stall
With the poor, and mean, and lowly
Lived on earth, our Saviour holy

And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey
Love and watch the lowly maiden
In whose gentle arms he lay
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He

And our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone

Not in that poor lowly stable
 With the oxen standing by
 We shall see Him but in heaven
 Set at God's right hand on high
 When like stars his children crowned
 All in white shall wait around



Choir

Gloria
 The Advent Candle
 Sans Day Carol
 Tolite Hostias

A. Vivaldi
Bod Chilcott
arr. John Rutter
C. Saint-Saëns

Reading

"Minstrels"

by William Wordsworth

Choir & Audience

God rest you merry, gentlemen

arr. David Willcocks

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
 Let nothing you dismay
 For Jesus Christ our Saviour
 Was born upon this day
 To save us all from Satan's power
 When we were gone astray:
 O tidings of comfort and joy,
 Comfort and joy.
 O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father
 A blessed angel came
 And unto certain shepherds
 Brought tidings of the same
 How that in Bethlehem was born
 The Son of God by name:
 O tidings of comfort and joy...

Now to the Lord sing praises,
 All you within this place

And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Choir

On Christmas Night (Sussex Carol)
O Holy Night

*Traditional arr. Ledger
arr. Mac Huff*

Trio (SSA):

*Anastasia Adamoudi
Elyza Mells
Liz Swanson*

Choir

Bethlehem Down
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

*Peter Warlock
arr. Roger Humphrey*

Reading

"The Snowball"

by Shel Silverstein

Choir & Audience

O little town of Bethlehem

*arr. RV Williams &
T. Armstrong*

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

O morning stars together
Proclaim thy holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth
For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love



How silently, how silently,
 The wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of His heav'n.
 No ear may hear His coming,
 But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him still,
 The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 Descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin and enter in;
 Be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels,
 The great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Emmanuel!

Choir	Once as I remember	<i>17th Cent. Italian, harm. C. Wood</i>
Choir & solo: Ros Hayman	In the Bleak Midwinter	<i>Harold Darke</i>
Choir	The Christ Child	<i>Roger Humphrey</i>
	Carol of the Bells	<i>M. Leontovich</i>

Reading	<i>"The magi at the empty manger"</i>	<i>by © Godfrey Rust</i> www.wordsout.co.uk
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Choir & Audience	O come, all ye faithful	<i>arr. David Willcocks</i>
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O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
 Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!
 O come, let us adore Him;
 O come, let us adore Him;
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light,
 Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;



Very God, begotten not created;
O come, let us adore Him...

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him...

Choir

Sleigh Ride
Coventry Carol
New Year
Break Forth

L. Anderson
arr. Martin Shaw
John Rutter
J.S. Bach

Reading

"I will light Candles this Christmas"

by Howard Thurman

Choir & Audience

Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing

arr. David Willcocks

Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel



Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Speech David Sollis - CEO, South East and Central Essex Mind

Choir Twelve Days of Christmas *arr. John Rutter*

Thanks Chairman of Southend Bach Choir

Choir We wish you a Merry Christmas *arr. Arthur Warrell*

Please join us for refreshments after the concert!



A thank you from SECE Mind

South East and Central Essex Mind (*SECE Mind*) will be 60 years old in 2026! Its core functions are *supported housing, therapy services and corporate support*. The purpose is to help our community and residents, professionals and friends access high quality mental health support in their local area. Our mission for the next 3 years is to **Prevent** ill mental health in the area, **Reduce** barriers, stigma and waiting lists, and **Promote** a positive future for mental health. We do this through accessible and bespoke services, education and campaigning with the aim of helping to create an empowered and mentally healthy community.

We did expand SECE Mind's housing offer to new locations, as well as create a floating support role to engage those with mental health needs within the community.

We have begun engaging in joining physical and mental health together through a series of activity-based programmes including *CrossFit Teens, Mind in Motion* (drug and alcohol recovery sessions) and *Brazilarte Academy*, through dance and jujitsu.

We offer a new wider range of courses in partnership with training providers, delivered and developed with a bespoke approach, ensuring that clients, corporates, etc. receive the best training on the market.

We did expand SECE Mind's counselling offer across the footprint by focusing on all ages, as well as community groups, e.g. neuro-diverse, Ukrainian and others.

We support those seeking help and ensure that they navigate the complex system of health & social care, leading to a healthier community.

www.secemind.org.uk



Registered Charity No 1148451

Merry
Christmas





OUR PATRONS

Mrs J. Restorick Mr K. Treverton
Mr S. Burford Mr T. Harding
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

Rossini's 'Stabat Mater' & Schubert's 'Mass in G'

Saturday 2nd May 2026, 7pm

Holy Trinity Church, Southchurch, SS2 4XA

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our concerts in the coming year will take place on:

4th July 2026 ♪ 21st November 2026 ♪ 19th December 2026



Southend Bach Choir
Registered Charity
No. 274370

