

WrittleSingers

Registered charity no: 1056334

Musical Director: **Christine Gwynn**

Soprano

Rebecca Gell, Jane Hammond, Rebecca Haynes, Rachel Hepburn, Michèle Marshall, Natasha McKinnon, Laura Robertson, Charlotte Robson, Ruth Travers, Louise Whitehead

Alto

Julia Cooper, Lucy Elwell, Sue Hirst, Julia Marsh, Emma Norton, Sophie Richards, Jen Rutter

Tenor

Martin Burchett, Andrew Cripps, Martin Mason, David Miles

Bass

Peter Brisley, Steven Clews, Simon McKinnon, Andrew Taylor, Graham Woodham

Writtle Singers is a chamber choir of some two dozen members. We are fortunate to rehearse and give most of our concerts in the ancient church of All Saints, Writtle. We also enjoy spreading our wings and recently sang evensong in the beautiful church of St Catherine's in the village of East Tilbury.

The choir's programmes are varied: concerts feature standard repertoire such as Stanford Three Motets and Duruflé Requiem alongside the new and unusual – Gabriel Jackson To the Field of Stars, Janet Wheeler Time Becomes a Song and an array of pieces by Kerry Andrew, Kerensa Briggs, Francesca Caccini, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Cecilia McDowall, James MacMillan, Arvo Pärt, Vicente Lusitano and Eric Whitacre.

We are always interested to hear from singers with relevant choral experience and confident sight-reading – and we enjoy cake! Find out more about us at www.wrattlesingers.org.uk or call 07903 904011.

Laurence Lyndon-Jones *organ*

Laurence Lyndon-Jones is a Chelmsford-based musician with a breadth of experience across genres and audiences. He has played the organ live on BBC 1 and BBC Radio 3 as well as at the Festival of European Sacred Music in Schwaebisch Gmuend, the Frauenkirche in Dresden, and the Philharmonie in Berlin. Choirs that Laurence has directed include the Arcadian Singers of Oxford, the Chester Cathedral Nave Choir, and the Chelmsford Cathedral Girls' Choir. As a chamber musician, Laurence appears frequently as a member of the ensemble Eboracum Baroque performing a wide range of repertoire, from a trio version of Vivaldi's Four Seasons to baroque drinking songs and party music. Other musical experiences include appearances at music festivals across Europe both as a big band trombonist and as a singer in Schola Cantorum of Oxford.

WrittleSingers Candlelit Christmas Concert

with the Writtle Junior School Choir

Saturday 14 December 2024 5pm

*Seasonal music, familiar and new,
including carols for all to sing,
in a beautifully festive atmosphere*

All Saints Church, Writtle

Look at our website for more details of forthcoming events - wrattlesingers.org.uk where concert tickets can also be purchased



Find *WrittleSingers* on-line:



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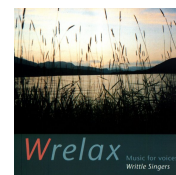
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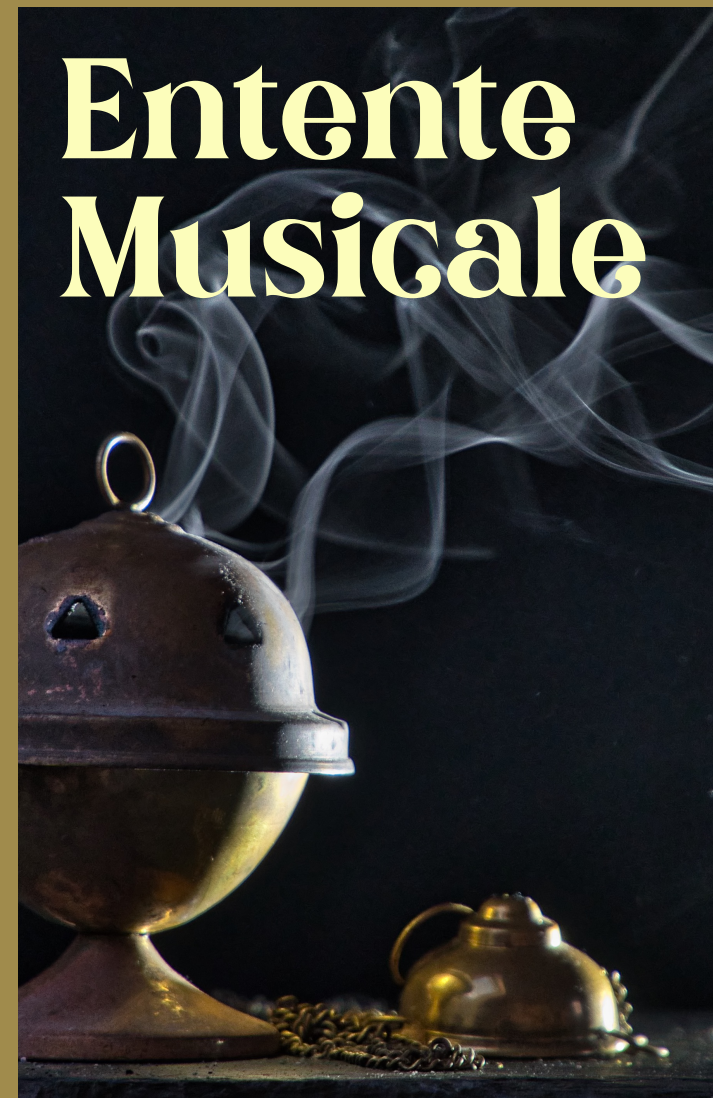
All three CDs are available to buy this evening, price £7 each
Buy 2 or more CDs for only £5 each

WrittleSingers

Christine Gwynn *conductor*

Laurence Lyndon-Jones *organ*

Entente Musicale



Saturday 16 November 2024 4pm
All Saints Church, Writtle

Entente Musicale

Tonight's programme embraces French and English* sacred music from the last 150 years or so. The importance of the organ in the sacred music for both traditions – and to most of the composers featured – is notable. In France, the happy conjunction of plainsong, the musical cornerstone of catholic worship, with the nineteenth century development of the organ by such luminaries of the organ building world as Cavaillé-Coll, provided fertile soil for rich musical creativity, notably the improvised interpolations of the organist which became a key feature in the plainsong mass services.

**with apologies to both Franck (Belgian by birth, career in France) and Stanford (Irish by birth, career mostly in England)*

Panis angelicus César Franck 1822-90

César Franck, celebrated as composer, pianist, organist and teacher, gained considerable renown as an improviser and was appointed in 1859 to the post of titular organist at Sainte-Clotilde, a position he retained for the rest of his life. *Panis angelicus* first appeared as a solo movement within a revised mass of 1872, scored for solo voice with accompaniment for harp, cello and organ. Unlike the rest of the mass setting it has achieved far-flung fame and favour in various scorings.

Quatre motets sur des thèmes grégoriens Maurice Duruflé 1902-86

Ubi caritas ~Tota pulchra est ~ Tu es Petrus ~ Tantum ergo
Maurice Duruflé was steeped in the traditions of plainsong from his days as a chorister at Rouen Cathedral. He studied organ in Paris with Charles Tournemire and was appointed assistant to Vierne at Notre Dame in 1927, subsequently becoming titular organist at St-Étienne-du-Mont in 1929 until his death some 57 years later. The *Quatre Motets* are each based on a plainsong theme interwoven with strands of similarly styled music for the other voices into a harmonically rich and subtle whole.

Messe de Requiem Jehan Alain 1911-40

Kyrie ~ Sanctus & Benedictus ~ Agnus Dei
Jehan Alain was born into a musical family, making early forays into the world of organ playing and composition and achieving notable successes in harmony, fugue and organ at the Paris Conservatoire in the 1930s. A dispatch rider for the French Army when war broke out, Alain was tragically killed at the Battle of Saumur in 1940, aged just 29, leaving his wife, three young children and a rich collection of compositions which have been brought to public attention by his younger sister, the esteemed organist Marie-Claire Alain. The concise *Requiem* bears the hallmarks of an organist steeped in plainsong.

O sacrum convivium! Olivier Messiaen 1908-92

Olivier Messiaen, outstanding teacher, composer, organist and ornithologist, was organist at Église de la Sainte-Trinité in Paris from 1931 until his death over 60 years later. *O sacrum convivium!* was commissioned by a clergyman, Abbé Brun. Although a faithful Catholic, Messiaen nevertheless wrote no other sacred compositions, writing much later in 1964 to Abbé Pézeril, at the parish of Saint-Jacques du Haut-Pas:

I understand completely your desire to renew the liturgy and your horror of recent hymns—which I share! Unfortunately, I believe my music to be much too complex to be of use to you: it can only be played on the piano, on the organ, and above all by an orchestra, and is intended only for an initiated élite. I think it would be unsingable by a congregation and also by young children.

Organ solo: Fugue sur le thème du Carillon des Heures de la Cathédrale de Soissons Maurice Duruflé

Media vita Karensa Briggs b.1991

Karensa Briggs composer, pianist and harpist, was also born into a musical family, her father David being an internationally esteemed organist, improviser and composer. Both plainchant and the Anglican choral tradition are discernible influences in her music which has already been performed widely, from St Paul's Cathedral to the Sistine Chapel.

Missa Sanctae Margaretae Gabriel Jackson b.1962

Kyrie ~ Gloria ~ Sanctus & Benedictus ~ Agnus Dei
Gabriel Jackson was a chorister at Canterbury Cathedral prior to study at the Royal College of Music. Sacred choral music is central to his considerable compositional output which includes this concise and imaginative setting of the mass, first performed in 2010 by the choir of St Margaret's Church Oxford. We are delighted to be performing it on St Margaret's Day 2024!

O salutaris and Tantum ergo Norman Caplin 1925-2011

Norman Caplin was for many years assistant organist at All Saints, Margaret Street, one of London's most colourful centres of Anglo-Catholicism. Norman's own background was a world away from this, both musically and spiritually, in his local free church in north east London. Happily, his wonderful musical gifts, especially as an improviser of remarkable character, imagination and harmonic invention, somehow met up with this very different and rich tradition resulting not only in some exceptional and memorable service accompaniment but a series of compositions for the choir of All Saints.

Organ solo: Fantasia in D minor Charles Villiers Stanford 1852-1924

Beati quorum via Charles Villiers Stanford

The three motets op.38 are unusual among the choral works of Charles Villiers Stanford in that they are settings of Latin texts, unlike his many, equally loved and well-known, settings of the Anglican services and canticles. *Beati quorum via*, a paraphrase of Psalm 119 v1, is the third of the motets—a small tribute to the centenary year of Stanford's death.

The Marlborough Canticles Howard Goodall b.1958

Magnificat ~ Nunc Dimittis
Howard Goodall has become a familiar face to many, presenting TV series such as *The Story of Music* and *Howard Goodall's Big Bangs*. Aurally he is well-known, too, through his theme music for *Blackadder*, *Mr Bean* and *The Vicar of Dibley*, to name but a few. Writtle Singers, albeit with many new faces, are delighted to be presenting this original and alluring setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis once again.

Please join us for refreshments at the back of the church

Friends of WrittleSingers

We are most grateful for the continuing support of our Friends:
Pamela Butt, Keith Byatt, Audrey Cassidy, Martin Clarke, Heather Gwynn, Jenny Haxell & Paul Tarrant, Brian Marsh, Peter & Frances Quintrell, Graham Reeve, Gerry & Alma Scott, Liz Tiplin, Hilary Walden

Have you considered becoming a Friend of WrittleSingers?

Benefits of our Friends scheme include:
>>> a free ticket to each of our concerts
>>> a 10% discount on further tickets
>>> a free soft drink or glass of wine at any concert where we have a bar
>>> free attendance at any of our Come & Sing events
>>> invitations to social events
>>> optional acknowledgement in our programmes

For more details of our Friends scheme, contact us via email: info@writtlesingers.org

Acknowledgements

We are grateful once again to the Rev'd Tony Cant and the churchwardens of All Saints, Writtle for allowing us to rehearse and perform in this lovely church.