



Essex Music Service presents:

JOHN WILLIAMS

at Christmas

Conductors:

Matthew Andrews and Atharv Gupta

Leader:

Soshin Yoshitake-Thatcher

Clarinet: **Jasper Rebel**

Accordion: **Robert Badea**

Brentwood Centre, Brentwood
Monday, 1 December 2025

Charter Hall, Colchester
Tuesday, 2 December 2025

Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

A note about tonight's performance

We would request that all audience members turn off mobile phones and other devices that could disturb tonight's performance.

Please also note that audience members are strictly forbidden to take photos and videos.

Essex Music Service – part of Essex County Council – is the lead partner of the Greater Essex Music Hub which is supported by funding from the Department for Education which comes to us via Arts Council England. Along with partner organisations that make up the Hub, we offer a range of musical services, projects and opportunities throughout Essex schools and within the community.

We believe that every young person deserves the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, and the young people that you have come to hear tonight, each started out their musical journey at a younger age. We seek to use the funding received from Arts Council England to provide every child across Essex, no matter who they are or what their circumstances, the opportunity to participate, enjoy, create and be part of an inspiring world of Music and the Arts.

The ensemble performing tonight is just one of many ensembles we run. Should you wish to find out more about the broad range of ensembles and wider opportunities we offer, please visit our website:

www.essexmusicservice.org.uk

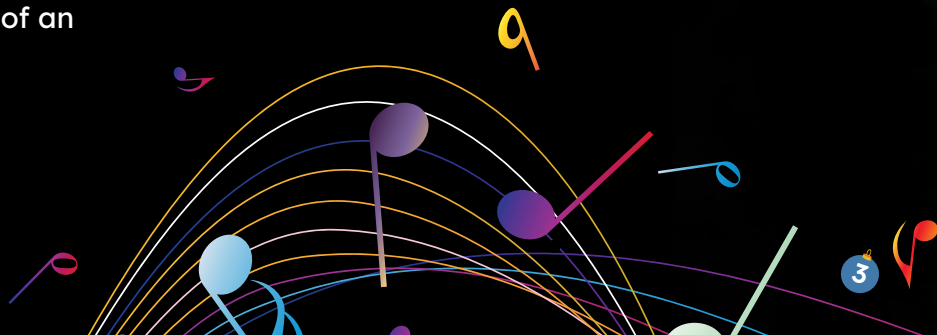
or email your questions to:

musichub@essex.gov.uk

Special thanks to Essex Young Musicians' Trust for supporting players from Essex Youth Orchestra to attend the rehearsals in preparation for these performances.

For further information about EYMT and the support they can offer young musicians, please visit:

www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk



JOHN WILLIAMS *at Christmas*

Star Wars

Running time: 3 minutes

Jurassic Park

Running time: 6 minutes

Viktor's Tale

Running time: 4.5 minutes

E.T.

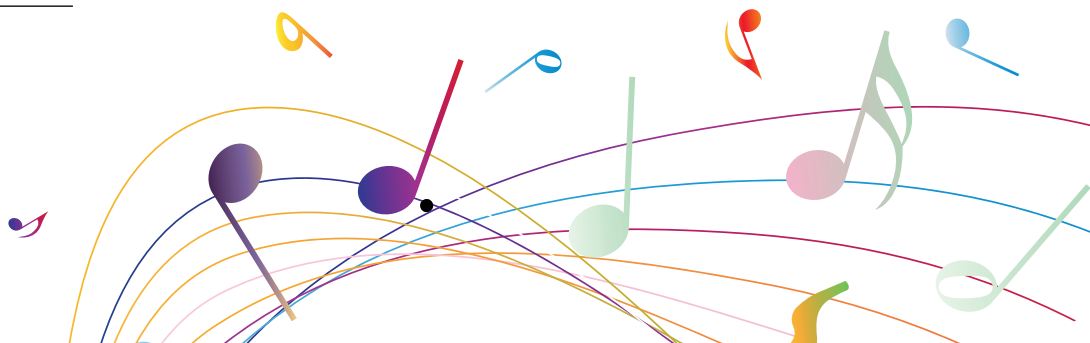
Running time: 3.5 minutes

Harry Potter Symphonic Suite

Running time: 25 minutes

Home Alone Medley (arr. Phil Toms)

Running time: 8 minutes





Matthew Andrews

Conductor

Matthew Andrews is a graduate of London's Guildhall School of Music & Drama, where he chaired the Contemporary Music Society and studied composition (Dr Robert Saxton), piano (Susan Alexander Max) and conducting technique (Alan Hazeldine). He received further tuition with Simon Bainbridge, Hans Werner Henze and conductors Christopher Adey and Peter Stark.

In demand as an orchestral trainer, Matt is a visiting conductor to the Guildhall School of Music (Junior Dept.), Wells Cathedral School Symphony Orchestra and Essex Young People's Orchestra. He directs many courses and workshops, most recently with Norfolk County Youth Orchestra.

His début with Norwich Philharmonic Orchestra conducting Mahler's Resurrection Symphony led to Matt's immediate appointment as Principal Conductor, a post he also holds with both the Sudbury and Southend Symphony Orchestras. He is also a regular guest conductor with the Academy of St Thomas and has been de facto Artistic Director of the McKinsey Music Festival at the Alpine University in Kitzbühel since its inception eleven years ago.

Matt is sought after for his realisations of modern music and leading complex musical projects, including the première of Neil Yates's Surroundings for

antiphonal Big Band (Manchester Jazz Festival), the War Requiem for the Britten Centenary and will perform Mahler's 'Symphony of a Thousand' for the Norfolk & Norwich Festival 2016.

He has also conducted the Northern Sinfonia, Amadeus Orchestra, Essex Youth Orchestra, North London Chorus (Artistic Director 2000-02) and Opera Lab, and taught orchestral conducting technique at the Guildhall School of Music.

Matt was assistant to composer Geoffrey Burgon, recording with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, and the BAFTA award-winning soundtrack Longitude with the Philharmonia Orchestra.



Atharv Gupta

Conductor

Aged 17, Atharv is a young conductor, composer, trombonist and pianist. His musical journey began at age 5 in Redbridge's Young Music Makers program, but it was during lockdown at age 10 that he discovered his passion for classical music, which has since become an integral part of his life.

In 2021, Atharv joined Essex Music Service, becoming part of the Essex Youth Jazz Orchestra, Youth Brass Ensemble, Youth Symphonic Wind Orchestra and Young People's Orchestra. In the

following year, he joined the Essex Youth Orchestra where he enjoys playing Trombone. Additionally, he attends Trinity Laban's Junior Department on Saturdays, learning Conducting and Composition with Darren Bloom and Trombone with Jonathan Watkins.

A major highlight of Atharv's musical life came when he was selected as one of the winners of the BBC Young Composer Award 2023. This led to him taking part in a yearlong development programme working with

a mentor composer and the BBC Concert Orchestra, culminating in the premiere of a piece he wrote by the BBCCO at the 2024 BBC Proms. In January 2024, Atharv was chosen as one of the ORA Singers Young Composers 2024, which led to him taking part in a mentorship programme with a professional composer and the ORA Singers, resulting in a live performance and recording of a choral work he wrote at Worcester Cathedral as part of the Three Choirs Festival.

Atharv made his conducting debut in the summer of 2023 when he had the opportunity to take part in a conducting masterclass with Robin Browning and conduct the Essex Young People's Orchestra. From 2023 to 2025, Atharv was the EYPO's Assistant Conductor, where he conducted them under the guidance of Matthew Andrews. Starting from this year, Atharv is delighted to be acting as the Assistant Conductor of the Essex Youth Orchestra under Robin Browning, having already previously conducted them for the premiere of his Elegy for the End of Days in January 2025 and on their 2025 Summer Tour to Germany.

In the summer of 2024, Atharv founded the Titan Sinfonia, a youth symphony orchestra he conducts which brings together musical talent from across Essex and London, with the aim of performing re-imagined, emotionally immersive interpretations of orchestral repertoire as well as a premiere by a young composer each concert. Their most recent performance was in August 2025 and featured Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Overture, Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances, and the premiere of Titan March by Shravan Sriram.

Outside of music, Atharv debates and quizzes for

his school and plays Table Tennis for Chelmsford Table Tennis Club. He is also very passionate about physics and wants to become either a quantum physicist or a conductor/composer.





Soshin Yoshitake-Thatcher

Leader

Soshin began studying violin at age 6 with Suzanne Marie PierreJean with whom he is still studying today. He has studied at Musicale in Harpenden, The Saffron Centre for Young Musicians, the Cambridge Camerata Academy and, in 2023 gained a place at the Royal College of Music Junior Department to study viola under Sarah-Jane Bradley.

Soshin began playing orchestral music at age 9 and, as well as playing extensively with EYPO and EYO, has been a member of the National

Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the past four years. In 2026 he will join the National Youth Orchestra's Inspire Programme and hopes to gain a place in the main orchestra in the future.

Soshin attends St Mark's West Essex Catholic School in Harlow and outside school and music enjoys Athletics and parkrun. Soshin's long-term goal is to continue to enjoy music and hopefully gain a place at a conservatoire.



Jasper Rebel

Clarinet

Jasper is 14 years old and attends the Anglo European School during the week and the junior department of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama on Saturdays. He is taught by Derek Hannigan, and previously by Fiona Hill. Jasper has been playing the clarinet for seven years and, following a mark of 141 in his grade 8, achieved his ABRSM diploma with distinction at age 13, with the loss of only three marks. Jasper is also a keen saxophonist, achieving 141 marks again in his saxophone grade 8, and a distinction in his ABRSM diploma, this time losing only two marks. He also has grade 8 piano, enjoys playing

jazz piano as well as jazz sax, and hopes he passed the grade 8 theory exam that he sat a couple of weeks ago!

Jasper is coming to the end of his time with the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain, where he has been principal clarinet for the past couple of years. He has led the National Children's Concert Band, and plays in the English Schools' Orchestra and National Youth Concert Band, as well as ensembles at Junior Guildhall. Following his audition for the National Youth Orchestra this year, he has been invited to join them on an upcoming course, which is hopeful for the future! Jasper continues to enjoy playing in the Essex ensembles that have been such an important part of his musical journey - the Essex Youth Orchestra, Essex Youth Symphonic Wind Orchestra and Essex Youth Jazz Orchestra

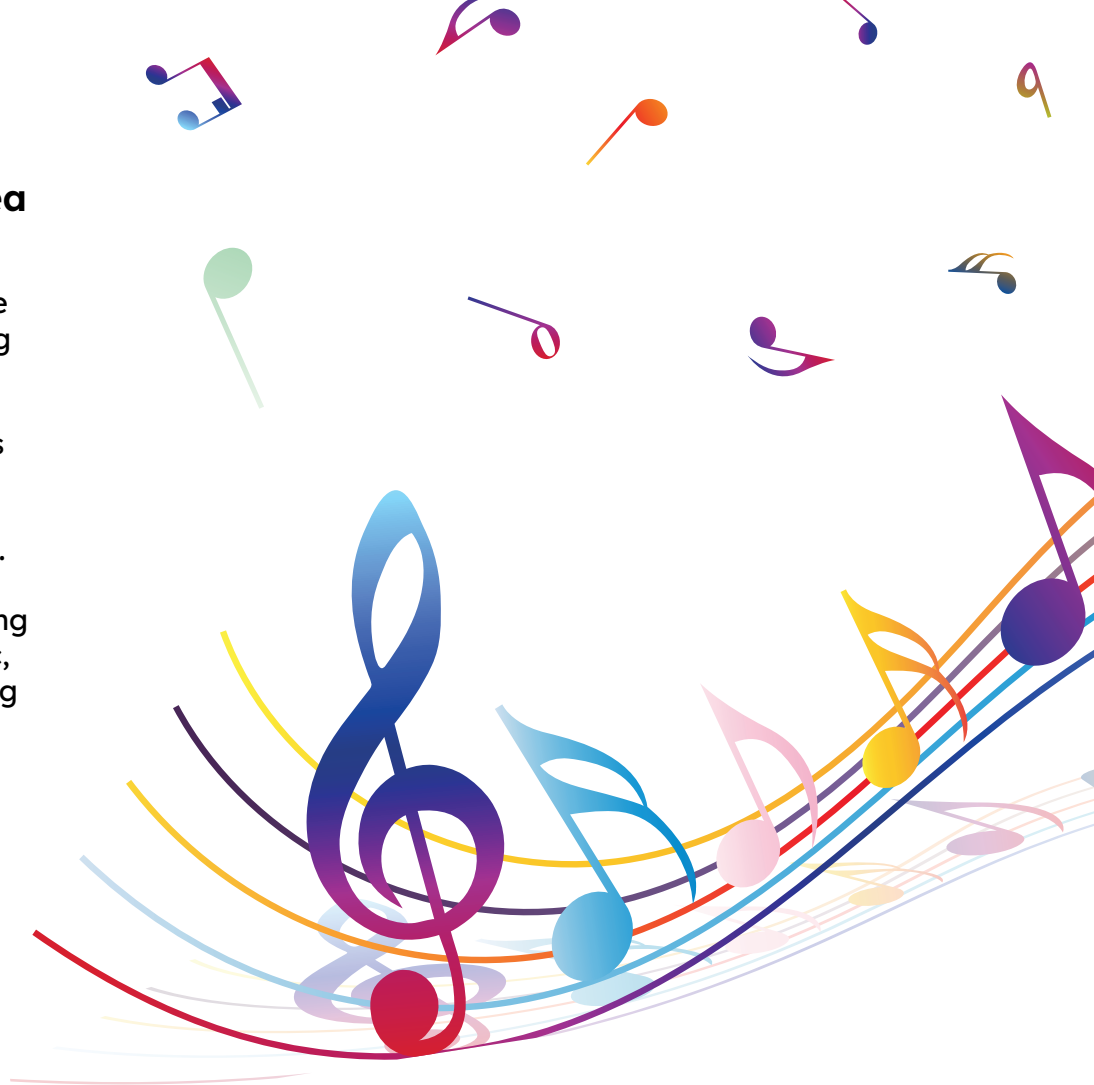
(and previously Essex Young People's Orchestra). His very first ensemble experience was with Brentwood's Orchestras for Young Musicians where he was welcomed into the windband knowing only five notes, and he continues playing there, now in the Youth Orchestra.

As well as music, Jasper is very interested in science and also loves languages and traveling. In the future, Jasper is hoping to pursue a professional music career but still has a while to decide about that! Even if he does go in a different direction he knows music will remain a big part of his life as it has already brought him such joy throughout his childhood and he cannot imagine life without it. He has relished the many opportunities and experiences that have also come through playing an instrument, and is very excited to be performing this solo today.



Robert Badea Accordion

Robert is 16 years old and he is looking forward to starting college next September where he going to pursue his passion for Music. He has been studying the Classical Accordion for three years, and the Piano for nine years. In his spare time, Robert enjoys playing and composing Classical and Folkloric music, studying History, Engineering and Linguistics. He has also recently begun to study the Clarinet.



ESSEX YOUTH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

1st Violin

Soshin Yoshitake-Thatcher,
leader

Roisin Bridge

Theo Booth

Tamsin Nandha

Louis Barnes

Taya de Silva

Ankhan Aswani

Mark Amos

Toni Cooper

Annabelle Gray

2nd Violin

Madeleine Padbury

Francesco Pira

Alex Mitchell

Edward Kirtland

Abigail Fordyce

Evangeline Long

Caron Hiscock

Viola

Charlie Newman

Euan Bookless

Charles Lino

Toby Parker

Jayden Osayande

Cello

Gabriel Leung

Jaslyn Lam

Tokunbo Oluwakuyide

David Best

Oscar Kalair

Diya Mehra

Double Bass

Mollie Sumner

Joel Elonge

Samuel Dosumno

Flute

Jamie Derrick

Sarah Padbury

Summer Pateman



Oboe

Harry Wilson
Ashley Cook
Hari Gumber

Clarinet

Jasper Rebel
Emily Lorenc
Felix Partridge

Bassoon

Sophie Kelly
Lizzie Watley
Hugo Knight

Trumpet

Oliver Toms
Lucas Rebel
Svetoslav Gluhchev

Trombone

Atharv Gupta
Gabriel Goddard
Will Heaton
Ed Parr

Horn

Alex Rebel
Matthew Gray
Jemima Padbury
James Simpkins
James Wilson

Tuba

Adi Grant

Harp

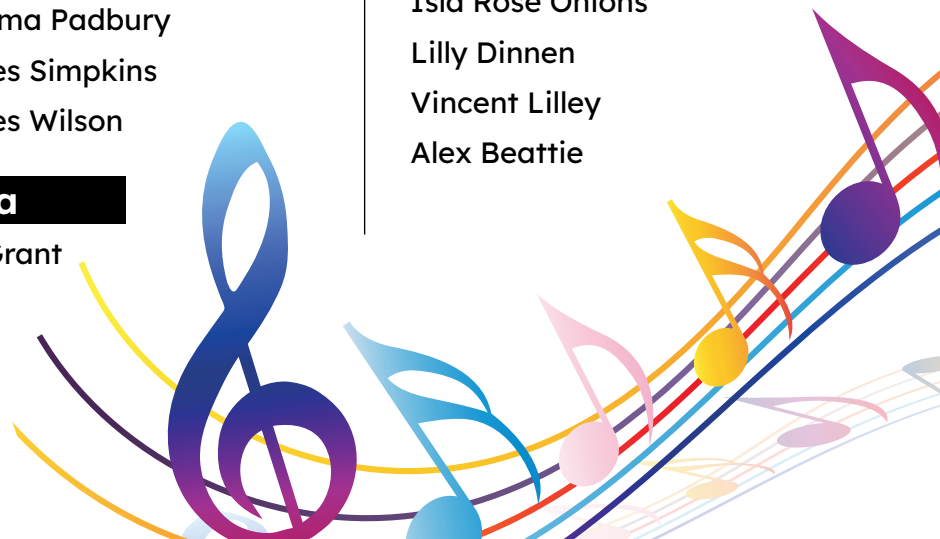
Siena Briscoe

Piano / Celeste

Bethany Reynolds

Extra Percussion

Dexter Douglas
Emily O'Keefe
Isla Rose Onions
Lilly Dinnen
Vincent Lilley
Alex Beattie



The choir for these performances are made up of singers from:

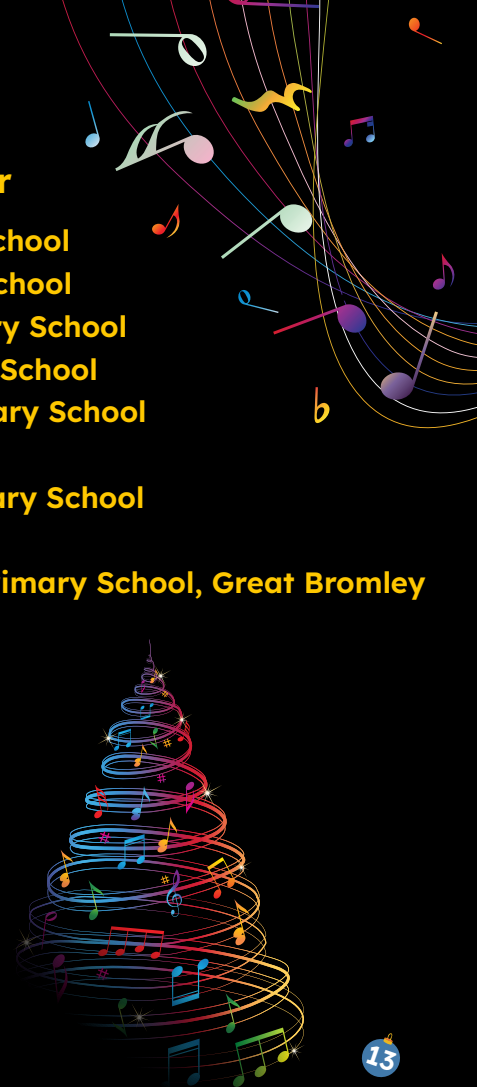
Brentwood Centre Choir

Basildon Lower Academy
Becket Keys C of E Secondary School
Buttsbury Primary School
Chase High School
Ingrave Johnstone C of E Primary School
Kelvedon Hatch Community Primary School
Ongar Primary School
St John Payne School
St John's C of E Primary School, Danbury
St Peter's C of E Primary School
The Woodlands School, Hutton Manor
WAVES Youth Choir

Charter Hall Choir

Baynards Primary School
Braiswick Primary School
Brightlingsea Primary School
Heathlands Primary School
Lawford C of E Primary School
Lift Tending
Parsons Heath Primary School
Paxman Academy
St George's C of E Primary School, Great Bromley
The Gilbert School
The Stanway School

We would like to thank the young people for the time they have spent learning the songs back at school. We would especially like to thank the music teachers at the schools who have prepared the children for the performance and enabled them to have the opportunity to sing in such a wonderful venue and all the other staff who have made arrangements for the choirs to be with us today.



Essex Youth Chamber Orchestra is made up of talented musicians from Essex Youth Orchestra, Essex Young People's Orchestra and Essex Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Essex Youth Orchestra (EYO) is the flagship ensemble for Essex Music Service and 68 years since its beginning in 1957. Over the years we have seen many of its players from all over Essex go on to become professionals in the music industry, benefitting from the high standard and opportunities gained from their experience.

The orchestra play a wide range of classical styles and composers, performing at many different venues across Essex including Saffron Hall and Chelmsford Cathedral. The take part in residential courses and go on tour to Europe bi-annually, having visit countries such as Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Budapest and many more.

Players of Grade 7 standard on Woodwind, Strings, Brass and Percussion from across Essex are invited to attend an annual audition

workshop where they can learn audition tips from professional musicians and perform their prepared audition piece.

Essex Young People Orchestra (EYPO) is the training orchestra for Essex Youth Orchestra. This music group aims to develop the skills necessary to become an experienced orchestral player. Conducted by Matthew Andrews, EYPO come together to rehearse a wide range of classical styles and composers and perform at many different venues across Essex. Players of Grade 4 standard and above are invited to participate.

Players meet for 5 short courses at Felsted School culminating with performances across Essex.

Essex Youth Jazz Orchestra (EYJO) was formed in 1982 for musicians from the Essex Youth Orchestra who were showing an interest in playing jazz.

EYJO plays regularly across Essex and has performed at some of London's major venues,

including the 'O2', Barbican Hall, King's Place, and the 100 Club, Oxford St.

EYJO has enjoyed many European tours over the years, has recorded for BBC Essex Radio and BBC Radio 3, and has performed specially commissioned music by jazz composers Stan Sulzmann, John Warren, and leader Martin Hathaway.

The EYJO's musical director is former band member and musician Martin Hathaway, who has been leading the group for over 30 years.

EYJO rehearse once a month on a Sunday and are based in Braintree. The group prides itself on playing a wide range of jazz music to cater for all tastes and gives equal emphasis to written music and to improvisation.

Other County Music Groups include: Young Essex Jazz, Essex Youth Symphonic Wind Orchestra, Essex Youth Brass Ensemble, Essex Youth Choir.

If you would like more information about joining a County Music Group, please contact:
musichub@essex.gov.uk





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