About the War Memorial Organ

The organ was gifted to the school in 1923 by the Old Southendians in memory of staff and ex-pupils lost in the Great War. Installed in the Victoria Circus building, it was transferred to the Prittlewell Chase site in 1938 but blown to pieces two years later by a World War Two bomb, having to wait until 1953 before restoration by its builders, Hill Norman & Beard.



Following a fantastic and generous response to the £50K appeal to fund the professional rebuilding of the instrument in 2017/18, the organ was expanded, with new string sounds on the Swell, robust bass tones on the Pedal with both a Trombone and Acoustic Bass added, and extra versatility with a Geigen Principal and Piccolo on the Swell.

About the Old Southendian Organ Society

The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS) was set up in 2014 to protect and enhance the future of the school's War Memorial Organ. We aim to support the organ pupils at the school by further enhancing the opportunities available to them through the friendly community of past school organists.

Our broad mix of events feature showcases like this evening, local ensembles such as Southend Symphony Orchestra in 2025, renowned organists, and more. In 2023, the school, Old Southendian Association and Old Southendian Organ Society joined together to celebrate 100 years of the organ. The school's Organ Club welcomed organist Roger Sayer for a workshop, and we held a series of six public concerts with both local talent and world-leading organists.

Gaudeamus Choir

In tuneful accord

Saturday 7th November 2026, 2:30pm

Award winning Gaudeamus Choir presents a mixed programme of music accompanied by the magnificent War Memorial Organ.

Do join us next month

Tickets now available

at *www.osos.org.uk*

A Southendian SHOWCASE

Saturday 3rd October 2026 – 3:00pm

Warren Symes	*It Is Well with My Soul*	arr. Hart
	Steal Away	arr. Kidwell
	Go tell it on the Mountain	arr. Behnke
Dominic Chandler	*Sonata in E major*	Scarlatti
Eleanor Worth	*Mein Herr Marquis (from Die Fledermaus)*	Strauss
	I Cannot Tell What This Love May Be (from Patience)	Gilbert & Sullivan
	Green Finch and Linnet Bird (from Sweeney Todd)	Sondheim
Jamie Jones (reader)	*"To Autumn"*	John Keats
Warren Symes	*Londonderry Air*	Rawsthorne
	INTERVAL *(20 minutes)*	
Brian Fletcher	*Marche Gothique*	Salomé
JC Illingworth	*Air*	Blow
Philip Farah	*SHSB School Song*	Hutchings
Dominic Chandler	*Milonga del angel*	Piazzola
	A Tribute to Roberto Garcia Murillo	Ginastera
Eleanor, Peter & Rachel Worth Trio	*Summertime (from Porgy and Bess)*	Gershwin
Jamie Jones (reader)	*"At that Hour"*	James Joyce
Warren Symes	*No. 1 from Three Pieces for organ*	Schütz
	Community	Schütz

Many thanks to all who have supported this afternoon and helped make this concert possible, including all performers and the school's music department. Thank you also to our Major Donors and Patrons.

The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS)

Find out more about how you can support the Society, watch videos from previous events, and learn more about our work at www.osos.org.uk

The *Old Southendian Organ Society* is a registered charity in England and Wales
(registered charity number 1173343)