



Billericay Choral Society

Fauré Requiem & Rutter Gloria



with other music
by John Rutter

Conductor

Ed Sutton

Organ & Piano

Philip Prior

Baritone

Alastair Merry

PROGRAMME

Saturday 16th March 2024
Emmanuel Church
Billericay



WELCOME

Welcome to our concert.

This evening, we present a programme of contrasts. The first half is the famous Requiem by Gabriel Faure. The second half is a collection of pieces by John Rutter, including his setting of the Gloria. The first half is French, romantic, solemn and introspective; the second is British, contemporary, lively and joyful. We hope you enjoy it!

Ed Sutton Musical Director

Thank you to everyone who has made this concert possible.

To our conductor and accompanist.

To Members of the Choir who are singing solos.

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.

To our Front of House volunteers

And to you, our audience!

Please switch your phone to silent and **please** no photography during the concert. For copyright reasons, video and audio recording is **not** permitted.

Biographies

Ed Sutton Musical Director

Ed received his first organ training under Kenneth Ryder as Diocesan Organ Scholar at St Peter Mancroft, 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. He currently directs the Harsnett Choir, the Gibbons Ensemble and Billericay Choral Society. He is half of the duet Keepsake and is an active recitalist, accompanist, and conductor.

Ed left the music world many years ago and took a better paid career in financial services. He currently works in the City of London and lives in Essex with his partner and miniature schnauzer, one of whom also sings with Billericay Choral Society

Alastair Merry Baritone

Alastair studied music at Worcester College, Oxford, became a lay clerk at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and went on to study singing with Laura Sarti at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

He has sung several solo operatic roles including the Count in the Marriage of Figaro, Sid in Albert Herring, The Forester in Rusalka and Dancairo in Carmen.

As a professional chorister, Alastair has sung with the choruses of English and Welsh National Operas in over 20 productions, as well as covering and performing a small role in WNO's production of Moses und Aaron. Additionally, Alastair has worked with the BBC Singers, Netherlands Radio Choir and Opera Rara – work which involved multiple radio broadcasts, recordings, and concert performances including at the BBC Proms.

Alastair is also an active oratorio soloist and recitalist, having performed many works including, most recently, Durufle's Requiem, Handel's Messiah, and Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs. He is also a professional Choirman of the Temple Church, London singing twice-weekly services during term time, and appearing in concerts, tours, recordings, and broadcasts with the choir.

Based in Galleywood, Essex, Alastair is also in demand as a teacher, working with Primary school children as part of the 'Primary Robins' singing programme, and has several private singing students. In addition, Alastair is an accomplished pianist and accompanist, using his piano skills as well as his voice as part of his music therapy work with the charity Lost Chord.

Philip Prior Organist

Philip graduated from Anglia Polytechnic University with a Bachelor of Education Honours degree and taught for 5 years at Kelvedon Hatch Primary School, with responsibility for Music throughout the school. In 2002, he was appointed Acting Assistant Director of Music at St Cedd's School in Chelmsford, where he continued to teach, leaving in 2007 to pursue a career as a freelance organist and teacher. In 2004, he completed a postgraduate Master of Arts degree in Choral Education at the Roehampton Institute in London, (then part of the University of Surrey). Philip studied organ with Roy Wise, Gillian Ward Russell and Alison Baker, and, in 2021, he was awarded the Associateship of Trinity College, London Organ Recital diploma. Philip held church posts in Hutton, Brentwood, and Billericay before being appointed Director of Music at St Peter-ad-Vincula, Coggeshall in 2004.

In 2020, Philip was appointed Director of Music at St James the Great, East Hill, in Colchester, to regenerate and expand the music provision there. Philip has held posts as Musical Director to both Braintree and Halstead Choral Societies, Assistant Musical Director of the London Cantata Choir and, in 2018, was elected President of the Essex Organists' Association. Philip also conducts his own chamber choir, Chorus ad Vincula, which sings as a visiting choir for cathedral services and other events throughout Britain several times each year. He is also a regular supporting organist for choral services at Chelmsford Cathedral and accompanies visiting choirs in other cathedrals, when needed.



PROGRAMME

Requiem

by Gabriel Fauré

1. Introit et Kyrie

Choir

2. Offertoire

Choir and Baritone Solo

3. Sanctus

Choir

4. Pie Jesu

Soprano Solo

5. Agnus Dei

Choir

6. Libera Me

Baritone Solo

7. In Paradiso

Choir

Soloists

Baritone
Alastair Merry
Soprano
Marie Slee

Music **by** ***John Rutter***

Look at the World

Words *John Rutter*

For the Beauty of the Earth

Words *F. S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917*
(slightly altered)

**All Things Bright and
Beautiful**

Words *Mrs. C.F Alexander, 1818–95*

GLORIA

Text
Second part of the Latin Mass

First Movement
Allegro Vivace

Second Movement
Andante

Third Movement
Vivace e Ritmico

Choir Soloists

First soprano	Anna Cooke
Mezzo soprano	Debbie Sweet
Alto	Maureen Hart



WHY NOT JOIN US?

Do you like singing?

If you would enjoy being part of future concerts, having fun and doing something that's good for you, we always welcome adult singers in all voice parts.

No auditions needed!

Members come from all backgrounds and experience. If you are a lapsed singer or just starting out, then we would love to see you. Just come with plenty of enthusiasm and a willingness to attend rehearsals regularly and well-prepared.

We provide learning tracks for our members which makes it easy to practise at home. You don't need to sight read music.

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

Our new term starts on 9th April.

For further information on the choir and joining us, please contact us via the **membership tab** on our website.

KEEP IN TOUCH

We have a choice of ways to keep you up to date with news of the choir.

Join our 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

Follow us on Facebook.

https://www.facebook.com/Billericaychoral/?locale=en_GB

Visit our website.

www.billericaychoral.co.uk

** By contacting us in this way, you consent to your email address being held on a database for this purpose only. (Promotions and information about concerts, the choir, and related events for Billericay Choral Society only)*

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SAVE THESE DATES

Future Concerts

Saturday 29th June 7.30pm

Summer Concert
“Floral meets Choral”
St Peter’s Church
South Weald

Friday 22nd November

Chelmsford Cathedral
Lunchtime Concert

Tuesday 10th December

Christmas Concert

Happy Easter

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