

WrittleSingers

Registered charity no: 1056334

Musical Director: **Christine Gwynn**

Soprano

Rebecca Gell, Rachel Hepburn, Michèle Marshall,
Sarah Moore, Catherine Reeve, Laura Robertson,
Jean Rose, Helen Sismey, Ruth Travers,
Louise Whitehead

Alto

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

Tenor

Martin Burchett, Andrew Cripps, Martin Mason,
David Miles

Bass

Steven Clews, Samuel McKinnon, Simon McKinnon,
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 **WrittleSingers** on-line:



visit our website www.wrattlesingers.org

like **Writtle Singers Chamber Choir** on Facebook



follow @WrittleSingers on X (Twitter)

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



join our mailing list - email info@wrattlesingers.org

Forthcoming Events from **WrittleSingers**

Come & Sing Paris!

Monday 15 July 2024 7:45pm

A summer evening of beautiful music from Paris, featuring Jehan Alain's lyrical Requiem Mass plus music by Duruflé and Messiaen.

£5 including loan of all the music - pay on the day. Let us know at info@wrattlesingers.org.uk if you are planning to attend. There will be cakes!

Open Rehearsal

Monday 16 September 2024 7:45pm

Featuring music for our Autumn concert, and more cake! All welcome - no charge.

Autumn Concert

Saturday 16 November 2024 4pm

Candlelit Carol Concert

Saturday 14 December 2024 5pm

We are delighted to be joined once again by the choir from Writtle Junior School.

All events at

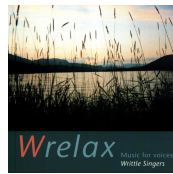
All Saints Church, Writtle

Look at our website for more details, where concert tickets can also be purchased.
wrattlesingers.org.uk

WrittleSingers CDs - £7 each



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WrittleSingers

Christine Gwynn *conductor*

*Pastime
with good
Company*



Saturday 6 July 2024 5pm
All Saints Church, Writtle

Pastime with good Company

We are delighted to pass time in your company this afternoon with words and music that celebrate the joys – and occasional tribulations! – of love and friendship. The musical items span some 500 years and also mark several anniversaries: 150 years since the birth of Gustav Holst; 450 years since that of John Wilbye and 100 years since the death of Charles Villiers Stanford. Wilbye was born in Suffolk and worked for decades at Hengrave Hall near Bury St Edmunds – whilst maintaining strong links with the musical scene in London where his madrigals were published – before retiring to Colchester where he ended his days. Dublin-born Stanford developed a significant and very influential career as both composer and teacher, holding prestigious posts at Cambridge University and at the Royal College of Music in London, where his illustrious list of pupils included Gustav Holst. Holst's local associations are well-known through the wonderful legacy of the Thaxted Festival which grew from his 1916 Whitsun Festival in Thaxted Church. There are a few other diverse local links with the composers in tonight's concert, ranging from Henry VIII's colourful 16th century visits to nearby Blackmore and William Byrd's association, a few decades later, with the recusant Catholics at Ingatestone Hall, to the rich and diverse musical input of Jonathan Rathbone to life in and around 21st century Waltham Forest.

Friends of WrittleSingers

We are most grateful for the continuing support of our Friends: Pamela Butt, Keith Byatt, Audrey Cassidy, Martin Clarke, John Cockcroft, Alistair Fiddes, Heather Gwynn, Jenny Haxell & Paul Tarrant, Brian Marsh, Peter & Frances Quintrell, Graham Reeve, Gerry & Alma Scott, Liz Tiplin, Hilary Walden

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, contact us via email: info@writtlesingers.org

PROGRAMME

Pastime with good company attrib. Henry VIII 1491-1547

Fair Phyllis I saw John Farmer c1570-c1601
Though Amaryllis dance William Byrd c1540-1623

O tell me the truth about love W H Auden

Mother, I will have a husband Thomas Vautor fl1592-1619
Il est bel et bon Pierre Passereau fl1509-1547
When daisies pied George MacFarren 1813-1887

Love Song Dorothy Parker

Come live with me William Sterndale Bennett 1816-1875
Sweet Suffolk owl Thomas Vautor
Draw on, sweet night John Wilbye 1574-1638

Anne Hathaway Carol Ann Duffy

Five Partsongs Gustav Holst 1874-1934
Dream tryst
Ye little birds
Her eyes the glow-worm lend thee
Now is the month of Maying
Come to me

Who has seen the wind Christina Rossetti

My love dwelt in a Northern land Edward Elgar 1857-1934
The Blue Bird Charles Villiers Stanford 1852-1924
Lay a garland Robert Pearsall 1795-1856

To me, fair friend, you never can be old (Sonnet 104)
William Shakespeare

Three Folk Songs arr. Jonathan Rathbone b1957
The Oak and the Ash
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
Nine Hundred Miles

Quick, we have but a second Charles Villiers Stanford

Please join us for refreshments at the back of the church

Meet the singers...

...discover a little more about some of our choir members



Martin Burchett - tenor

Joined Writtle Singers: 2022

Favourite subject at school: Geography

What was the first record you bought?

Silence is Golden by The Tremeloes

Do you play a musical instrument? Guitar (badly!)

How many languages can you speak? Two

Tea or coffee: Tea

What book are you reading? Milkman by Anna Burns

Dream holiday destination: India

What is your Desert Island Disc? An Orkney Wedding with Sunrise by Peter Maxwell Davies

Early bird or night owl? Early bird

Cats or dogs? Both - but I prefer horses

Favourite Writtle Singers memory: I do love a madrigal, so it could be something we're singing this evening...

Sophie Richards - alto

Joined Writtle Singers: 1998

Dream holiday destination: Italy, Thailand, The Caribbean, India

Cats or dogs? Cats

Favourite school subject: Maths, Music, French

Early bird or night owl? Neither, but definitely not a morning person

How many languages can you speak? 3(ish!) rusty French, actively learning Italian for 4 years

Do (or did) you play a musical instrument? Recorder, viola, baritone horn - have dabbled in a few others

Favourite sandwich filling: Any - but needs to be well-filled and not too much salad!

What is your Desert Island Disc? Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony or Mahler 2

What book are you reading? Gli zii di Sicilia by Leonardo Sciascia / A Street Cat Named Bob by James Bowen

Favourite Writtle Singers memory: Too many to mention, but especially the tours - Zürich, Prague, Yorkshire



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.