



Welcome to the Spring Newsletter for the Southend Boys' and Girls' Choirs

Happy New Year and welcome to the latest newsletter from the Southend Boys' and Girls' Choirs.

Christmas was one of the busiest ever for the choirs, and saw the young singers performing in shopping centres, Christmas parties, Christmas weddings, London hotels, and major concert halls with everything in between. The choirs' annual contract with London's Claridge's Hotel saw groups of singers performing carols every weekend in the dining room from mid November to Christmas Eve. The choirs' candlelight concert at St Martin in the Fields in Trafalgar Square was a magical as ever, and for the first time in many years, the choirs were invited to perform at London's Royal Festival Hall, where they were singing in a concert with the Philharmonia Orchestra and London Chorus, presented by actor, comedian and author Sir Tony Robinson.



Christmas at Claridge's



Royal Festival Hall

Last month the choirs performed at the Holocaust Memorial Day service at the Civic Centre, where their singing was greatly appreciated. The Choirs were once again fortunate to be granted funding from the Friday Afternoons Project, from the Aldeburgh Foundation, and will be embarking on a

project where some of the older singers will learn conducting and rehearsal skills, and will then try these out on some of the youngest singers. This project captured the interest of the Aldeburgh Foundation, who will be using it as an example of good practice for other regions.

FUTURE DATES



On Sunday 11th March at 4pm at Crowstone U.R. Church, Westcliff, the Southend Boys' and Girls' Choirs will join with the South Essex Youth Symphony Orchestra for a special **Concert for Mothers' Day**.

This will be a fun and informal celebration of the young musicians. The concert will include our youngest singers in the "Step up Choir" to our oldest singers in "Chorus Sirenum". Book your tickets now for this popular concert of lovely music, together with tea and cakes. Tickets priced £7 (£5 concessions) are on sale from 01702 465460 or book online at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3323387>.

Saturday 14th April, 7.45pm, St Martins Church, Basildon. Carmina Burana with Basildon Choral Society.

Saturday 28th April, 7.45pm, Westcliff High School for Boys. Carmina Burana and opera choruses with Southend Choral Society and Eastwood Chorale. Tickets from 01702 465460.

Other **exciting news** for some of our singers – The BBC offer a coaching scheme for some young musicians, and last year we applied for some coaching for our older boys, the Southend Young Men’s Chorus, which enabled the boys to work with 3 members of the BBC Singers. This year we applied for our younger boys, and they will be working with some professional singers later in the year.

Our **summer tour** this year will be a highlight for many singers, when we make a 16 day tour to Australia and Hong Kong. We will be singing and staying in Sydney, Adelaide and Perth before stopping in Hong Kong for some final concerts. Keep an eye on our fundraising events for this.

SUPPORTING THE CHOIRS

As you may know, we don’t make any charge to the singers to be in the choir, as the choirs should always be open to anyone to join, and as a charity we also help to raise funds for other groups. You can support the choirs by joining the **100 Club**. For just £5 per quarter, you could win up to £100 in the monthly draws. For more information about the 100 Club please contact Heather Crisp – 01702 465460 or email hgcrisp@gmail.com

You can also help to raise funds through **easyfundraising** when you purchase anything online. This costs you nothing at all, so please have a look at this on our website – www.southendchoirs.org.uk support, and help us to raise funds for the choirs.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We look forward to seeing you at our concerts.

Keep an eye on our website www.southendchoirs.org.uk for more exciting concerts this year.

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If you receive this newsletter by post and could receive it via email, please let us know at humphrey828@btinternet.com



Travelling in London