



WrittleSingers

Registered charity no: 1056334

Musical Director: Christine Gwynn

Soprano

Rebecca Gell, Jane Hammond, Rachel Hepburn, Michèle Marshall, Catherine Reeve, Laura Robertson, Charlotte Robson, Helen Sismey, Ruth Travers

Alto

Julia Cooper, Catharine Drury, Kelsey Landes, Julia Marsh, Emma Norton, Ellie Oldershaw, Sophie Richards

Tenor

Martin Burchett, Andrew Cripps, Martin Mason, David Miles, Matt Ralph

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



join our mailing list - email info@writtlesingers.org

Forthcoming Events with WrittleSingers

Concert Tour to Vienna

with Valentine Singers

April 2026

Open Rehearsal

Monday 20 April 2026 7:30pm

featuring music for our Summer Concert

Summer Concert

with the Jericho Ensemble

Saturday 27 June 2026 6:30pm

Vivaldi *Gloria*

Monteverdi *Beatus vir*

Come and Sing

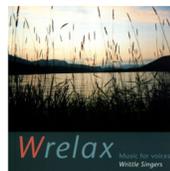
Monday 6 July 2026 7:30pm

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

WrittleSingers CDs - £7 each



Wroving
music from our travels



Wrelax
Soothing music

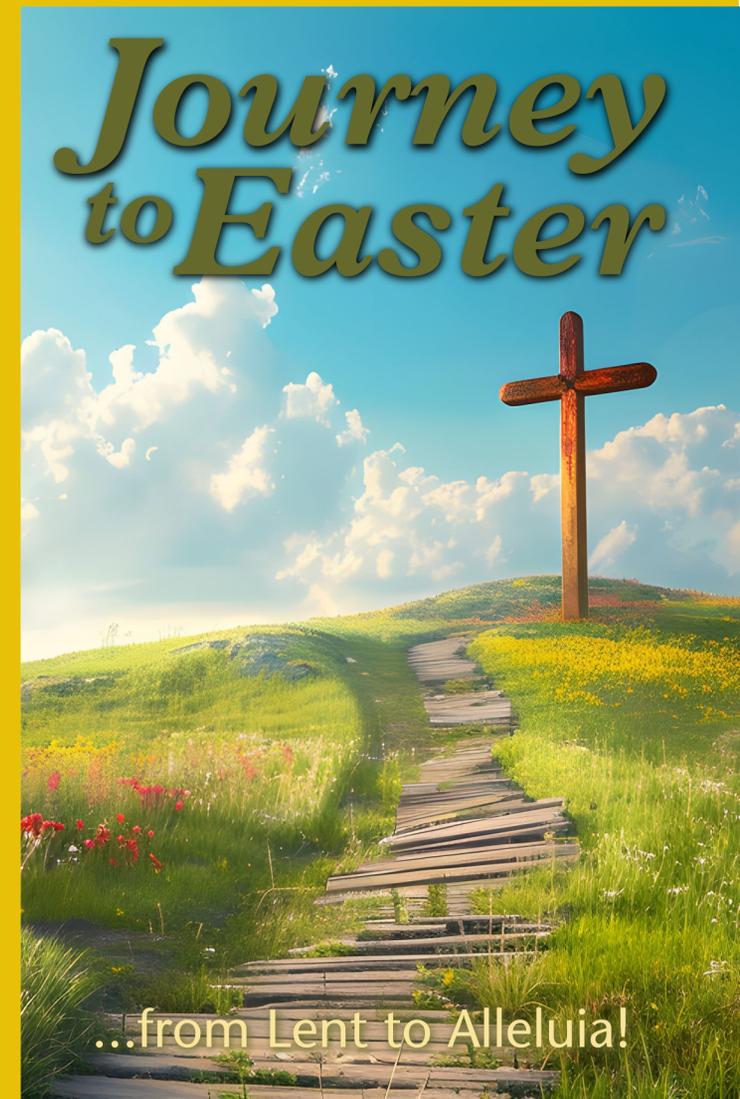


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Christmas music

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WrittleSingers

Christine Gwynn *conductor*



Journey to Easter

...from Lent to Alleluia!

Saturday 7 March 2026 5pm
All Saints Church, Writtle

Journey to Easter

The seasons of Lent, Passiontide and Easter have inspired some of the most glorious music in the choral repertoire. The *a cappella* pieces chosen for today are intended to lead us on a bit of a journey through this period and are interspersed with readings from a physical journey made by the Scottish Jesuit Priest Gerard "Gerry" Hughes in the 1980s. Hughes' *Walk to Jerusalem* describes his pilgrimage of peace from the UK through Europe to the Mediterranean. We join him as he embarks on his project up until his Easter-time arrival in Austria.

Our musical journey begins with a glimpse of the destination with Lotti's *Regina coeli*, complete with celebratory alleluias. Stanford's meditative settings of verses from the Wisdom of Solomon and Psalm 119 gently reflect the Lenten themes of discipline and faithfulness. Tchaikovsky's piece evokes a legend of Christ in childhood; in his garden he grows beautiful roses but they are torn up by mocking children and made into a crown of thorns.

Saint-Saëns' *Ave verum corpus* brings us to Holy Week and the Last Supper, complemented by Stainer's setting of the beloved words from St John's gospel, *God so loved the world* and Lotti's searing *Crucifixus*, which takes us to the heart of Good Friday. The text of *O vos omnes* comes from the Old Testament Book of Lamentations, and is traditionally sung at Tenebrae on Holy Saturday, reflecting – in three very contrasting settings – the abject sorrow at this point of seeming failure. *Aestimatus sum* is traditionally sung at that same service and also reflects this strange, painful time.

The text of *Christus factus est*, also in contrasting settings, re-connects Christ's suffering with human salvation and the exaltation of Jesus whose name shall be above all names. Christina Rossetti's inspired words, in Havelock Nelson's exquisite setting, lead us to the final stage of our journey, the celebration of Easter in Charles Wood's setting of the popular Dutch carol, *This joyful Eastertide*.

PROGRAMME

- Regina coeli Antonio Lotti c1667-1740
- Justorum animae Charles Villiers Stanford 1852-1924
- Beati quorum via Charles Villiers Stanford
- The Crown of Roses Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky 1840-93
- Ave verum corpus Camille Saint-Saëns 1835-1921
- God so loved the world John Stainer 1840-1901
- Crucifixus Antonio Lotti
- O vos omnes Tomás Luis de Victoria 1548-1611
- O vos omnes Carlo Gesualdo c1561-1613
- O vos omnes Pablo Casals 1876-1973
- Aestimatus sum Jan Dismas Zelenka 1679-1745
- Christus factus est Felice Anerio c1560-1614
- Christus factus est Anton Bruckner 1824-96
- While Christ lay dead Havelock Nelson 1917-96
- This joyful Eastertide Dutch Carol arr. Charles Wood 1866-1926

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

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
one of our choir members*



Andrew Taylor - bass

*Joined Writtle Singers: 2004 as a guest -
a few years later as a regular*

Favourite subject at school: Music

*What was the first record you bought? 1812
and Other Overtures (I was a nerdy kid!)*

*Do you play a musical instrument? Organ, piano, clarinet,
bought a cello some years ago, must learn how to play it!*

Favourite sandwich filling: Chicken caesar salad

*How many languages can you speak? Apart from English, a
smattering of schoolboy French and German*

Tea or coffee? Coffee, but tea first thing and at choir

*What book are you reading? A Short History of London by
Simon Jenkins*

What is your Desert Island Disc? Baker Street, Gerry Rafferty

Early bird or night owl? Night owl (that's getting harder...)

*Favourite Writtle Singers memory: All the tours and
Bach B minor Mass in 2007*

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