

making music **WrittleSingers**

Registered charity no: 1056334

Musical Director: **Christine Gwynn**

Soprano

Rebecca Gell, Michèle Marshall, Sarah Moore, Jean Rose,
Helen Sismey, Ruth Travers, Hilary Walden

Alto

Julia Cooper, Lucy Elwell, Sue Hirst, Julia Marsh,
Ellie Oldershaw, Frances Quintrell, Sophie Richards, Jen Rutter

Tenor

Martin Burchett, Andrew Cripps, Martin Mason, David Miles

Bass

Steven Clews, John Cockcroft, Peter Quintrell, Andrew Taylor

Writtle Singers is a chamber choir of some two dozen members. We are fortunate to rehearse and give most of our concerts in the ancient church of All Saints, Writtle. We also enjoy spreading our wings and recently sang evensong in the beautiful church of St Catherine's in the village of East Tilbury.

The choir's programmes are varied: concerts feature standard repertoire such as Stanford *Three Motets* and Duruflé *Requiem* alongside the new and unusual – Gabriel Jackson *To the Field of Stars*, Janet Wheeler *Time Becomes a Song* and an array of pieces by Kerry Andrew, Kerensa Briggs, Francesca Caccini, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Cecilia McDowall, James MacMillan, Arvo Pärt, Vicente Lusitano and Eric Whitacre.

We are always interested to hear from singers with relevant choral experience and confident sight-reading – and we enjoy cake!

Find out more about us at www.wrattlesingers.org.uk
or call 07903 904011.



Find Writtle Singers on-line:



visit our website www.wrattlesingers.org

like Writtle Singers Chamber Choir on Facebook



follow @WrittleSingers on Twitter

follow [writtle.singers](https://www.instagram.com/wrattlesingers) on Instagram



join our mailing list - email info@wrattlesingers.org

Forthcoming events from Writtle Singers

Come and Sing

Verdi - *Pater Noster*

Monday 17 July 2023 7:30 for 7:45pm

Open Rehearsal

Monday 11 September 7:30 for 7:45pm

Come and Sing

Choral Evensong

Sunday 24 September

Autumn Concert

Saturday 18 November 4pm

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 10 December 5pm

All events at All Saints, Writtle

Look at our website for more details

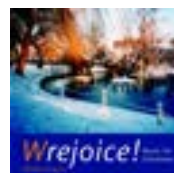
www.wrattlesingers.org

where concert tickets can also be purchased

Writtle Singers CDs



Wroving
music from
our travels



Wrejoice!
Christmas
music



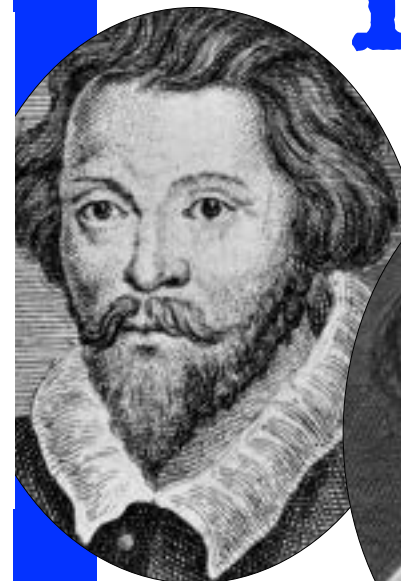
Wrelax
Soothing
music

All three CDs are available to buy this evening,
price £7 each - buy 2 or more CDs for only £5 each

WrittleSingers

Conductor: Christine Gwynn

Of Byrd



and Bard

Saturday 15 July 2023 6:30pm
All Saints Church, Writtle

Of Byrd and Bard

Thank you for joining us this evening for a feast of music and words by, and linked to, Byrd and Shakespeare.

The 400th anniversary of Byrd's death has brought to the attention of concert goers, worshippers and radio listeners the remarkable life and music of a composer who spent his later years living just a few miles from here. It was at Stondon Massey, in the 1590s, that Byrd composed his three masses which were all sung in secret services at nearby Ingatestone Hall. This evening we celebrate his secular output and that of one of his most famous pupils, Thomas Morley. In the 1590s both Morley and Shakespeare were both resident in the parish of St Helen's, Bishopsgate. There is considerable – and unresolved! – speculation as to whether they ever collaborated, or even met; however, Morley is one of only two composers contemporary with Shakespeare whose settings of his words have survived. The rest of our programme explores the wealth and diversity of settings, many from the 20th and 21st centuries, of Shakespeare's poetry and the songs from his plays, so many of which finally came to publication seven years after his death in the 1623 First Folio.

Friends of Writtle Singers

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

Pamela Butt, Keith Byatt, Alistair Fiddes,
Heather Gwynn, Jenny Haxell, Brian Marsh,
Graham Reeve, Gerry and Alma Scott,
Paul Tarrant, Liz Tiplin

Have you considered becoming a Friend of Writtle Singers?

Benefits of our Friends scheme include:

- >>> a free ticket to each of our concerts <<<
- >>> a discount on further tickets <<<
- >>> invitations to social events and workshops <<<
- >>> optional acknowledgement in our programmes <<<

For more details of our Friends scheme,
please ring Audrey Cassidy on 07815 966978.

~ PROGRAMME ~

Sing we and chant it

Thomas Morley 1557-1602

It was a lover and his lasse - *As you like it*

Thomas Morley

Shall I compare... - *Sonnet 18*

Nils Lindberg 1933-2022

from *Four Shakespeare Songs*

Jaakko Mäntyjärvi b.1963

Lullaby - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Double, double, toil and trouble - *Macbeth*

Shakespeare Songs Book 2

Matthew Harris b.1956

Take, O take those lips away - *Measure for Measure*

Tell me, where is fancy bred - *The Merchant of Venice*

Under the greenwood tree - *As You Like It*

Come away, come away death - *Twelfth Night*

from *Three Shakespeare Songs*

Christopher Brown b.1943

Tell me, where is fancy bred - *The Merchant of Venice*

Come away, come away death - *Twelfth Night*

Ave verum corpus

William Byrd c.1540-1623

Though Amaryllis Dance

William Byrd

Three Shakespeare Songs

Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

Full fathom five - *The Tempest*

The cloud-capp'd towers - *The Tempest*

Over hill, over dale - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

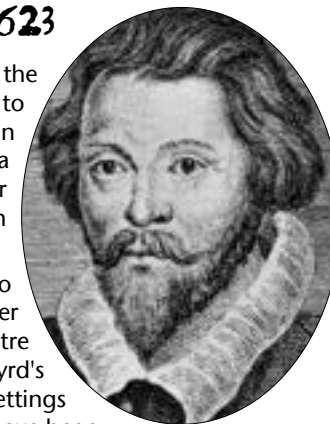
*Please join us for refreshments
at the back of the church*

William Byrd died 1623

William Byrd, a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal, managed to negotiate the dangers in Elizabethan England of being a Catholic composer writing for both Anglican and Roman Catholic worship.

In his 50s, Byrd moved to Stondon Massey in Essex, closer to his Catholic patrons the Petre family of Ingatestone Hall. Byrd's music, such as his three mass settings and *Ave verum corpus* would have been used in secret celebrations of the Catholic mass in the Petre family home.

Byrd was fined frequently for recusancy (non-attendance at Anglican services) in Stondon Massey, but is still thought to be buried in the churchyard there following his death on 4 July 1623.



400

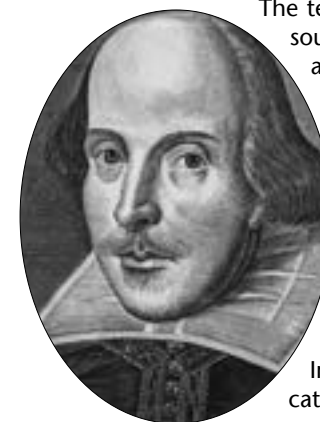
Shakespeare's First Folio published 1623

The First Folio was collated and edited by John Heminge and Henry Condell, actors who performed in Shakespeare's company.

The texts were compiled from reliable sources such as the prompt books and working drafts that had been used in productions during Shakespeare's lifetime.

Half the plays in the First Folio had not been published in Shakespeare's lifetime, and but for the First Folio might have been lost forever. These include *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar* and *The Tempest*.

In the First Folio, the plays were categorised for the first time as comedies, tragedies and histories.



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.