



# Sun, Sea and Stars

Eclectic sweep of appealing music  
inspired by natural wonders

A blend of traditional and contemporary pieces by Sullivan,  
Elgar, Rachmaninov, Morten Lauridsen and Eric Whitacre

**Including a sea shanty!**

Ed Bonner ★ conductor

Geoff Tuson ★ accompanist

**Saturday 5 April 2025 7:00pm**

St Peter's Church, Frimley GU16 7AQ

Registered Charity Number 1179358 (Surrey Heath Choral CIO)

Con brio

Supported by

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The Humphrey Richardson Taylor  
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# Sun, Sea and Stars

O Radiant Dawn - James MacMillan (b1959)

Ave Maris Stella - Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

From the All Night Vigil - Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

1) O Come Let Us Worship

2) Hail, O Virgin Mother

3) Praise you the Name of the Lord

As Torrents in Summer - Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Abendlied - Josef Gabriel Rheinberger (1839-1901)

## Interval

Evening Hymn - Henry Balfour Gardiner (1877-1950)

O Nata Lux de Lumine - Thomas Tallis (1550-1585)

From Lux Aeterna: 'O Nata Lux' - Morten Lauridsen (b1943)

Sure on this shining night - Morten Lauridsen (b1943)

What Shall We Do With the Drunken Sailor - arr. R Shaw, A Parker

The Seal Lullaby - Eric Whitacre (b1970)

The long day closes - Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900)

## Note on the programme

Underpinning all of the music on tonight's programme is a connection to phenomena of the Natural World, namely the Sun, stars and the sea. We offer pieces that span 500 years of European and North American composition and poetry, from the English Thomas Tallis of the 16th century to three contemporary musicians Eric Whitacre, Morten Lauridsen and James MacMillan. The programme combines spiritual works written for the Church, where the allusion to the programme's theme is metaphorical, with secular settings where it is salty and more literal.

In the unlikely event that there is a need to evacuate the building, please follow the stewards' instructions.

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# Featuring

## Ed Bonner - Music Director



Ed sang as a chorister at King's College Cambridge and later returned to read music at the University. He trained as a postgraduate singer at Trinity Laban with Lynton Atkinson and works as a choral singer across London as well as with ensembles such as Philharmonia Voices and Opera Rara and has performed a recital of Schumann's *Dichterliebe*. He previously taught Music at Queen's Gate School and has

directed the Surrey Heath Singers since October 2020. He had previously been a workshop leader for projects run by the music charity, Common and Kind.

## Geoffrey Tuson - Accompanist



Geoff began learning the organ at the age of 14 with John Belcher. After studying at the Royal College of Music in London with Margaret Phillips, David Graham and Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, he has pursued a career as a teacher, accompanist and solo performer. He has given recitals and accompanied services at many of the country's cathedrals including St. Paul's Cathedral, St. Martin-in-the-fields, Canterbury Cathedral, York Minster and Exeter Cathedral. He has been the Organist and Choirmaster at The Royal Garrison Church of All Saints, Aldershot since 2009. In addition to freelance work, he is a peripatetic piano teacher and accompanist in a

number of schools in Surrey and Hampshire and has been the regular rehearsal accompanist for the Surrey Heath Singers since January 2009.



## Surrey Heath Singers

### Sopranos

Kathryn Brown  
 Carol Gartrell  
 Jo Justice  
 Rachel Salt

Madeleine Chowne  
 Judith Hill  
 Sally Kettle  
 Salma Sams

Liz FitzGerald  
 Gillian Jenkins  
 Creamy Lam

### Altos

Elizabeth Courtis  
 Peggy Hoskin  
 Lesley Thomas

Cherry Dennison  
 Tish Mason  
 Sue Towler

Julie Gregg  
 Kathy Mills  
 Rita Whiting

### Tenors

Paul Shepard  
 Luke Sitaraman - Guest

Matthew Sleaf

Keith Wigglesworth

### Basses

Richard Adam  
 John Fullwood  
 Clive Smith

Martin Butler  
 Crispin Kirkman  
 Edwin Whitaker

Tim FitzGerald  
 Michael Lewis  
 John Wood

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## Friends of Surrey Heath Singers

Mr Stephen Bond	Mrs Susan Bond	Mrs Inez Cooper
Mrs Doreen Crouch	Mrs Andrea Currie	Mr Brian Ealden
Mrs Mary Kirkman	Mrs Shirley Powell	Mrs Connie Reed
Mr Mike Reed	Mrs Chris Senior	Mrs Kim Wigglesworth

Would you consider becoming a friend of the choir? For an annual minimum donation of £25, you will be entitled to the following:

- membership card and number to be quoted when purchasing tickets
- reduced ticket price to include programme
- reserved seat available when tickets are purchased in advance of the concert
- early notification of future events
- your name being listed in the concert programme for the next year. This not only gives you well-deserved recognition for your help and support but also serves to encourage other people to become friends.
- invitation to SHS social and other events

Application form available on request.

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# St Peter's Church - Home to Surrey Heath Singers

Surrey Heath Singers' Home in Frimley Parish, St Peter's Church.



St Peter's Church, with a fine gallery around the nave, was built in 1825 on the site of a chapel dating from Tudor times. The address at the inaugural service at the Church was given by Jane Austen's brother, the then curate at Farnham. A programme of celebration of 200 years will begin in October this year.

Stained glass windows added over the second half of the 19th Century, including the Chancel windows showing St Peter are the finest complete set in the south of England designed by the school of the Pre-Raphaelite painter Burne-Jones, the patronal saint. The Church has a bright feel,

enhanced by the light-coloured stonework thought to be sarsen stone.

The setting for the Church, on the corner of Frimley Green Road, is a Churchyard where many celebrated people are interred. The churchyard includes the graves of Admiral Sturdee, the painter John Frederick Lewis, the engineer Colonel John Pennycuick, the American writer Bret Harte, expert skier Dame Katharine Furse, Director of the Women's Royal Naval Service and suffragette musician, Dame Ethel Smyth. We have three recipients of the Victoria Cross; Colonel William George Cubitt, Major General Sir Charles John Melliss and Major Kenneth Muir.

The church has been refurbished to open up the chancel and replace pews, allowing flexible use of the Nave to the benefit of choirs and orchestras in support of the long musical tradition of the church. A fine, well maintained organ is an important feature of the services and has been the training inspiration for many organists including the present accompanist of Surrey Heath Singers, Geoff Tuson.

The Church offers a wide range of Sunday services, including traditional Eucharist with sung communion supported by a choir. A Community musical event sponsored by Surrey Heath Singers will be held on 25th October to mark the bicentennial of the Church.



Surrey Heath Singers is a friendly non-auditioned mixed-voice community choir, a charity with CIO status.

We present three or four concerts a year and participate in a variety of community and charity events.

We rehearse on Monday evenings.

### Join Us!

Our venue for rehearsals is St Peter's Church,  
Frimley Green Rd, Frimley, Camberley GU16 7AQ

SHS rehearsals are open to all.

Just turn up at St Peter's at 7.30pm on a Monday or contact us:  
[membership@surreyheathsingers.org.uk](mailto:membership@surreyheathsingers.org.uk)



Our next event:

## Musicals Mayhem!



Toe-tapping favourites including medleys from Les Misérables, Fiddler on the Roof and The Beatles. Featuring further popular selections from a professional solo singer!

**Saturday 5 July 2025 7:00pm**  
**St Peter's Church, Frimley GU16 7AQ**