

making music **WrittleSingers**

Registered charity no: 1056334

Musical Director: **Christine Gwynn**

Soprano

Rebecca Gell, Jane Hammond, Rebecca Haynes, Rachel Hepburn, Michèle Marshall, Sarah Moore, Rocío Pérez Cabrera, Catherine Reeve, Laura Robertson

Alto

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

Tenor

Martin Burchett, Matthew Butt, Andrew Cripps, Richard Hickman, 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 or ring 07921 146089.



Find *WrittleSingers* on-line:



visit our website www.writtlesingers.org

like *Writtle Singers Chamber Choir* on Facebook



follow @WrittleSingers on X (Twitter)

follow *writtle.singers* on Instagram



join our mailing list - email info@writtlesingers.org

Forthcoming Events from *WrittleSingers*

Summer Concert

Saturday 12 July 2025

Open Rehearsal

Monday 15 September 2025 7:45pm

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

Autumn Concert

Saturday 15 November 2025

Candlelit Carol Concert

Saturday 13 December 2025 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.
writtlesingers.org.uk

WrittleSingers

Christine Gwynn *conductor*

IN TUNE WITH NATURE



Image by
Gerd Altmann
from Pixabay

WrittleSingers CDs - £7 each



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music from
our travels



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Saturday 29 March 2025 5pm
All Saints Church, Writtle

IN TUNE WITH NATURE

Thank you for joining us for a celebration of the natural world in choral music. Ralph Vaughan Williams bookends the programme: an arrangement of a simple folksong and, by contrast, three settings from Shakespeare's most magical plays: *The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. From the 16th and 17th centuries we have contrasting avian offerings – Gibbons' sublime swan and Janequin's riotous dawn chorus – and Weelkes' extreme evocations of the natural world in two extravagant madrigals. From the 19th century, Fanny Hensel's expressive German part songs contrast Saint-Saëns' suave Gallic pieces. Britten's *Flower Songs* conjure the rugged East Anglian coast and its characterful flora whilst we are transported in a quite different way by the most recent piece, Eric Whitacre's *Water Night*.

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, Peter & Frances Quintrell, Graham Reeve, 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

PROGRAMME

Bushes and Briars arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

Three songs from *Gartenlieder* op.3 Fanny Hensel 1805-47
Lockung
Morgengruß
Abendlich schon rausch der Wald

Two Choruses op.68 Camille Saint-Saëns 1835-1921
Calme des nuits
Les fleurs et les arbres

Five Flower Songs Benjamin Britten 1913-76
To Daffodils
The Succession of Four Sweet Months
Marsh Flowers
The Evening Primrose
Ballad of Green Broom

Two Madrigals Thomas Weelkes c1576-1623
Thule, the Period of Cosmography
The Andalusian Merchant

Le chant des oiseaux Clément Janequin c1485-1558

The Silver Swan Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625

Water Night Eric Whitacre b.1970

Three Shakespeare Songs Ralph Vaughan Williams
Full Fathom Five
The Cloud-Capp'd Towers
Over Hill, Over Dale

Please join us for refreshments at the back of the church, and take a look at the exhibition *Letters from the Global South*, a very moving collection of children's letters and other personal pieces highlighting the catastrophic effects the climate crisis is having on the Global South.

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.

Meet the singers...

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



Emma Norton - alto

Joined Writtle Singers: 2017 (I think!)

Favourite subject at school: Music and Geography

What was the first record you bought?
Greatest Hits 1985 double LP

Do you play a musical instrument? Piano, violin (badly!), have dabbled with flute and guitar

How many languages can you speak? A little German. Have sung in many different ones!

Tea or coffee? Tea

What book are you reading? The Salt Path by Raynor Winn

Dream holiday destination: Japan to see the cherry blossom in the Spring

What is your Desert Island Disc? Slave to Love - Roxy Music

Early bird or night owl? Depends on the day of the week!

Cats or dogs? Cats

Favourite Writtle Singers memory: The alto section getting the giggles at anything!

Jen Rutter - alto

Joined Writtle Singers: 2014

Dream holiday destination: Keswick in the Lake District

Cats or dogs? Cats

Favourite school subject: Art

Early bird or night owl? Night owl

How many languages can you speak? 1.2

What was the first record you bought? White Blood Cells, The White Stripes

Do you play a musical instrument? Piano and saxophone (falteringly!)

Favourite sandwich filling: Tuna and sweetcorn

What is your Desert Island Disc? The Rhythm of Life from Sweet Charity

Tea or coffee? Coffee

What book are you reading? Wildlands by Brogan Murphy

Favourite Writtle Singers memory: A merge of the many times I've arrived after a tiring day at work to be suddenly refreshed by the magical feeling of singing together.

Also every time the altos get the giggles.

