

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 will be 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, Martin Clarke,
John Cockcroft, Alistair Fiddes, Heather Gwynn,
Jenny Haxell & Paul Tarrant, Michael & Janet Hewitt,
Brian Marsh, Peter & Frances Quintrell,
Graham Reeve, Gerry & Alma Scott, Liz Tiplin

*Have you considered becoming a
Friend of WrittleSingers?*

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 ~

Gloria in excelsis Deo Robert Cowper
Mary's boy child Jester Hairston arr. CAG

GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN
trad. English carol arr. David Willcocks

Torches John Joubert
He came down trad. Ghanaian arr. Craig McLeish

The Lamb Janet Baldacci

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
trad. English arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams descant T Armstrong

Infant holy Polish carol arr. David Willcocks

It was on a starry night Joy Webb
Calypso Carol Michael Perry
AWAY IN A MANGER
W J Kirkpatrick arr. David Willcocks

O nata lux Jamie W Hall
Reading

The sixth sense from *Through a glass darkly* Jostein Gaarder

Wintertide arr. Ola Gjeilo

O Christmas tree trad. German
LITTLE DONKEY Eric Boswell

Reading
What the donkey saw U A Fanthorpe

WE THREE KINGS John Henry Hopkins

Santa Claus is coming to town
J Fred Coots/Haven Gillespie arr. CAG

Piano duet
Sleigh Ride Leroy Anderson arr. Cornick

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL
composer unknown arr. David Willcocks

Welcome, Yule! Charles Hubert Hastings Parry

Writtle Junior School Choir Julie Cookson *conductor*

Lydia Burton, Rachel Burton, Nathan Chan,
Myla Cuomo, Faith Easteal, Layla Evans,
Rosie Fenton-Sagnella, Amy Gottesmann,
Lily Holcombe, Jamie Jones, Piper Knowles,
Bonnie Langley-Nice, Samuel Morris,
Eleanor Owers, Bethany Randell, Ted Rayner,
Abigail Thurtle, Rosie Wright

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.

O Nata Lux - translation

O nata lux de lumine Jesu redemptor saeculi, Dignare clemens supplicum Laudes preces que sumere.	<i>O Light born of Light, Jesus, redeemer of the world, with loving-kindness deign to receive suppliant praise and prayer.</i>
Qui carne quondam contegi Dignatus es pro perditis, Nos membra confer effici Tui beati corporis.	<i>Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost, grant us to be members of thy blessed body.</i>

Did you know...?

Mary's boy child was originally written as a calypso-style song for a friend's birthday party, with the title *He pone and chocolate tea*.

The main melody for *Santa Claus is coming to town* (1934) was written in ten minutes. The song was dismissed by its publisher as a "kid's song", but after being played on a popular radio show it was an instant hit and became one of the biggest selling songs in America.

The *Calypso Carol* was written for a student carol concert in 1964, and became accidentally well-known when Cliff Richard came across it and included it in a radio selection.

In common with much of the best Christmas and winter music, Leroy Anderson had the idea for *Sleigh Ride* during a heatwave in July 1946.

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.

Musical Director: **Christine Gwynn**

Soprano

Eleanor Drinkwater, Rachel Feltham,
Michèle Marshall, Sarah Moore, Catherine Reeve,
Laura Robertson, Jean Rose, Helen Sismey,
Ruth Travers, Louise Whitehead

Alto

Audrey Cassidy, Julia Cooper, Lucy Elwell, Sue Hirst,
Julia Marsh, Emma Norton, Sophie Richards

Tenor

Martin Burchett, Andrew Cripps, Steve Green,
Martin Mason, David Miles

Bass

Martin Andrews, Peter Brisley, Steven Clews, 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.writtlesingers.org.uk or call 07903 904011.



Find Writtle Singers on-line:



visit our website www.writtlesingers.org

like Writtle Singers Chamber Choir on Facebook



follow @WrittleSingers on X (Twitter)

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



join our mailing list - email info@writtlesingers.org

Forthcoming events from *WrittleSingers*

Open Rehearsal

Monday 15 January 2024 7:30pm

Quiz Evening

Saturday 3 February 2024 7pm

Writtle Christian Centre

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

Out of the Darkness

Saturday 23 March 2024 5pm

music reflecting Holy Week

by Bullard, Bairstow, Bruckner, Kodály and Pärt

Summer Concert

Saturday 6 July 2024

All rehearsals and concerts at

All Saints Church, Writtle

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



Sunday 10 December 2023 5pm
All Saints Church, Writtle