



SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 10

The H W L Hobbs Challenge Shield

This was the first trophy donated for the first Festival in 1911. It was donated by Mr. H.W.L. Hobbs, Chairman of the Executive Committee and of the Musical Council. He continued in office until suspension of the Festival in 1914 due to the outbreak of war. He unfortunately died on 21st April 1915.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 20

The Mrs Charles Waller Choral Trophy

Mrs. Waller, widow of Chas Waller, of Chas Waller & Son (Watchmaker and Jewellery Shop, Southend High Street), offered a challenge bowl with yearly replica for competition among Women's Institute Choirs. Mrs. Waller was on the Festival Musical Council.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 30

The Musical Council Shield

This was listed in the first syllabus of 1911. No minutes are available until 1914, therefore we have no details of this award. For 1911-1937, it is listed as an award for children's choirs. From 1938 onwards it is listed as an award for ladies' choirs.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 40

The Ellis Cup for Male Voice Choirs

This cup was presented to the Festival in October 1975 by Mr. & Mrs. Ellis. (A Mrs. Rita Ellis was Hon. Asst. Secretary.) There is no other information from our records. Mention is made of the new cup in the November 1975 programme. Syllabus for that year is missing.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 50

The Lester Jones Challenge Cup

This Challenge Cup was presented to the Southend Musical Festival in 1933, by Mr T Lester Jones, who was at that time Secretary of the London Musical Festival. It was to be awarded to the winner of the Church Choirs competition. In recent years, the Church Choirs class has been discontinued, and replaced by a Community Choirs class. The Challenge Cup no longer has any space for engraving and is to be retired. A list of winners follows, and will be updated each year:

- 1933 Chalkwell Park Methodist Choir, conductor Mr P T Coe
- 1934 Chalkwell Park Methodist Choir, conductor Mr P T Coe
- 1937 St Mary's Great Burstead, conductor Mr Chas L Western
- 1938 St Mary's Great Burstead, conductor Mr Chas L Western
- 1946 St Saviour's Church Choir, conductor Chas Western LRAM, ATCL, MRST
- 1947 St Saviour's Church Choir, conductor Chas Western LRAM, ATCL, MRST
- 1948 St Saviour's Church Choir, conductor Chas Western LRAM, ATCL, MRST
- 1949 Argyll Methodist Church Choir, conductor Mrs Edith Day
- 1950 Leigh Wesley Choir, conductor W Clackett
- 1951 St Saviour's Church, conductor John Sanders
- 1952 Argyll Methodist Church Choir, conductor Edith Day
- 1953 Wesley Church Leigh, conductor W Clackett
- 1954 Wesley Church Leigh, conductor W Clackett
- 1958 Hadleigh Methodist Choir, conductor E W J Barber
- 1959 York Road Methodist Choir, conductor Leslie Price
- 1961 Hadleigh Methodist Choir, conductor G Porter
- 1962 Bournemouth Park Congregational Church, conductor Doris M Jessett, LRAM
- 1963 Bournemouth Park Congregational Church, conductor Doris M Jessett, LRAM
- 1964 Bournemouth Park Congregational Church, conductor Doris M Jessett, LRAM
- 1965 Cliff Town Congregational Church Choir, conductor Edward Crouchman
- 1966 Cliff Town Congregational Church Choir, conductor Edward Crouchman
- 1973 St Barnabas Special Choir
- 1978 Bournemouth Park U.R.Church, conductor K S Mead
- 1979 Bournemouth Park U.R.Church, conductor K S Mead
- 1980 St Saviour's Church Choir, conductor Josephine Main, LRAM, ARCM
- 2014 Cockleshell Chorus, conductor Dave Cooke





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 60

The Chas Waller Silver Challenge Shield No. 1

Chas Waller & Son, the watchmaker and jewellery shop situated at 57 High Street, Southend, was, for over 40 years, the official agent to the Festival for the supply of cups and shields, medals and all engraving. This shield was one of only two presented at the first Festival held in November 1911. It was for elementary school choirs of not more than 50 voices, boys, girls or mixed (two parts). The singers had to be resident in Southend or South East Essex. The shield was subsequently awarded to children's choirs of 18 years and under. (NOTE: No programme or minutes available for 1911, only a syllabus from which this information has been taken.) (From 1936 Festival, the class was open to boys and girls.)





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 70

The Samuel Riley Memorial Cup

When eventually I stepped down as the Examiner (Financial) when Harry retired, I donated the small salver together with an annual Cash Prize.- For solo singing.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 80

The Chas Waller Silver Challenge Shield No. 2

At the AGM held on the 1st April 1922, a suggested improvement to the Festival was to divide elementary school choirs into boys' and girls' sections. At a committee meeting held on 2nd May 1922, Mr. Chas Waller expressed his willingness to present another shield, and it was resolved to create a class for elementary school choirs for boys in addition to the existing class for girls' choirs. This was to be known as the Number 2 Silver Challenge Shield. (NOTE: Subsequently awarded to children's' choirs 11 years and under.) (From the 1936 Festival, the class opened to boys and girls.)





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 90

The R A Jones Challenge Shield

In March 1923, Mr. Jones was invited to become an official Patron of the Festival. In response, Mr. Jones presented a shield to be called the R.A.Jones Challenge Shield. The shield was to be for perpetual annual competition by elementary schools' choirs, infants departments. The shield was to be insured for 60 guineas against all risks and to be returned in the same condition as received by the winner to the Hon. Sec. of the Festival at least 14 clear days before the date of the next contest. If less than two choirs took part in the contests, for two or more consecutive years, then the shield becomes the property of the donor or his legal representative with which to do as they please.

Mr. Jones established a jewellery business which traded from an imposing shop in Southend High Street. The business continued for many years beyond the Second World War. He was a generous benefactor giving to the town Priory Park, Victory Sports Ground and Jones Memorial Ground. Victory Sports Ground commemorates those sportsmen of the County Borough who fell in the Great War. All areas are for perpetual public use. He was awarded an MBE, made an Honorary Freeman of Southend-on-Sea and both he and his sons are buried in the Cloister Garth adjacent to the refectory in Priory Park.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 100

The Mrs E E Gayler Trophy

Mrs. Gayler followed the Festival for many years and presented this trophy in October 1956 as “A mark of so many happy and exciting hours spent at the competitions”. She wished it to be competed for in the youth and club choirs. It is thought she may have been a relative of Phyllis Gayler who was Official Accompanist. Unfortunately Mrs. Gayler died before the 1957 festival when the trophy was presented for the first time.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 110

The Dorothy Ventris Trophy (Choirs)

Dorothy Ventris (1911 – 2002) had a lifelong interest in music and liked to retell family stories of her grandfather's open air musical gatherings, where people used to congregate outside his garden in Wakering to listen. She had a fine contralto voice and was for many years a stalwart of Madam Freda Parry's choir, which older people will remember. She also played the violin in local orchestras.

Dorothy devoted enormous energy to good causes, particularly St. John's for whom among other things she lectured on civil defence, and the National Trust, of which she was a local Vice-President when she died. She was a Samaritan and one of the founders of the Southend Hospital shop.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 120

The Joy Elliott Memorial Trophy

From the age of 4 Joy lived in Southend-on-Sea and had three younger sisters: Gill, Elizabeth and Rachel, all of whom went to Southend High School for Girls.

Joy was head girl at SHSG and preparing to take A levels in Music, English and French, prior to moving on to university to study English, when she was diagnosed with Wilson's Disease (a very rare liver disorder). Tragically Joy passed away in March 1974, just three months after being taken ill.

Joy was an accomplished pianist, flautist and singer, studying at the Junior Royal College of Music. She was one of the founder members of the Southend Youth Orchestra under conductor Roy Wales, as well as a member of Clare Christison's Junior Chamber Music Club who performed regularly in the area. She also took part in the Southend Music Festival in many classes over many years.

This trophy is presented in Joy's memory by her family.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 130

The Dulcian Madrigal Trophy

It seems from programmes that this award first appeared in 1979 and may have been connected with Hilda Nevard and later Doris Jessett who both conducted the Dulcian Singers. No syllabus is available from 1974 to its listing in 1979 syllabus. No mention is made in programme or minutes.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 200

The Eileen Greaves Challenge Cup

Eileen Greaves, former Secretary and advisor to the Festival, died on 12th March 2002, at the age of 89. Everyone connected with the Southend Musical Festival will recall and appreciate the valuable contribution she made. From 1982-1993, Eileen held the position of General Secretary. In this capacity, she successfully encompassed all aspects of the organisation. With her great energy and application and understanding of the artistic needs of the Festival, she worked steadfastly throughout her twelve years of tenure. As a solo performer in the Singing Section, she was very successful. Although she came to discover her excellent singing voice later in life than many singers, she enjoyed a great success as a competitor, winning many prestigious awards, including the Premier Trophy. Important amongst the many interests in her life was choral singing. She particularly loved the last night of the Festival during the period when there were large numbers of choirs competing in an atmosphere of great excitement and first-rate performances. Eileen also took over the Jesse Ladies' Choir, which she conducted for some years. Choral Verse Speaking, a very charming Speech & Drama class, was also supported by Eileen as a competitor, in this case as a member of the "Focus Ladies" group. Another great love was for Dickens' writing. As well as taking part, very successfully, in the Senior Dickens class at the Festival, Eileen was driving force behind the Southend Dickens Fellowship. Eileen also contributed two very handsome trophies: The Eileen Greaves Challenge Cup for the Oratorio Class and the Eileen Greaves Trophy for the Family Class. The Festival was very well served by Eileen, and she will be remembered with gratitude and affection.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 210

The Dorothy West Challenge Cup

Dorothy West, BA, FTCL, who died at the end of 2005, had been associated with our Festival for many years – as Competitor, Committee Member, Convenor and Accompanist. She first became a Member in 1951, and in 1958 represented the Festival as one of three delegates to the London and Southern Counties Festival Area Council; she joined the Executive Committee in 1964 and, when Madame Freda Parry stood down as Convenor of the Singing Section in 1967, she became assistant to the new Convenor, Hilda Nevard.

Dorothy herself became Singing Convenor in 1973, a role to which she brought immense musical knowledge and experience. A great believer in the value of the Festival movement, her dedication and commitment were an example to us all – not only did she organise and attend every session of the Singing section, she also accompanied most ably a great number of the competitors who took part.

Highly respected and sought after as an accompanist, Dorothy was associated for many years with local choirs; she was also Secretary of the Parry Trust and every year organised both the prestigious annual competition and the popular fund-raising concert.

On a personal level, Dorothy was one of the kindest, most warm-hearted people one could hope to meet – always ready with a smile, she unfailingly saw the good side of everyone. She will be sadly missed by all of us at the Festival and by her many friends in the musical world and beyond.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 220

The Branchflower Family Challenge Cup

This cup was presented in 1955 by Mrs. M. Branchflower, who was a great supporter of the Festival, and members of her family whose names appear on our records as frequent and successful competitors.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 230

The Elizabeth Elliott Cup

Elizabeth Elliott was born into a musical family in Southend-on-Sea. As a young girl, she was a member of the Junior Co-op Choir (now the Southend Young Singers) initially under the renowned conductor Madam Freda Parry and subsequently under the guidance of Mrs Clara Roberts. Elizabeth sang throughout her childhood (competing in many Southend Musical Festival classes) but it wasn't until she went to the University of Surrey, where she gained a BMus (Hons) degree, that singing became her main focus of study. She followed up her degree with a post-graduate year in Vocal Studies at Trinity College of Music, London. Whilst there she won the Elisabeth Schumann Prize for Lieder and played the role of Cherubino in their production of Mozart's 'The Marriage of Figaro'.

In 1990, Elizabeth joined the chorus of the New D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, also playing and understudying some of the principal roles. She was also a member of the Finzi Singers, appearing on several of their recordings. In 1992 she moved to Florida where she sang with the Fort Lauderdale and Greater Miami Opera companies as well as building up her career as a recitalist.

On her return to the UK in 1998 Elizabeth embarked upon a new career of teaching singing, piano and flute in the Southend area. She now has a very successful teaching practice both privately and in local schools. In 2006 she was invited to join the Southend Musical Festival Committee as their Singing Convenor, a job she immediately accepted and from which she gains a great deal of enjoyment. Then in 2007 she was delighted to be asked to join the Board of Trustees for the Freda Parry Scholarship Fund for which she is now the Honorary Secretary.

Elizabeth also works as the Musical Director/accompanist for local operatic societies – most notably 'The Witches of Eastwick', 'Hot Mikado' and 'Anything Goes' for LODS.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 240

The John Curtis Challenge Cup

John Curtis, who died on 27th April 2004 at the age of 89, was a lifelong supporter of the Southend Musical Festival. He first competed in the Festival in 1932 and his final appearance as a competitor was in 1992 at the age of 78, when he entered four classes and won the Premier Trophy for Singers with a mark of 88 in the Opera Class for his rendition of Handel's Hear Me! Ye Winds and Waves. He presented the Cup for men's voices and provided sponsorship on many occasions. He also served as Treasurer of the Festival for many years until 1990, when he became a Vice President.

During the War he toured extensively with the Blue Pencils Concert Party during his Army service. On his return to civilian life he pursued a career in banking, becoming Manager of Lloyds Bank in Thorpe Bay. He was an active member of the Westcliff Operatic Society and was involved in many other musical activities in the town.

On the establishment of the Freda Parry Scholarship for Singers he served as Treasurer from 1971 – 91 and then as Chairman, following the death of Bobby Birn, from 1991 until his resignation on health grounds in 2002.

We remember with gratitude John's great contribution to the musical life of Southend and to this Festival in particular.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 250

The Ivy Wright Challenge Trophy

In October 1951, the Festival received from Mr. John Robertson (husband of the late Miss Ivy M Wright (Mrs. John Robertson) and his family, for competition in 1952, a fine silver bowl to be called "The Ivy Wright Trophy" for mezzo-soprano solo. The Festival gladly accepted the trophy as a means of perpetuating her close association with the festival as a gold medallist. It would also act as a reminder of Miss Wright's constant interest and work for the festival and for music generally. In more recent years, the Festival was delighted to receive a visit from Ivy Wright's son, also named Mr. John Robertson, who has now donated a most generous money prize to be awarded along with the trophy.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 260

The John Hamilton Memorial Cup

John Hamilton was born in Glasgow. He loved music, and he was gifted with a unique tenor voice. He joined the Pantheon and Minerva Clubs, where the comedian Stanley Baxter and the actor Maurice Reeves started their careers. While he was a member there, he played supporting parts in *The Merry Widow*, *South Pacific* and *Carousel* at the King's Theatre in Glasgow.

He was also a member of the famous Glasgow Orpheus Choir, and appeared on STV in *Jig Time*, the Scottish version of the *White Heather* club. He became a *Butlin Redcoat*, and later came to England, where he auditioned for, and was accepted by, George Mitchell's *Black and White Minstrels*.

After moving to Leigh with his family in 1973, he continued to sing, and became well known in the area. There are very many senior citizens and disabled clubs in this area where John and his wife Eileen visited and entertained, and he was unique in his performance of Scottish and Hebridean songs. His final performance was in March 2003, at The New Empire Theatre, where he sang in a Charity Concert.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 270

The Radford Cup

It is thought that this cup may have been given in memory of a member of one of the local choirs. Mention of this first appeared in the programme and syllabus for 1985 under a class for solo singing – 60 years and over, no other details recorded.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 280

The Horace Bayliss Memorial Cup

Horace Bayliss was Secretary of the Festival from 1912 until 1960 (48 years). At the AGM of the 8th April 1961, the Chairman, Mr. Wilfrid A. Waller hoped it would be possible to retain his services to help the committee. It was unanimously agreed to appoint Mr. Bayliss as Honorary Adviser for the Festival which new post was created for the purpose. He continued in this post until 1972 and his death subsequently occurred in early 1973. At the AGM of the 17th March 1973, a minutes silence was held and the Chairman paid tribute to his many years of service to the festival, and as one of the longest serving secretaries recorded in the Federation Year Book.

At the AGM of 21st March 1970, the Musical Council decided to offer a cup to be named "The Horace Bayliss Memorial Cup" in recognition of his many distinguished years of continuous service to the festival. There was to be a new class for any voice, soprano, contralto, tenor or bass – 18 years and over, to sing any song of their own choice.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 290

The Gwen Stephenson Challenge Trophy

This cup was donated in 1958 by Mr. P.G. Burnes in memory of his wife to be called “The Gwen Stephenson Challenge Trophy”. It was agreed to allocate the cup to the Old English Songs Class.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 300

The Katie Ayers Cup/Shield (Solo Singing)

It was with great sadness that the Festival acknowledged the death of Kathleen (Katie) Marjorie Ayers, in February 2003. Katie was a much-valued accompanist and staunch supporter of the Festival for many years, and will always be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Born in Harringay in 1919, Katie moved to Leigh-on-Sea and attended St Michael's School, then went on to Westcliff High School for Girls, where she excelled academically. She learnt piano from Vera Harding, winning medals in local festivals, and, in recognition of outstanding playing in such festivals, was awarded three Chapple medals during the 1930s. She also played the violin. At the outbreak of war, she offered to use her musical talents as part of a concert party entertaining the troops.

When Katie retired in 1973 from a long and successful career in banking, she devoted her considerable energies to music – playing for keep fit classes, dancing lessons, ballet exams, old people's clubs, choirs, and, of course, singers – always recognising talent and encouraging enthusiasm in the young and the not so young.

The last individual prize that Katie won was in the Stratford Festival in 2001, but most people will remember her for her contribution as part of a team or group – she may have been only 4 feet 11½ inches tall, but she has left a noticeable gap in many people's lives and will be remembered with affection and gratitude.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 320

The Association of English Singers & Speakers Trophy

The Association of English Singers & Speakers was formed over 100 years ago and through workshops, concerts, music festivals and competitions encourages "the communication of English words, in singing and speech, with clarity, understanding and imagination"





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 330

The Bernard Birn Challenge Cup

Mr. Bernard Birn was Chairman of the Southend Musical Festival from the 16th March 1974 until his resignation in March 1990. In 1961, he donated this cup for Solo Singing 16-17 years (now allocated to class 33) As well as an active member of the Festival, he ran a very successful exclusive menswear shop in Southend High Street, was made an Honorary Freeman of Southend-on-Sea and was awarded an MBE.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 340

The Mude Challenge Cup

Mrs. Mude donated this cup in 1964 specially for 13 to 15 years old section of the previous Birn Cup Class. This was divided, the junior part receiving this cup and the Bernard Birn Challenge Cup going to age group 16-19 years old. Mrs. Mude was on the Singing Committee for many years.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 350

The Frith Family Challenge Cup

This cup was presented in 1954 by the Frith family for Class 42, girl or boy vocalists of 12 years and under. The Festival gratefully accepted the cup as a further tangible expression of the interest as competitors taken in our Festival by members of this musical family over a period of three generations. This class attracted 26 competitors in the 1954 Festival singing their own choice.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 360

The Alice Jeffery Trophy for Solo Singing

This cup was presented to the Festival in 2007, by Alice Jeffery, a very successful performer in both Singing and Speech & Drama sections. Alice would like to say the following to the annual winner of her cup: I am delighted to present this solo singing award, as I have been competing in the Southend Musical Festival since 1998. The Festival has given me the opportunity to perform in many aspects of the Arts, as well as meet many new friends every year. Although I have been performing since I was four and a half years old, I have only been singing competitively since 2004. I am very pleased for the winner of this trophy, as I think it takes great courage, determination and hard work to get to the standard that you are today, especially as the Southend Musical Festival has always been set to a very high standard.

I hope the winner of my award has as much pleasure singing and performing to an audience as I have had in recent years. Well done and congratulations on winning this class – and good luck for the future!





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 370

The Walter Tee Trophy

Walter Tee has been performing at the Southend Musical Festival for several years, and it is always a pleasure to welcome him back. In 2007, he kindly offered to donate a new trophy, for self-accompanied singing, which we were delighted to accept. We invited Walter to write a few words to explain the reasons why he decided to donate the trophy, which we are sure will be of interest to the annual winner. Walter wrote:

As a child, I learnt to play the piano, progressing to the then Grade 2 (intermediate) stage. Much to my disappointment, my parents made me give up the piano in order to give more time to my other academic studies.

However, I was allowed to continue with the vocals, and accordingly my parents encouraged me to become a chorister (boy soprano) at the local parish church near Epsom, Surrey, where we then lived. I was a member for some years until my voice broke, and I had to leave.

Some years had passed before I felt able to resume my vocals, and by that time my voice had set to the level it is now. It was about 1974 when I decided to take up serious amateur singing, but still all the time at the back of my mind was the thought that I could have enjoyed the best of both worlds had I continued with the piano also. I would have loved to play and sing at the same time, but I am now a bit too old for that. However, I have seen many people sing and play at the same time, and to me that is quite an achievement. I know that there are only a few such people, and I fervently believe that the Festival should recognise the double-talented vocal/instrumentalists, and my way of making this possible is to donate a cup.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 380

The Kathleen Willison Memorial Cup

At the AGM of 9th March 1957, the Secretary read a letter from Mr. R.E.S. Willison offering a cup in memory of his wife. This was for the soprano, mezzo and contralto classes to be won by the competitor gaining the highest marks in those classes. The group attending the meeting expressed their profound regret at the loss of Mrs. Willison, a member of the Council, together with an appreciation of the service rendered to the Festival. Mr. and Mrs. Willison's sons were competitors in the Festival – David on piano (he is well known as an accompanist), John on violin, and Edward on cello.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 400

The Tunncliffe Trophy

This award was given by Mrs. V Tunncliffe, Headmistress of St. Hilda's School in Westcliff on Sea, as a special award for Class 35, Girls Solo Singing, 9 years and under. Pupils from the school have often been competitors at the Festival.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 410

The Kai Burton Trophy

This trophy was donated to the Festival in 2007 by Kai's mother, Kai having competed regularly at the Festival for several years, with much success. She writes:

Kai started dancing at the age of 18 months! He first performed in front of an audience at the Cliffs Pavilion with the South East Theatre School when he was 3 years old.

Kai's first solo singing performance was when he was 6 years old, at the Canvey Festival, where he sang "Popeye the Sailor Man", and gained the highest marks for 6 years and under, and also a trophy for the highest mark.

Kai continued to do many dancing school shows and also took part in both singing and dancing festivals, where, by the time he was 8 years old, he had won several trophies and over 200 medals, including winning The Callard Memorial Cup for Junior solo singing in 2002, and again in 2004.

Kai was a pupil of West Leigh School and was a member of the West Leigh Boys' Choir. While with them, he also performed in various singing festivals and in London at the Festival Hall. Also while still at West Leigh School, he became a member of the Southend Boys' Choir and performed at the Royal Albert Hall.

Kai has performed in A Night at the Musicals and three professional pantomimes: Cinderella at both the Palace Theatre and the Cliffs Pavilion (with the Chuckle Brothers) and Peter Pan. He has also won modelling competitions. At the moment, though, he is concentrating on schoolwork for his GCSE's.

Kai was a pupil at Southend High School for Boys and is a member of the male voice choir at the school.

He has really enjoyed singing at The Southend Musical Festival and hopes that the recipient of this trophy will also enjoy the experience.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 420

The Helen Street Memorial Trophy

This trophy, first presented in 2014, commemorates the life of Helen Street, née Page, born in the stately home of Brocket Hall, near Welwyn Garden City in Hertfordshire, on 29th November 1941, when it was used as a maternity home during World War Two.

She was the eldest of three sisters who lived with their parents in nearby Hatfield, where her mother's family had lived for generations, so had many relatives around her and remained close to them all her life.

She was educated at Welwyn Grammar School and later worked in London, where she met John Street, her husband-to-be, as they both travelled on the same train to work. By coincidence, John too was born at Brocket Hall, in 1940, and it was later discovered that they were the only married couple who had both been born at Brocket Hall.

After their marriage at St. Ethelreda's Church in Hatfield on 12th September 1964, they lived in St. Albans, so staying close to her family. In 1971 their son Jeremy was born, followed by Rachel Amanda in 1976.

John's career took him around the country and the family arrived in the Southend area in 1985.

Helen's interests were always centred on her family, but she also enjoyed the Women's Institute and sang for over 20 years in the choir of St. Augustine's Parish Church, Thorpe Bay.

Sadly, she died in Fairhavens of Motor Neurone Disease on 29th December 2009, with her husband and children around her – she is most sorely missed!





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 430

The Sally Browne Cup





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 500

The Grainne Ahern Cup

Grainne Ahern was a competitor in the Piano Classes in the 1950's and also taught piano. Mention of this cup was first made in the syllabus for 1982. The trophy was allocated for the Novice Class of 19 years and over.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 510

The Olive Owers Challenge Cup

Mrs. Olive Owers, LRAM, ARCM, was a member of the Musical Council and on the Singing Selection Committee for many years. She donated a cup in 1973 for children's choirs (open) under 13 years. However, over the years this has been extended to the present Junior Novice Class – any voice – 13-17 years.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 610

The Roger Calton Salver

Roger Calton was a volunteer colleague of Peter Bayliss (a former Chairman of the Southend Musical Festival). In recommending a friend, Harry Worsfold, to take over as Hon. Treasurer, Roger was proposed as the next Independent Examiner to the Festival (circa 1997.) and also assisted as a Steward at the Front desk. When Roger stepped down as the Examiner (Financial), he donated the small salver together with an annual Cash Prize for solo singing and continues to support the festival as a friend & member.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 680

The Trethorne Trophy

The Trethorne Trophy was presented to the Festival in 2016 as a tribute to the generations of Linda and Richard Medcalf's respective families recognising their love of, and involvement in, the performing arts. For some, this will have included their active participation in front of an expectant audience whilst for others, their particular expertise would lie in the provision of guidance, assistance and administration behind the scenes.

Amongst the many talents exhibited by their parents and grandparents were high class abilities in both ballroom and tap dancing, the writing, directing and performance in musical and comedy theatre, the accomplished playing of instruments such as the ukulele and the piano, together with the writing and reading of poetry and many more.

Each of Linda and Richard's three children made many appearances, both as dancers and as singers, at The Cliffs Pavilion in Westcliff and The Towngate Theatre in Basildon with the Gena Miller School of Dancing. In addition, the two daughters sang with the Southend Junior Co-Operative Choir (latterly Southend Young Singers) under the inspirational leadership and direction of Clara Roberts - a very successful and highly talented choir judging by the number of times the name appears on many of the Festival's trophies.

And, not to be outdone, the most recent generation has continued the pattern with ballet performances at the Hexagon Theatre in Reading and the gaining of a Guinness Book of Records entry here in Southend-on-Sea for their singing and dancing.

The name attaching to the trophy, Trethorne, reflects the location near Launceston, Cornwall to which Linda and Richard and their three children traditionally travelled each year for their annual summer holidays. The proprietors, Auntie Dorothy and Uncle Winston, became firm family friends and even though the passing of time has reduced the opportunities to visit so often, they and the farm they worked still remain very much part of the Medcalf Family's story.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 690

The Alfred & Mary Johnson Memorial Cup

The family of Alfred and Mary Johnson congratulate you on winning the “Alfred & Mary Johnson Memorial Cup”. Throughout his life, Alfie enjoyed participating and experiencing many aspects of music, from playing the guitar, participating in church choirs, teaching children the recorder, to attending concert halls. Although Mary wasn’t an instrumentalist herself, she enjoyed many aspects of the arts, particularly classical music concerts and the ballet. They were both particularly supportive of their children’s musical experiences and, after Alfie’s death, Mary continued to show great support and encouragement to their grandchildren as they began their various musical journeys. The memorial cup is a symbol of great parental and grandparental support, an enjoyment of music, and a belief that participation in music, at any level, should be encouraged.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 700

The Barbara Southwell Challenge Cup

A letter was received from Miss. Barbara Southwell of Hull, the winner of the Women's Gold Medal in 1937, class 13. This was read out at the AGM of the 18th March 1939, and she offered a cup for competition in either the "Old English" or "British" Folk Song Class. At a committee meeting held on the 30th March 1939, it was decided to allocate the cup to the Senior Folk Song Class. Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of war in September 1939, the Festival for that year was cancelled.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 710

The Jewish Choir Plaque

This plaque was given by the Westcliff Jewish Choir in 1957 for a class covering International Folk Song.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 720

The Catherine Horder Memorial Cup

Catherine was closely associated with the Southend-on-Sea Musical Festival for many years, at first as a competitor, then as a Friend – she also kindly donated an annual prize, to be awarded to the overall winner of the Folk Singing classes. The Festival was one of the highlights of the musical year for Catherine, and she competed in several different classes as soloist, duettist and as a member of the Southend Choral Society. It was quite by chance that she discovered her métier as an Unaccompanied Folk Singer. A keen collector of National and International Folk Songs, she often had to supply her accompanist with a hand-written transposed version to suit her voice range. On one occasion, in the Folk Song Class, her usual accompanist was not available and the deputy announced on stage that it was not possible to sight read a hand-written score, however neat, and could not be persuaded otherwise. Catherine, undeterred, announced to the Adjudicator and audience that she would therefore sing unaccompanied. This she proceeded to do with such success that there was a roar of applause when she was acclaimed the outright winner. From that moment, her career as a singer of unaccompanied Folk Songs took off and she went on to win many First Prizes at Musical Festivals in the South East, including the London Festival. She was in great demand for concerts all over Essex – however, it was very much the taking part in the Festival that she and her contemporaries so greatly enjoyed and this is reflected in the large number of entries for all the classes of the time. Until the final few months of her life, one of her great pleasures was remembering those happy times. Catherine died on 19th July 2001 after a short illness. Catherine's family has kindly presented a trophy to the Festival, in her memory. The trophy will be awarded for Folk Singing, on the same basis as the prize formerly given by Catherine.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 740

The M L Callard Memorial Cup

This cup was donated in 1956 by Mr. and Mrs. P Dunning in memory of the late Mrs. M L Callard, who was at one time a competitor and supporter of the Festival for many years. The cup was intended for Boys Solo under 11 years.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 750

The G A Crow Memorial Cup

This cup was presented in 1966 by Mrs. Muriel Baker in memory of her mother who, through the years, always showed keen interest and support for the Festival. The cup was for the Junior Folk Song Class ages 15 years and under (either sex).





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 790

The Jean Williams Shield

Donated by Hilary Williams in 2022 to be used for the Disney Song class number 79. Jean Williams was a lover of all things musical. Theatre was her passion and she was involved with it all her life, she most enjoyed performing not only with a local Amateur Dramatic Society but also doing concerts for charity. So much did she love being in a theatre that even her day job was working in a theatre - The Cliffs Pavilion. However as said before her greatest love was performing so she would be very happy that this Shield is being presented to the winner of this class, encouraging young people to sing!





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 800

The Louise and Don Collard Cup

“Lady Mayor of Southend-on-Sea 1986/7 and her Escort”

Mary Louise COLLARD (1921 – 2001), generally known as Louise, was a “Dancing Mum”, who loved the theatre. A gold medallist at ballroom dancing, a Vice-President and Wardrobe Mistress of an Amateur Operatic Society; Louise loved life and people. Elected as Councillor for Chalkwell Ward in 1976, Louise was Lady Mayor of Southend-on-Sea 1986/7 – her last year on Council. She was a campaigning councillor of the old school, outspoken in her views, particularly if she felt there was an injustice involving those in her ward.

She also devoted many hours to charitable causes and always had an interest in encouraging young people. In latter years, she was chairman of the “Friends of Nazareth House”, Southend.

A Memorial Prize is awarded annually in memory of Louise.

Don COLLARD, BA, PGCE, FETC, CQSW, DMA, Dip.Soc. MCollP.

Supported his wife, Louise, in Charity, Public and Social works. Don always enjoyed singing since childhood, gaining his first certificate in 1937. In 1956, he took up singing seriously, studying under the well-known soprano, May Chapman. During his first year of study he entered various Musical Festivals in Essex with encouraging results. In 1959 he won a Gentleman’s Silver Medal and also International Folk Song Contests. Singing solo parts in all types of musical – oratorios to operettas, with various operatic societies, groups and choirs.

The critics were reasonably kind, the last headline summed up his life: “He has something to sing about”.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 810

The Leigh Operatic & Dramatic Society Trophy

The Leigh Operatic & Dramatic Society was formed in 1917 and, apart from the war years, has presented one, or more usually, two musicals each year, usually at the Palace Theatre.

This trophy was presented to the Festival in 2005, to be awarded to the winner of the Songs from the Shows (published 1960 or later) Class. Mr Don Lefever, who initiated the donation of this trophy,

wrote:

“I have been a member of the Leigh Operatic & Dramatic Society since 1946 and am therefore coming up to my 60th anniversary of membership, and during the last seven years have been honoured by being the Society’s President.

I felt that this year was, for me, a suitable time to mark the pleasure which I have had with the Society, by donation of a trophy for this class.”

We are most grateful to Don Lefever and to the Society for supporting the Festival in this way.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 820

The Ellen C Petchey Memorial Cup

This cup was presented in 1967 by her daughter, Pamela, for Class 37 (Songs From The Shows). Pamela was a competitor in the Piano Classes in the 1940's/50's.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 830

The Peter Bayliss Memorial Salver

This salver was donated in the Year 2000 by Margaret Harris, in memory of her father, Peter Bayliss – it will be presented each year to the overall winner of this class, together with the Peter Bayliss Award, which will be funded in perpetuity by the Festival.

Peter was Chairman of the Southend Musical Festival from 1990 until his death in February 2000. However, his work with the Festival went back to the early 1930's, when he was pressed into service as a ticket seller by his uncle, Horace Bayliss. Horace Bayliss was the General Secretary from the Festival's earliest days and under his guidance the organisation prospered and developed.

Over the years, Peter undertook every job which came his way, and there was precious little about the Festival which he could not recall at will – incidents both serious and amusing. His tall, distinguished figure was an unmistakable and familiar sight at the competitions every year, in which he took a great interest. The Festival was indeed sad to lose a most charming and gentlemanly Chairman and a dear friend. He will be sadly missed, but well-remembered.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 840

The Bill Creigh Memorial Cup

Bill started singing at an early age. As a boy soprano he was a soloist with the Jesuit school choir of St Ignatius, in Stamford Hill, London.

In 1921 he was awarded a silver medal at the North London Musical Festival for solo singing, at age 12 years, singing "Who is Sylvia". He continued to sing through his teenage years.

After WW II Bill joined the Southend Operatic Society and performed leading roles in many productions at the Westcliff Palace Theatre: Gilbert & Sullivan's Mikado, Pirates of Penzance, and HMS Pinafore, to name a few. Other musicals were Bless the Bride, Merry England & others.

Bill Creigh continued to be in demand to sing at private functions in the area. His wife was Irene Creigh who formed the Highlands Theatre Group and Bill was an enthusiastic member, acting in many productions. During the 60 - 70s he performed leading roles in the Bank Operatic Company at the Scala Theatre in London: Chief Sitting Bull in "Annie Get Your Gun", Jud Fry in "Oklahoma", and others.

Bill's passion for singing was always with him. For the last ten years of his life he was a member of the prestigious Burgate Singers, in Suffolk, with Music Director Alain Judd. He brought his bass baritone voice to many works by Mozart, Verdi and Beethoven, performing at Burgate Church and in the well known Actors' Church in London. He never stopped singing.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 850

The Viccars Family Songs from the Shows Shield

The Viccars family presented this shield to the Festival in the year 2000, their daughter, Jennifer, having won the “Songs from the Shows” under 11’s class for the previous three years running – they wanted to ensure that future winners of the class would have a place in which their achievement could be recorded. Jennifer’s mother wrote

I come from a home which was regularly filled with music. My father is a pianist and it was not uncommon to find Grandma, Mum and me singing around the kitchen sink whilst washing up, with Dad accompanying us all on the piano in the lounge! Our favourite songs were taken from the shows like The King and I, Carousel, West Side Story, My Fair Lady and the like, and it gives me a great deal of pleasure to find that my daughter also enjoys these wonderful show numbers (as well as contemporary pop!).

She first entered the Southend Musical Festival in 1994 when she was 7 years old with “Let’s Go Fly a Kite” and won the Florence Roaf Prize for the first time in 1997 with “Ice Cream”.

In 1998 she won with “Spring, Spring, Spring” and in 1997 with “O What a Beautiful Morning”.

At the Leigh Musical Festival in 1995 the late Paul Hinton wrote in his adjudication about Jenny just before he died that she was “a little singer with a very big heart and a love for singing a story”. I have always felt that this comment sums up Jenny’s success to date. It is hoped that the shield will encourage other young children to participate in this section and enjoy the wonderful show songs, both old and new.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 880

The Pett Trophy

The committee meeting of the 18th October 1957 reported that the Pett Trophy would take the form of four individual small cups, a very unusual and novel form of trophy. The class is now for vocal ensemble (any combination of voices, maximum of six).





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 900

The Philip Leicester Parry Memorial Cup

In March 1950, Madam Freda Parry, daughter of Phillip Leicester Parry, wished to give a cup to be inscribed “The Phillip Leicester Parry Memorial Cup”. It was to be presented by his daughter. This was to be for the highest marks obtained throughout the Festival (excluding Elocution) in any connected class. Up to 1961 the cup was awarded to a winning entry obtaining the highest number of marks throughout the Festival in certain connected classes. In 1962, this was changed to Class 20 Vocal Duets (open) for any combination of voices 17 years and over. In 2001 the class changed to any age.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 910

The Gilberts Challenge Cup

Messrs. Gilberts of Gilberts Pianos Ltd. with branches in Southchurch Road, Southend, and London Road, Westcliff, donated this cup in 1948. It was for a Senior Lieder Class – duet for voice and piano age 19 years and over, either sex. They provided a piano for the festival on several occasions.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 930

The Gillian Woods Memorial Cup

Gillian Woods was born into a musically-talented family – the youngest by ten years, her earliest memories of musical training were of her brothers sitting with her at the piano, teaching her to read music and to hold an alto line. Her mother taught her piano. Gill attended Cheltenham Ladies' College and revelled in its opportunities for music-making. She took lessons in singing and piano and – already planning for her future career as an operatic contralto – she seized the chance to study Italian along with her other subjects. At the young age of 16 she entered the Royal Academy of Music and studies under the great English operatic soprano, Dame Eva Turner. For her second study, she chose to learn percussion, and was placed with the legendary performer and teacher, James Blades.

After the Academy, and a year's extra study at the London Opera Centre, Gill joined the Glyndebourne Opera Company in small solo roles, and as an understudy and chorister. At the same time, she started with the BBC Singers, becoming, by the time she retired in the mid-1990s, the longest-serving current member.

She sang with Glyndebourne Opera for five seasons and on its tours, with many other opera engagements in Britain and abroad. These included principal roles in the Belfast Festival, the Dublin and Wexford Festival, Welsh National "Opera for All" and work in the Covent Garden chorus. After a period working for Opera North, Gill was engaged by the newly-restored opera house in Lyon, spending about six months of each year in France and the rest as a freelance singer in Britain.

In the mid-1990s, Gill decided to retire from freelance singing and accept the role of teacher. She loved the work and was soon surrounded by a circle of devoted singing and piano pupils of many ages. After a strenuous daily round of lessons, she would work long into the night, recording accompaniments for her singers. With her guidance, they achieved many successes, including a large number of medals and prizes at local festivals and even national music competitions.

Gill married fellow-singer, organist and harpsichordist, David Galbraith (David Woods) in 1970. Their two children, Joanna and Tom Woods, grew up in a musical household to become professional musicians – violinist and cellist respectively. Gill died on 15 September 2008. She is in the thoughts of a huge number of people whose lives she has enriched – at the Southend Musical Festival, she is very sadly missed and fondly remembered.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 940

The Walter Tee Trophy for Ensemble Singing

Narrative for self accompanied trophy but not this one





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: 200,
210, 220

The Premier Trophy

This trophy was first mentioned at the AGM of 26th March 1987 for Solo Singing Premier Class, either sex, amateur or professional, open to singers 19 years and over. At the AGM of the 5th April 1989, it was decided that the trophy would be awarded for the highest mark in the oratorio and opera classes. This still operates today, covering oratorio, opera and song recital classes, amateur or professional, either sex, 19 years and over. The singer with the highest marks gains the award.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: No longer
awarded

The Connie Wedderburn Cup

This cup was donated in 1984 by her daughters in memory of their mother and was awarded to the winner of the "Sixty years and over" Solo Singing - Class. (This was changed in 1985 to Mezzo Soprano – 19 years and over.)





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: No longer
awarded

The Dorothy Ventris Trophy (Contralto Solo)

Dorothy Ventris (1911 – 2002) had a lifelong interest in music and liked to retell family stories of her grandfather's open air musical gatherings, where people used to congregate outside his garden in Wakering to listen. She had a fine contralto voice and was for many years a stalwart of Madam Freda Parry's choir, which older people will remember. She also played the violin in local orchestras.

Dorothy devoted enormous energy to good causes, particularly St. John's for whom among other things she lectured on civil defence, and the National Trust, of which she was a local Vice-President when she died. She was a Samaritan and one of the founders of the Southend Hospital shop.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: No longer
awarded

The Gayler Challenge Cup

At the Annual General Meeting held on 19th March 1949, Miss. Phyllis Gayler informed the meeting that she and her family would be pleased to donate a cup for competition in the Junior Lieder Class (junior voice and piano).

Miss. Phyllis Gayler was Hon. Official accompanist for the Festival for 50 years from 1929 to 1979 and then became an Honorary Member. The festival made a suitable award to her in recognition of her 50 years as Festival Accompanist.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: No longer
awarded

The Girl Guides Association Challenge Cup

In our Silver Jubilee year of 1936, The Girl Guides Association, Southend-on-Sea Division, donated this shield for competition in the Guides or GLB class for choirs. The shield was received from Mrs. James Tabor, Commissioner.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: No longer
awarded

The Gladys Butler Cup

The only record is a note in minutes of the Annual General Meeting
21st March 1970 and the Committee Meeting of 29th April 1970 that a new cup had been
given by Mrs. Gladys Butler for Girls' Solo Singing ages 16-18 years.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: No longer
awarded

The Hilda Nevard Challenge Cup

This cup was donated in 1960 by Miss. Hilda Nevard and her pupils, and it was decided to allocate the cup to the class for madrigal groups. Miss. Nevard was for some time on the test pieces selection sub committee for singing.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: No longer
awarded

The Hodges & Johnson Challenge Cup

This company was once Southend's leading music retailers, and were also able to supply most of the world's leading pianos and organs. They had branches in Broadway West, Leigh-on-Sea, and Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff. The cup was donated in 1955.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: No longer
awarded

The Lilian Wood Challenge Cup

Mrs. Lilian Wood donated this cup in 1949 for boys solo singing, 11 years and under.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: No longer
awarded

The Mme Radcliffe Lewis Challenge Cup

Madame Radcliffe Lewis donated a cup in May 1948 for Townswomen's Guild Choirs. There is no other information about this lady in our records. However, it is believed that she conducted one of the Townswomen's Guild choirs, possibly the Southend Guild.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: No longer
awarded

The Mrs H W L Hobbs Challenge Cup for Ladies

At a Committee Meeting held on the 15th October 1934, it was reported that Mrs. H W L Hobbs wished to give a cup in memory of her long association with the Festival. This was to be awarded in a women's singing class (possibly contralto). It was decided to institute a Vocal Championship for Ladies. The first and second prize winners in the following classes, namely first and second soprano, mezzo, and one contralto class to compete for the holding of the cup for one year.

Mrs. Hobbs was the wife of Mr. H W L Hobbs, the first Chairman of the Festival in 1911, who unfortunately died on the 21st April 1915. Mrs. Hobbs presented the prizes at the annual prize distributions on numerous occasions and was a generous patron of the Festival. She passed away early in 1936, just two years after presenting this cup.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: No longer
awarded

The Mrs Louise Boland Challenge Cup

Mrs. Boland was a member of the Musical Council for many years and in 1964, presented a cup for a new class for choirs of not more than 25 voices.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: No longer
awarded

The Mrs Waller Challenge Trophy

It would appear from the Secretary's report on the 1948 festival that Mrs. Waller had donated a cup for small church choirs (under 20 members) and this is listed in the 1948 syllabus. No other information is listed in minutes.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: No longer
awarded

The Sheila Heppel Memorial Cup

In 1982, this cup was donated by the Balmoral Singers in memory of their conductor who died just before the 1981 Festival. Mrs. Sheila Heppel was, for many years, an active participant in the Festival as a singer and teacher and gave devoted time service as General Secretary of the Association from 1969 to 1977. This cup was for a new class for ladies' trio singing.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: No longer
awarded

The Sheila Heppel Shield

This trophy was donated by the Balmoral Singers in 1982 in memory of their conductor who died just before the 1981 festival began. Mrs. Sheila Heppel was for many years an active participant in the Southend Festival as a singer and teacher, and gave such devoted service as General Secretary of the Association from 1969-1977. The shield to be awarded was to be awarded to the winners of a new class – Ladies Vocal Trio.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: Overall Award

The Claire Roberts Award

This beautiful cut-glass bowl has been presented to the Southend Musical Festival in memory of the many happy years of singing by the Claire Singers under their conductor Clara Roberts.

The Claire Singers was formed in 1984 by Clara Roberts and many of the original members were her singing pupils. Over the years the Choir gained a reputation for high quality performances, with a light-hearted feel. Clara was an inspiration to all the members, not only because of her musical ability but also her personality and sense of fun which always brought out the best in the singing. Performances that she directed always had the ability to move the audience – her attention to ‘what the song meant’ always being the motivating factor.

The choir closed in 2009, upon Clara’s decision to retire. Its members will remember the years of singing with pride and affection.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: Overall Award

The Freda Parry Presentation Bowl

In 1951, the year of the Festival of Britain, a series of nationwide musical competitions was held, for choirs and instrumentalists, and the area winners of the Ladies' Choir classes sang in a final contest at the newly-opened Royal Festival Hall.

The Freda Parry Ladies' Choir, having won their area contest, competed in the final contest against choirs from all over the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, and was judged the overall winner by a panel of distinguished adjudicators, including Herbert Howells, the composer of the set test piece. The prize was a magnificent Rose Bowl.

When Freda Parry died, in 1971, the Rose Bowl was left to the Southend Musical Festival. Originally, when many more choirs were competing, the winners of certain classes competed again in a final contest for the Rose Bowl. In more recent years, the Rose Bowl itself has been stored at the Mayor's Official Residence, Porters, and a "Presentation Bowl" has been awarded, at the discretion of the adjudicator, for the most outstanding choral performance in the Festival.





SOUTHEND-ON-SEA FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS SINGING

SECTION: Singing

CLASS NO/S: Overall Award

The Thornton Family Shield for Entertainment

Billie, Gerry, Ben & Luke Thornton have always enjoyed music and theatre. Ben had a principal role in six West-End shows by the age of 13 including Les Misérables and Luke has also played at The London Palladium in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and subsequently was invited to tour with the show in Sunderland. At the time of presenting this award, in 2006, Ben & Luke are aged 17 and 12 and they are still performing at various locations and are often working together. They have sung at numerous prestigious venues and toured abroad as members of the Southend Boys Choir and have both sung solo at The Royal Albert Hall. They have formed a quartet "T.A.G.S." with two other brothers and are often requested to participate at various functions. Billie's professional work began as a member of The Dagenham Girl Pipers and she often entertained an audience with piping, drumming and Scottish dancing. All the family enjoy performing as members of The Wednesday Players and appear annually in cabarets, plays and pantomimes. Gerry has delighted many audiences at panto as a Dame! Whilst both Ben & Luke have had experience in television and film, their love is performing on stage where they can entertain an audience. There is nothing they like better than to make people smile and to ensure their audience are enjoying themselves. They have both had much success in The Southend Musical Festival in the singing section over the past years. Ben's first song was "The Caravan" in 1996 and he was awarded The M.L.Callard Memorial Cup which Luke subsequently won in 2004 with "The Tiger". The family is delighted to present this shield - with gratitude to all those who work tirelessly for The Festival, which has given Ben & Luke the opportunity to take part and provided a platform on which they can perform and entertain.

