

South Berkshire Singers

Charity no. 1084119

Director of Music: Karen Phillips

Accompanist: Nick Austin

Midsummer Music

**Toe-tapping rhythms and feel-good favourites –
from the high seas to the West End**

with guests

Quintessentially Wind

Raising funds for



Saturday 12 July 2025

**Caudwell Hall
Holme Grange School, Wokingham**

Programme

John Kanaka

Traditional sea shanty
Captain Brian Matthews with choir and audience

The Wellerman

Traditional sea shanty, arr. Karen Phillips
Able Seaman Hamish Bruce with choir and audience

The Seal Lullaby

Eric Whitacre
Choir

Sing Gently

Eric Whitacre
Choir

Five Easy Dances

Polka, tango, bolero, waltz, rumba
Denes Agay
Quintessentially Wind

A Cycle Round Britain

Strawberry Fair, The Ash Grove, The Raith Rover,
Danny Boy (arr. Russell Robinson), *Dashing Away with the Smoothing Iron*
Traditional, arr. Goff Richards
Quintessentially Wind and choir

Sounds of Simon and Garfunkel

Paul Simon
Choir

Appeal on behalf of the Royal Berks Charity

The Drunken Sailor

Traditional sea shanty
Vice Admiral Nick Hird with choir with audience

Interval

(refreshments available)

Mister Sandman

Pat Ballard, arr. Anne Smith
Quintessentially Wind

Makin' Whoopee

Walter Donaldson and Gus Kahn, arr. Lisa Portus
Quintessentially Wind

I Got Rhythm

George Gershwin, arr. Andrew Skirrow
Quintessentially Wind

Choral Selections from Oliver!

Consider Yourself, Where Is Love?, Oom Pah Pah,
As Long as He Needs Me, I'd Do Anything, Who Will Buy?
Lionel Bart, arr. Norman Leyden
Choir

When I Grow Up (From the musical *Matilda*)

Tim Minchin
Nick Hird

I Remember it Well

Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe
Mia Headey and Peter Loring

Thank You for the Music

Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, arr. Jerry Estes
Lynne Smith with choir

Abba Medley

Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, arr. Anne Smith
Choir and Quintessentially Wind with audience

Nick Austin, accompanist

Nick Austin is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he studied under Carola Grindea and Harold Dexter. He has been rehearsal pianist for the Bracknell Choral Society since 1981. He regularly accompanies and plays continuo in their concerts. Nick has been Musical Director for Amchor (Amersham & Chesham Bois Choral Society) since 2018. Works performed with them so far include Mozart's *Requiem*, Duruflé's *Requiem*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, and Brahms' *Requiem*. Nick has been Musical Director for Aylesbury Festival Choir since January 2017. Works performed with them include Mozart's *Sparrow Mass*, Mendelssohn's *Lauda Sion*, Rutter's *The Sprig of Thyme*, and Poulenc's *Gloria*. He conducted the auditioned chamber choir Thames Voyces from January 2013 until July 2024, was Musical Director for the Crowthorne Musical Players from 1988 to 2016 and, from 2006 to 2018, was conductor for Stanmore Choral Society. In his spare time, Nick enjoys arranging and composing, particularly for amateur choral groups.

Karen Phillips, Director of Music

Karen's passion for choral music dates back to her studies in this specialised area with Andrew Parrott and Dame Emma Kirkby when at the University of Reading. Karen has conducted choirs in the cathedrals of Westminster, Salisbury and Bristol and in St Mark's Basilica in Venice, but her tastes in music are varied. She has sung professionally, recording soundtracks for films including *The Saint* and *Stargate* and backing tracks for rock bands. After 'retiring' from full-time music teaching in 2015, Karen became Director of Music for the South Berkshire Singers. She is also Director of Music for the Cecilia Singers and the choir of St Michael and All Angels, Sandhurst.

Quintessentially Wind

Quintessentially Wind was founded in 1988 and still includes two founding members. The quintet has performed in most of the counties across the South of England in a wide variety of venues. Performances have included concerts, often for charities, and playing at weddings, funerals, and parties. The group comprises mainly principal players with Fleet Concert Orchestra, which is organised by Quintessentially Wind's regular players. Playing tonight are **Louis Webb** (flute), **Andrew Gray** (oboe), **Anne Smith** (clarinet), **Robert Smith** (bassoon) and **Simon Haynes** (horn).

Lionel Browne, bass guitar

Lionel took up guitar at the University of Cambridge in the 1960s, playing in various undergraduate bands. After Cambridge, he co-founded Reflection, a Christian music and worship organisation, and has played on many of their LPs. Lionel has played with many club and function bands and was an original member of folk group Brightwinter. Other musical highlights were working with Roy Castle in his *Record Breakers* stage shows and appearing on the same bill as Cliff Richard, Gloria Gaynor and The Settlers. Lionel was a member of the choir of St Michael and All Angels, Sandhurst in the 1980s and has been a member of the South Berkshire Singers since 2018.

Hamish Bruce, bass

Hamish is a multi-instrumentalist (harp, saxophone, flute) and loves playing in groups at open mic nights and in churches. He grew up singing in choirs but has only recently returned to choral singing with the South Berkshire Singers, which he's thoroughly enjoying and would recommend to anyone.

Mia Headdey, soprano

Mia sang in a choir at school and performed as a duo with her sister in and around the Southampton area when aged 19–22. On marrying, moving to Berkshire and bringing up a family, singing was put on hold. She finally returned to singing, joining the Crowthorne Village Singers and, later, the South Berkshire Singers. She says singing and being part of the choir is one of the best things she's ever done!

Alex Kershaw, drums

Alex has been drumming since the age of 11 when, much to his parents' delight, he was introduced to a neighbour's drum kit, and he has never looked back. He has played in several bands and has taught percussion at Holme Grange School and at Farnborough Hill. Now as a Year 6 class teacher at Frogmore Junior School, he is much in demand for music sessions and, of course, for end-of-year production rehearsals.

Peter Loring, bass

Peter declares himself to be a Johnny-come-lately with respect to the craft of singing! Some 60 years after being told at primary school that he couldn't sing he discovered that he could sing, and enjoy it. He now sings for the joy of singing while enjoying the fellowship and company of his friends in the South Berkshire Singers.

Brian Matthews, bass

Brian has been singing with the South Berkshire Singers for so long that he's lost count, in fact since well before they were actually called the South Berkshire Singers. Despite having no musical qualifications, he just loves to sing.

Lynne Smith, alto

Lynne played the piano and violin and sang in choirs at school. When she moved to Berkshire, she wanted to keep music-making in her life and joined the South Berkshire Singers. She enjoys the varied repertoire and is still here 20 years on. In her spare time, she volunteers as a Brownie leader and enjoys cycling and camping, when she always tries to find the perfect pitch.