



Billericay Choral Society
Presents



**“Songs for
a Summer
Evening”**

Conductor: Ed Sutton

**Accompanist: Tom Rodgers
with the Gibbons Ensemble**

PROGRAMME

Saturday 1st July 2023
Emmanuel Church
Billericay



WELCOME to this evening's concert.

This evening will take you on a journey through the folk and traditional songs of the British Isles and a little further afield.

Rutter's folk song suite *The Sprig of Thyme* takes traditional melodies and arranges them in a contemporary style.

The music is laid out simply, presenting the words in a natural way. Most are arranged for full choir, but we also have movements purely for upper or lower voices. Listen out too for the piano accompaniment.

Bob Chilcott is less well known than John Rutter, which is a real shame. He has written some wonderful choral music and the second half of our concert is a collection that he put together of pieces from various sources and nationalities. We will be singing in both Welsh and Japanese (see translation on other page).

Thank you to everyone who has made this concert possible.

To our conductor and accompanist.

To the Gibbons Ensemble.

To Marks Miller & Co Solicitors for printing.

To Slipped Discs' Brown Sugar for ticket sales.

To the committee and all the choir.

To Emmanuel Church.

To the Methodist Church for rehearsals.

And to you, our audience!

Biographies

Ed Sutton only joined Billericay Choral Society in 2022. He is thoroughly enjoying his time with the choir and the wide variety of music they sing. Ed first worked with choirs as Diocesan Organ Scholar for the Diocese of Norwich. He was simultaneously major music scholar at the King's School, Ely. He read music at the University of Edinburgh, and continued his studies at the University of Exeter, where he was Ouseley Senior Organ Scholar, researching the choral music of Giovanni Paolo Cima. Since then, Ed has held various organist and choir director positions, including with the Gibbons Ensemble who he is delighted are joining us this evening. Ed left the music world many years ago and took a better paid career in financial services. He currently works in underwriting and product development in the city and lives in Chelmsford with his miniature schnauzer. He enjoys quizzes and gin, often in combination.

Tom Rodgers is a professional conductor, accompanist, tutor, and composer/arranger; he has been working with the Billericay Choral Society since January 2022 and is very pleased to be in this important supporting role within the choir. As well as accompanying the BCS, Tom musically directs the Hornchurch "Can't" Sing Choir, the United Singers, and The New Essex Choir.

He is a freelance organist and is one of the MD's associated with Lennox Productions, a theatre company that fundraises for the Lennox Childrens Cancer Fund. He runs a successful tuition business in the Billericay, Brentwood, and Basildon area.

The **Gibbons Ensemble** is quintet of friends who enjoy singing together. A friend of Ed's asked if he could provide a choir to cover some services at Rochester Cathedral. None of Ed's choirs were available, but he had an idea. As an organist and choir director, Ed didn't get the opportunity to sing as much as he wanted. Even when he was asked to sing, he was often made to support the tenor line, but he really wanted to sing countertenor. He mentioned the vacancy at Rochester to a few singer friends and formed a quintet (five singers), with the deliberate aim that he be able to sing as well. The Gibbons Ensemble was born. Named after Orlando Gibbons, the early English composer, the Gibbons Ensemble actually sings a wide range of repertoire.

The group reforms whenever they have the opportunity, often with various friends and in various combinations of voices as the music requires. We are delighted to have the original line up with us tonight.



The Sprig of Thyme

PROGRAMME

arranged by John Rutter

The Bold Grenadier

English folksong

The Keel Row

Northumbrian folksong

The Willow Tree

English folksong

The Sprig of Thyme

Lincolnshire folksong

Down By the Sally Gardens

Irish folksong

The Cuckoo

English folksong

I Know Where I'm Going

Irish folksong

Willow Song

16th C melody and words

O, Can Ye Sew Cushions

Scottish folksong

The Miller of Dee

English traditional song

Afton Water

Scottish folksong

INTERVAL for refreshments

Selection from the Bob Chilcott Songbook

Written or arranged by Bob Chilcott

Aka-Tombo	Words Rofuu Miki, music Kousaku Yamada arr. Chilcott
Ar Hyd y Nos	Words John Ceirog Hughes (1832-87) Welsh trad., arr. Chilcott
Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802	William Wordsworth (1770-1850), music Chilcott
O Danny Boy	Fred Weatherly (1848-1929) County Derry melody arr. Chilcott
Over The Wave	Native American words (Ojibwa), music Chilcott
The Lily and The Rose	Anon 16th C. English, music Chilcott
The Skye Boat Song	Sir Harold Boulton (1859-1935) Scottish trad. arr. Chilcott

The Gibbons Ensemble

The quartet will sing some traditional songs during the performance.
These will be introduced by our conductor.

Translations

Aka-Tonbo

*The red dragonflies fly at sunset.
When I was young, and riding on nanny's
back I saw them.*

*We picked mulberry leaves into a little
basket in the field of a mountain.*

Or was it just a dream?

*At fifteen she was married and gone.
Letters never seemed to come.*

*The red dragonflies fly at sunset. Look,
one now rests on a bamboo stick.*

Ar Hyd y Nos

English words by Sir Harold Boulton

*Sleep my child, and peace attend thee,
All through the night,
Guardian angels God will send thee,
All through the night.*

*Soft the drowsy hours are creeping,
Hill and vale in slumber sleeping, I my
loving vigil keeping,
All through the night.*

*While the moon her watch is keeping,
All through the night.
While the weary world is sleeping,
All through the night.*

*O'er thy spirit gently stealing,
Visions of delight revealing,
Breathes a pure and holy feeling,
All through the night.*



Why not join us?

Do you like singing?

We always welcome new singers in all voice parts.

Members are drawn from all ranges of backgrounds and experience. If you are a lapsed singer or just starting out, then we would love to see you. There is no audition, just come with plenty of enthusiasm and a willingness to come to rehearsals regularly and well-prepared!

You do not even need to read music (although it does help) as we provide learning tracks for our members.

The choir rehearses every Tuesday during term-time in the Billericay Methodist Church in Western Road from 7:30pm to 9.30pm.

We will be having an **open rehearsal** on **Tuesday September 5th** when new members can come along and try it out. Alternatively, come along to one of our free Choral Workshops... (see back page).

For further information on the choir and joining us, please contact our membership secretary, Lorraine Douglas.

Lorraine.douglas@sky.com

07702 862266

Or visit our website.

www.billericaychoral.co.uk

Join our new mailing list.

Be the first to hear about our concerts and events. We are setting up a new online mailing list. Please email the address below for further information:

publicitybillericaychoral@gmail.com



SAVE THESE DATES!

Next Concert

Tuesday 12th December

Christmas concert

Choral Workshops

Tuesday 11th July
with Joanna Lee

Come along to the Methodist Church, Western Road, Billericay, for evenings of choral fun with two brilliant vocal leaders.

Tuesday 25th July
with John Pierce

No experience necessary,
no fee required - just turn up at
7-30pm on the night.

Open Rehearsal

Tuesday 5th September
7.30 pm
Methodist Church,
Western Road, Billericay

Thinking of joining us?
Come, sing, and enjoy yourself!
Arrive at 7.25pm and see how it
works.

Registered charity No 271059 "Billericay Choral Society aims to advance the education of the public in choral works by the presentation of public performances and to foster the public knowledge and appreciation of such music".

www.billericaychoral.co.uk