



# **SOUTHWOLD ARTS FESTIVAL**

**1<sup>ST</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> May 2026**



**SouthwoldArtsFestival**



**@SouthwoldArts**



# Welcome to the Eleventh Southwold Arts Festival 2026

Celebrate the start of summer over the May Bank Holiday in an exciting weekend crammed with words, music and art. Dame Maureen Lipman and friends perform their West End show, the legendary Chris Difford and the Derek Nash Band will have you dancing in the aisles, or marvel as Andrew Harrison stages a moving one man play. Young stars of the future take to the platform in the popular Young Musicians Showcase and an innovative concert with James Mayhew, Nathan Williamson and Caroline Specia fuses music and art in one creative event and there is more!

Go to **[www.southwoldartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.southwoldartsfestival.co.uk)** for information and tickets from 2nd March.

## Get your tickets

**Booking opens** 2nd March

Online  
**[www.southwoldartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.southwoldartsfestival.co.uk)**

---

Ticket enquiries  
**[info@southwoldartscentre.co.uk](mailto:info@southwoldartscentre.co.uk)**

---

All other enquiries  
**[info@southwoldartsfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@southwoldartsfestival.co.uk)**

---

By telephone  
**01502 722572**

---

**Daytime Box Office**  
**Southwold Arts Centre**, Cumberland Road, IP18 6JP

Until Friday 1st May - Tues & Thurs 11am-2pm

Saturday 2nd May – 10:00am - 11:00am; 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm

Sunday 3rd May – 6.30pm - 7.30pm

All the information in this leaflet is accurate at the time of going to press but programmes and artists may be subject to change.

We adhere to the principles of the Data Protection Act and adopt the best practice for managing information.

Southwold Arts Festival is a registered charity (No: 1161134). All money raised from Festival events will be used only to fund future Festivals.



## FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY

.....

### YOUNG MUSICIANS' SHOWCASE

ALENA LAI – OBOE; LANA KIDDELL – VOICE;  
BRENDA BLEWETT – PIANO

🕒 11.00am 📍 St Edmund's Church 💎 £10

A recital by two talented young musicians from Norwich School.

### YOUNG MUSICIANS' SHOWCASE

SOUTHWOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL & ST FELIX SCHOOL

🕒 2.00pm 📍 St Edmund's Church 💎 £10

#### Southwold Primary School

Southwold Primary School Choir reflects the school's strong belief that music enriches identity, community and creativity. The choir consists of all pupils in years 3 to 6 – around two-thirds of the school. The children are extremely proud to share their music with the local community and are very much looking forward to performing at this year's festival, for the fourth-year running.

#### St Felix School

Enjoy a varied programme of music performed by pupils from the prep and senior schools of Saint Felix School. Pieces will include a range of musical styles, from the classical era to modern day songs.



### THE BELOVED SON - PERFORMED BY ANDREW HARRISON WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY MURRAY WATTS

🕒 7.30pm 📍 Southwold Arts Centre  
💎 £15

Henri Nouwen (1932–1996) was a Dutch Catholic priest, psychologist, and professor who reached the heights of academic success at Yale and Harvard before leaving to join the L'Arche Daybreak community in Toronto. He became part of a life-sharing movement, seeking to reveal the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities.

To some, Nouwen put his brilliant career into reverse, risking his reputation; to others, his life was a prophetic challenge to church and society. The Beloved Son is a moving solo performance exploring hope and longing, family dynamics, sexual and emotional crisis, and the insights of a man who became one of the greatest spiritual writers of the 20th century.

## SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY



### THE BEATLES AND ME

CHRIS INGHAM

🕒 11.00am 💷 £10

📍 Southwold Arts Centre

The jazz pianist, singer and bandleader and author of Rough Guide to the Beatles dips in and out of his book, shares his experiences interviewing Paul McCartney and Yoko Ono and reflects on why the Beatles still matter to him, not to mention the rest of the world.

*“Over and above his impish arpeggios, droll introductions and left-handed singing the thing that fascinates me about Mr. Ingham is his erudition”- Leon Nock, Jazz Journal*



### GRAMMY NOMINATED FOUNDER AND SONGWRITER OF SQUEEZE

CHRIS DIFFORD WITH THE DEREK NASH BAND

🕒 7.30pm 📍 Southwold Arts Centre 💷 £20

Chris Difford is a Grammy nominated and double Ivor Novello Award winning lyricist who, for over 40 years, has brought us characters and sketches from everyday life, successfully turning the mundane into the beautiful, the urbane into the exquisite.

He has co-written some of the most enduring and best-loved songs of our time including Up The Junction, Cool For Cats, Labelled With Love, Tempted and many others. Expect a show of Squeeze classics plus songs from the Album Chris recorded with Jazz legend Guy Barker. He will be joining the Derek Nash Band.

## SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY



### ONCE UPON A TUNE

JAMES MAYHEW, CAROLINE SPECA, NATHAN WILLIAMSON

🕒 3.00pm 📍 St Edmund's Church 💎 £15 (U12 FREE)

From Firebirds to fabulous Swan Princesses, discover the magical stories behind your favourite classical tunes. Violinist Caroline Speca is joined by local pianist Nathan Williamson in music by Tchaikovsky, Massenet, Stravinsky.

Children's author and illustrator, James Mayhew, will be illustrating LIVE on stage. The art created in the show will be auctioned on the day for local community project Musical Lifelines. James will also be signing copies of his books.

Suitable for all ages 5 - 95 years old!



### MAUREEN & FRIENDS

AN EVENING OF POETRY,  
JAZZ & OTHER STUFF

🕒 7.30pm 💎 £25

📍 Southwold Arts Centre

An evening of jazz, poetry and other stuff. Including jazz royalty – Jacqui Dankworth, Charlie Wood, Art Themen and George Double plus the fabulous poets of the Hebrides and NW3 – Pauline Prior-Pitt and Jeremy Robson. Dame Maureen Lipman will perform sketches from Radio 4's "Maureen & Friends" and a few other happy surprises. Last year, they played at Crazy Coqs and the Charing Cross Theatre to packed houses and great receptions.



## Event locations

📍 Southwold Arts Centre

📍 St Edmund's Church

## Be part of your Festival

If you would like to join the enthusiastic group of volunteers as a steward to help run our events or to distribute our leaflets please contact us at **[info@southwoldartsfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@southwoldartsfestival.co.uk)**

**Be part of this exciting week**  
**we look forward to hearing from you!**