

Southend Bach Choir

Presents

A Carol Concert

in aid of HARP

Saturday 21st December 2024 at 7.00pm

St Andrews Church, Westcliff-on-sea



Programme



JOY
to the
WORLD

The Southend Bach Choir

Registered Charity No. 274370

Music Director – Roger Humphrey

The Southend Bach Choir began life in 1943 as an evening class of the Municipal College in Southend under the direction of its founder Dr. Harold May, FRCO. Known as the Municipal College Choir it gave its first performance in December of that year. We've continued to give a varied programme in all our concerts since then and our celebrating our 80th anniversary in 2023.

Why not join us?

Singing in a Choir not only very enjoyable, but a chance to make new friends, learn to sing wonderful music and experience the health and mental benefits of choral singing. Whether you are an experienced singer or a musical beginner, you will be warmly welcomed!

For further information please contact: secretary@southendbachchoir.org.uk
or visit our website: <https://www.southendbachchoir.org.uk>

We are pleased to continue our association with *HARP* this evening. To support this worthwhile local charity, there will be a retiring collection in aid of their work. If you don't have spare cash this evening, then please consider donating online.

The Southend Bach Choir would like to wish everyone
*a very Happy Christmas
and a peaceful New Year*





Programme

Conducted by: Roger Humphrey

Accompanist: Andrew Palmer

Choir

Joy to the world!

arr. John Rutter

Words of welcome and introduction *by Susan Sayers Hill*

Choir & Audience

Once in royal David's city

arr. David Willcocks

Once in Royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed
Mary was that mother mild
Jesus Christ, her little Child

solo: Ros Hayman

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all
And His shelter was a stable
And His cradle was a stall
With the poor, and mean, and lowly
Lived on earth, our Savior holy

And through all His wonders childhood
He would honor and obey
Love and watch the lowly maiden
In whose gentle arms he lay
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He

And our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above



And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone

Not in that poor lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
We shall see Him but in heaven
Set as God's right hand on high
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around

Choir

Sans Day Carol
A Maiden most Gentle
Infant Holy
Deck the Hall

arr. John Rutter
arr. Andrew Carter
arr. David Willcocks
arr. David Willcocks

Choir & Audience

God rest you merry, gentlemen

arr. David Willcocks

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy...

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place



And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Reading

“Singing Messiah for Christmas”
read by Peter Walker

*by Kathryn
Fowler-Brookes*

Choir

And the Glory of the Lord
As Joseph was a walking

*GF Handel
arr. Ian Brentnall
solo: Liz Swanson
arr. John Rutter
arr. G. Holst*

Christmas Night
Personnel Hodie

Reading

“The Star”
read by Sue Burford

by Jane Taylor

Choir & Audience

O little town of Bethlehem

arr.

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

O morning stars together
Proclaim thy holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth
For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond’ring love

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.



O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Choir

Ding Dong Merrily on High
When Christmas comes to Town
In the Bleak Midwinter
The Little Road to Bethlehem

harm. Charles Wood
arr. Alan Billingsley
arr. Harold Darke
arr. Michael Head
solo: Elyza Mells

Reading

“Christmas Time”
read by Helen Buxton

by Ronald Doe

Choir & Audience

O come, all ye faithful

arr. David Willcocks

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten not created;
O come, let us adore Him...

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him...

Choir

Somewhere in my Memory
There is Faint Music
Still, Still, Still
A Christmas Blessing

music John Williams
music Dan Forrest
arr. Philip Ledger
music Philip

Stopford

Choir & Audience

Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing

arr. David Willcocks

Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,

Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Speech	Michael Raffan	<i>HARP's Chair of Trustees</i>
Choir	Twelve Days of Christmas	<i>arr. John Rutter</i>
Vote of thanks	Ron Woodley	<i>Mayor of Southend-on-Sea</i>
Choir	We wish you a Merry Christmas	<i>arr. Arthur Warrell</i>

Please join us for refreshments after the concert!



A thank you from HARP

HARP is Southend's homelessness charity, dedicated to providing housing, advice, and support to nearly 1,000 people each year who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of losing their homes. The demand for our services is greater than ever, as homelessness continues to rise across the country. Together with the local community, our team of street outreach workers engages with people sleeping rough every night and every morning, 365 days a year.

From the streets, individuals are supported by our Bradbury Day Centre on York Road - a safe, warm space where they can access essential support such as hot food, showers, clothing, and medical care. Once these basic needs are met, we focus on long-term solutions. Our tailored support includes finding accommodation (including emergency housing), teaching life skills like cooking and budgeting, addressing challenges such as addiction or health issues, and eventually helping people re-enter work, education, or training.

We operate several supported housing projects in Southend-on-Sea, designed to meet the diverse needs of people experiencing homelessness. These include emergency accommodation, women-only housing, facilities for those with complex needs, and move-on accommodation for individuals ready for independent living.

A significant portion of our work is funded through voluntary donations, and we are fortunate to be part of a compassionate and supportive community. With your continued support, we can help more people overcome homelessness for good. Thank you for your support for our work.

For further information and online donations to the charity, please visit our website:

<https://www.harpsouthend.org.uk>



Registered Charity No. 1098126

Merry
Christmas

A festive Christmas graphic featuring the text "Merry Christmas" in a vibrant red, cursive font. The text is centered and surrounded by a decorative wreath of green holly leaves and berries. Small white snowflakes and dots are scattered around the text, adding to the holiday theme. The entire design is set against a plain white background.



OUR PATRONS

Mrs J. Restorick Mr K. Treverton
Mr S. Burford Mr T. Harding Mr J. Wall Mr D. Smith
Miss C. Kirkham Mrs J. Bliss Mr M. Bliss Mr R. Hair
Mr P. Hepworth Mr M. Luxford

*Southend Bach Choir is very grateful to the Patrons
for their continued encouragement and support*

For details of the Patron Scheme:
Email: membership@southendbachchoir.org.uk

OUR NEXT CONCERT

♪ **Bach's Mass in B Minor** ♪

Saturday 12th April 2025, 7pm

Kings Road URC, SS0 8LH, Westcliff on Sea

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our concerts in the coming year will take place on:

12th July 2025 ♪ 15th November 2025 ♪ 20th December 2025



Southend Bach Choir
Registered Charity
No. 274370

