



Billericay Choral Society

Floral meets Choral



Music on a theme of
Nature

Conductor	Ed Sutton
Organ & Piano	Philip Prior
Baritone	Alastair Merry

Saturday 29th June 2024

St Peters Church South Weald

***Please** switch your phone to silent and **please** no photography during the concert*

*For copyright reasons, video and audio recording is **not** permitted*

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".



PROGRAMME

Now is the Month of Maying *Morley*

April is in my Mistress Face *Morley*

The Silver Swan *Gibbons*

Weep you no more, sad Fountains *Dowland*

Fair Phyllis *Farmer*

Baritone solos by Alastair Merry

"Das Wandern" *Schubert*

"Wohin?" *Schubert*

As Torrents in Summer *Elgar*

To Daffodils *Quilter*

The Hills *Ireland*

Clear and Gentle Stream *Finzi*

The Bluebird *Stanford*

INTERVAL

**Refreshments in
Belli Centre**

All in the April Evening

Roberton

Linden Lea

Vaughan Williams

Baritone solos by Alastair Merry

Let Beauty Awake

Vaughan Williams

The Roadside Fire

Vaughan Williams

Organ solo by Philip Prior

Country Gardens

Grainger (arr Keedy)

Look at the World

Rutter

For the Beauty of the Earth

Rutter

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Rutter

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 Morag and St Peters Church.

To the Methodist Church Billericay for rehearsals.

To our Front of House volunteers

And to you, our audience!

Future Concerts

Friday 22nd November Noon
Chelmsford Cathedral.

Music including Stanford, Faure and Howells.

Tuesday 10th December 8 pm
Emmanuel Church, Billericay.

Maunder's 'Bethlehem' - a musical telling of the Christmas story with audience carols.

Website

www.billericaychoral.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Billericaychoral/>

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.

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 years ago and now works in the City of London.

Philip Prior Organist

Philip joined the Choral Society as our accompanist in March 2024.

He graduated from A.P.U with B.Ed. (Hons) and taught in Essex until 2007, leaving to pursue a career as an organist and teacher. In 2004, he completed a postgraduate MA in Choral Education at the Roehampton Institute in London, (then part of the University of Surrey). He studied organ with Roy Wise, Gillian Ward Russell and Alison Baker, and, in 2021, 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 2020, he was appointed Director of Music at St James the Great, East Hill, in Colchester. He has been Musical Director of 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 conducts his own chamber choir, Chorus ad Vincula and is a regular supporting organist for choral services at Chelmsford Cathedral and elsewhere.

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 solo operatic roles including the Count in the Marriage of Figaro, Sid in Albert Herring, The Forester in Rusalka & 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 an active oratorio soloist and recitalist, having performed many works including, Durufle's Requiem, Handel's Messiah, and Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs. He is also a professional Chairman 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 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.



WHY NOT JOIN US?

Do you like singing?

If you would enjoy being part of future concerts, and having fun, we 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. 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 at the Billericay Methodist Church Western Road, from 7:30pm to 9.30pm.

Our new term starts on 3rd September, with a "Come and Sing" open rehearsal.

For further information on the choir and joining us, please contact us via the **membership tab** on our website - www.billericaychoral.co.uk