

**making
music**

Billericay Choral Society

Registered Charity No. 271059

Conductor: Ed Cooke-Sutton

Soprano

Maren Barton, Sue Bateman, Morag Bennett,
Anna Cooke-Sutton, Kathryn Corlett, Sue Crease,
Pat Davis, Brenda Dixon, Emma Dixon, Stephanie
Edwards, Joy Kempson, Debbie Sweet,
Jeanne Wiggins

Alto

Rachel Orford, Christine Bland, Sylvia Bridger,
Pam Cottrell, Margaret Dunn, Maureen Hart,
Maggie Kingston, Margaret Nicholls,
Marie Rosen, Katy Thrasher, Gytha Washington

Tenor

Charles Alino, David Bateman, Tony Crease,
Martin Mason

Bass

Tony Barker, John Bridger, Kevin Reilly,
John Spriggs, David Young

Enigma Ensemble

Founded over 30 years ago, Billericay's Enigma Ensemble consists of enthusiastic amateur musicians from the local area who enjoy playing music together. The works we perform come from a wide variety of genres including Classical, Folk and Pop. We are delighted to have been invited to contribute to tonight's concert by performing some of our favourite pieces during the interval.

Forthcoming Events

Christmas Concert

Saturday 12 December
The Methodist Church
Chilcott ~ On Christmas Night

Spring Concert

20 March 2027

Summer Concert

26 June 2027
St. Peter's Church South Hanningfield

Keep in touch and buy your tickets from
www.billericaychoral.co.uk

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www.facebook.com/Billericaychoral

Billericay Choral Society is a choir of about forty members. We rehearse at the Methodist Church, Western Road on Tuesday evenings.

Members are drawn from all ranges of backgrounds and experience. We welcome all singers. 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!



Billericay Choral Society

Ed Cooke-Sutton *conductor*
Alastair Merry *baritone*
Philip Prior *accompanist*
Enigma Ensemble

Water Music



Saturday 20 June 2026 7.30pm
Chantry Centre, Billericay

Charles Villiers Stanford

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (30 September 1852 – 29 March 1924) was an Irish composer, music teacher, and conductor. Born to a well-off and highly musical family in Dublin, Stanford was educated at the University of Cambridge before studying music in Leipzig and Berlin. He was instrumental in raising the status of the Cambridge University Musical Society, attracting international stars to perform with it.

Songs of the Sea, Op. 91 (1904), is a five-movement cycle for baritone, male chorus, and orchestra set to poems by Sir Henry Newbolt, celebrating British naval history and maritime life. Commissioned for baritone Plunket Greene, it includes "Drake's Drum" and "The Old Superb," characterized by seafaring melodies and evocative harmonies.

Poem by Sir Henry Newbolt (1862-1938).

Instrumentation: Baritone soloist, Originally Male Chorus (TTBB), and Orchestra.

Songs of the Fleet, Op. 117 (1910), is a five-movement nautical song cycle for baritone, chorus, and orchestra set to poems by Henry Newbolt. It is a reflective sequel to his earlier *Songs of the Sea* (1904), featuring a more atmospheric, expansive style that blends maritime adventure, nostalgic longing, and deep admiration for the Royal Navy.

Poems by Sir Henry Newbolt (1862-1938).

Tone: The work alternates between stirring patriotism, such as in "The Little Admiral," and introspective, poignant moods.

Orchestration: Known for "skilful scoring" and a "burnished orchestral palette" that provides vivid imagery of the sea.

Programme

As torrents in summer

Elgar

Songs of the Fleet

Stanford

1. Sailing at dawn
2. The song of the sou'wester
3. The middle watch
4. The little admiral
5. Fare well

Song of the Homeland

Thiman

Sit Down, You're Rockin' The Boat

Loesser

INTERVAL

with music by the Enigma Ensemble

My gallant crew, good morning

Sullivan

Now give three cheers

Sullivan

When I Was A Lad

Sullivan

from H.M.S. Pinafore

Songs of the Sea

Stanford

1. Drake's drum
2. Outward bound
3. Devon, O Devon, in wind and rain
4. Homeward bound
5. The "Old Superb"

Alastair Merry

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 and Dancario in Carmen.

As a professional chorister Alastair has sung with the choruses of English and Welsh National Operas in over twenty productions as well as covering and performing a 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 has 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 a professional Choirmaster of the Temple Church, London singing twice-weekly services during term time and appearing in concerts, tours, records 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 in addition to private singing students. 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.