



WrittleSingers

Registered charity no: 1056334

Musical Director: Christine Gwynn

Soprano

Rebecca Gell, Jane Hammond, Rebecca Haynes,
Rachel Hepburn, Michèle Marshall,
Rocío Pérez Cabrera, Laura Robertson,
Charlotte Robson, Helen Sismey

Alto

Julia Cooper, Julia Marsh, Emma Norton,
Ellie Oldershaw, Sophie Richards, Jen Rutter

Tenor

Martin Burchett, Andrew Cripps, Martin Mason,
David Miles

Bass

Peter Brisley, Steven Clews, Simon McKinnon,
Andrew Taylor, Graham Woodham

Writtle Singers is a friendly, mixed-voice chamber choir.
We aim to perform an exciting variety of music to the
highest standard and provide enjoyment for both singers
and audience. Based in the village of Writtle, where we
rehearse on Monday evenings in the historic church of All
Saints, our members come from all over Essex and beyond.

Our repertoire is varied: recent concerts have featured
Laudes Organi by Kodaly, Haydn's *Te Deum* and Gabriel
Jackson's *Missa Sanctae Margaretae*, along with works by
composers from Tallis and Byrd through to contemporaries
such as Kerensa Briggs, Roxanna Panufnik, Janet Wheeler
and Ola Gjeilo.

Enquiries from suitably experienced singers are always
welcome. For more information, email
info@writtlesingers.org.uk or ring 07921 146089.



Find WrittleSingers online:

visit our website writtlesingers.org.uk
and find us on Facebook, X & Instagram



Forthcoming events with WrittleSingers

Open Rehearsal

Monday 12 January 2026 7:30pm

Annual Quiz in the Christian Centre

Saturday 7 February 2026 7pm

phone 07752 724256 for more details
and to book your table of 8!

Journey to Easter

Saturday 7 March 2026 5pm

A musical meditation through Lent to Allelulia

Concert tour to Vienna

with the Valentine Singers

April 2026

Vivaldi Gloria

Saturday 27 June 2026

Look at our website for more details

writtlesingers.org.uk

where concert tickets can also be purchased



Wrejoice!

our Christmas CD

An ideal stocking filler or
Secret Santa gift!

Buy tonight for £7

includes Adam lay ybounden ~ Masters in this hall ~
There is no rose ~ Sans Day Carol ~ Away in a manger ~
The Infant King ~ Zither Carol ~ O little one sweet ~
Ding Dong! Merrily on high ~ Sussex Carol



Also available ~

Wrelax and Wroving

Buy 2 or more CDs
for £5 each

WrittleSingers

with the Writtle Junior School Choir

Christine Gwynn conductor

Julie Cookson conductor

Simon Harvey organ/piano

Candlelit Christmas Concert



Saturday 13 December 2025 5pm
All Saints Church, Writtle

Welcome to *WrittleSingers'* Candlelit Christmas Concert

We are delighted to welcome you to All Saints for our Candlelit Christmas Concert and to be joined by the children of the Writtle Junior School Choir, their teacher and conductor Julie Cookson, and organist Simon Harvey.

During the concert there will be carols for everyone to join in; the words for these will be on the screen at the front. If you would prefer to use a large print version of the words, there are a few available at the door - please just ask.

Seasonal refreshments will be served after the concert and you are warmly invited to partake and enjoy the atmosphere a little longer before setting off into the night. If you'd like to take the Writtle sound home with you (or share it with others!), look out for our CDs that are on sale.

Warmest wishes for a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year!

Friends of *WrittleSingers*

We are most grateful for the continuing support of our Friends:

Pamela Butt, Keith Byatt, Audrey Cassidy,
Martin Clarke, Alistair Fiddes, Heather Gwynn,
Jenny Haxell & Paul Tarrant, Sue Hirst,
Brian Marsh, Sarah Moore, Frances Quintrell,
Graham Reeve, Harry Rutter, Gerry & Alma Scott,
Liz Tiplin, Hilary Walden

Why not become a Friend of WrittleSingers?

Benefits of our Friends scheme include:

- >>> a free ticket to each of our concerts
- >>> a 10% discount on further tickets
- >>> a free soft drink or glass of wine at any concert where we have a bar
- >>> free attendance at any of our Come & Sing events
- >>> invitations to social events
- >>> optional acknowledgement in our programmes

For more details of our Friends scheme,
contact us via email: info@writtlesingers.org.uk

PROGRAMME

Ding dong! merrily on high

16C French arr. Charles Wood

We've been a while a-wandering

trad. Yorkshire carol arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

O men from the fields

Arnold Cooke

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

trad. English carol arr. David Willcocks

On this day (Personent Hodie)

Piae Cantiones 1582 arr. Gustav Holst

Huron Carol

trad. Canadian arr. Kevin Stannard

Under Bethl'em's star so bright

trad. Czech arr. Kevin Stannard

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

Piae Cantiones arr. Reginald Jaques

In dulci jubilo

Old German arr. Robert L Pearsall

The first Nowell

Timothy Bliko

WE THREE KINGS

John Henry Hopkins

Brother Heinrich's Christmas

John Rutter

Ellie Oldershaw *bassoon* Tim Oldershaw *oboe*

Nick Taylor *narrator*

Little Donkey

Eric Boswell arr. CAG

SILENT NIGHT

Franz Xaver Gruber

Carollers from hell

Graham Pratt

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Mendelssohn arr. David Willcocks

We wish you a merry Christmas

trad. West Country arr. Arthur Warrell

Please join us for refreshments at the back of the church.

Writtle Junior School Choir

Julie Cookson *conductor*

Amelie Anderson, Maddie Attwood, Amelia Bremeyer,
Isabelle Bremeyer, Rachel Burton, Casey Chan,
Nathan Chan, Phoebe Davis, Mabel Dolan, Ruby Dolan,
Lily Holcombe, Milo Holcombe, Annabelle Johnstone,
Bonnie Langley-Nice, Freddie Langley-Nice,
Martha Leonard, Vihas Mallika Arachchilage,
Sofia Monahan, Chloe Moore, Adonise Rowe,
Scarlett Samarina, Francesca Treadway

Writtle Singers would like to thank the staff of Writtle Junior School, especially Julie Cookson and headteacher Nick Taylor, for making this joint venture possible.

Warm thanks are due, also, to all the children in the choir for their hard work and to their families for all their support and encouragement.

Did you know...?

Little Donkey, now a staple of school nativity plays up and down the country, was written by British songwriter Eric Boswell in 1959, and recorded that year by none other than Gracie Fields. The Beverley Sisters brought out their own recording a few weeks later and overtook Gracie in the charts, reaching no.14. The folk duo Nina and Frederik fared a little better the following Christmas - their disc made it to no.3.

Some of the melodies in today's concert date back hundreds of years. *Piae Cantiones* is a collection of late medieval Latin songs sung in Finnish cathedral schools and was first published in 1582. It found its way to England in the 19th century and now carols such as *Personent Hodie* (*On this day*) are sung annually. The melody of *Good King Wenceslas* comes from a 13th century spring carol in the collection, with words by J M Neale leaving us with a suitably Victorian moral to the story. The editors of the original *Oxford Book of Carols* (including Vaughan Williams) were very snuffy about Neale's verses - they hoped that "*Good King Wenceslas* may gradually pass into disuse..." It didn't!

Ding dong! merrily on high is another ancient tune married with more modern words - the melody comes from 16th century France, but the words were written by English composer and campanology enthusiast George R Woodward in 1924.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful once again to the Rev'd Tony Cant and the churchwardens of All Saints, Writtle for allowing us to rehearse and perform in this lovely church.