

## **APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER**

### [FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS](#)

#### **AGM and visit to Holy Trinity Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield – postponed from 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020 – new date t.b.a. when coronavirus restrictions lifted**

Following government announcements on avoidance of social gatherings, all events at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield were cancelled, including our AGM/visit. Once restrictions on social gatherings have been lifted, we will approach Stella Thebridge with a view to rearranging our visit to Holy Trinity, for our 2020 AGM and an opportunity to play the 3 manual Allen L-343 Bravura digital organ with Willis voicing. The organ has a very comprehensive specification, with some 62 speaking stops, plus 2 programmable stops per division, and with a choice of sounds from a library of 200 samples.

#### **Remaining 2020 visit/events**

The following 2020 visits/events are arranged, but are of course subject to postponement/cancellation depending upon government restrictions related to social distancing. In particular, the May visit looks to be very much in jeopardy, but we will be in contact with you as we get closer to the relevant visits/events.

#### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – talk and visit to All Saints' Alrewas**

Courtesy of Rev John Allan and LDOA member Chris Greenhalgh, an evening visit commencing at 7.30pm with a talk by Stephen Alliss, Head Tuner at Harrison & Harrison. When he was Director of Music at St Michael's Lichfield, and St Mary's Lichfield, Stephen was also an LDOA member. He is now responsible for the tuning of a number of major organs, including of course the Hill organ of Lichfield Cathedral. Having worked on the new organ at Canterbury Cathedral in 2019, he spent the beginning of 2020 assisting the tonal finishing of the recently overhauled organ at Salisbury Cathedral, so is well qualified to offer a unique insight into the organ tuner's world.

Then an opportunity to play the two manual 1882 Brindley & Foster organ, which is little changed from that originally installed.

See Appendix for map/directions.

#### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – visit to St John the Baptist, Armitage**

Visit commencing at 2pm to St John the Baptist, Armitage, courtesy of Organist and LDOA member Liz Shaw, to play

the historic 1789 Samuel Green 3 manual 31 stop organ, which used to be in Lichfield Cathedral, before being moved here in 1865 and installed by Holdich.

This interesting organ has Samuel Green's version of 1/5th comma meantone tuning, and is the only extant 18th century ex-cathedral organ in virtually original condition remaining in the UK today.

#### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Members' Recital at All Saints' Four Oaks**

A return visit courtesy of Rev Adrian Leahy and LDOA member and Director of Music Angela Sones to All Saints Four Oaks for our Members' Recital, commencing at 2pm.

An opportunity to renew acquaintances with the superb 4 manual 60 stop organ, and members willing to offer their services to play a 'slot' in this recital are invited to contact Richard Syner.

Members are invited to bring along partners/guests to this event, to which members of All Saints' Church will also be invited. Raffle and refreshments at the interval, with retiring collection.

#### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020 visit to Rugby**

What promises to be a terrific day in Rugby, visiting two venues with no less than five organs between them!

First, at the invitation of Director of Music Dr Richard Dunster-Sigtermans, a visit commencing at 11am to St Andrew's Church in the centre of Rugby, where there's a 3 manual 48 stop organ, completely rebuilt by Hill, Norman & Beard in 1963, and more recently overhauled by Peter Spencer in 2005-7.

Then, with plenty of eateries in the centre of Rugby to choose from for lunch, a five-minute walk takes us to the prestigious Rugby School, the home of rugby, but also home to no less than four organs. Visit commencing at 1pm at the invitation of Director of Music Richard Tanner.

In the breathtakingly beautiful School Chapel, there is a magnificent 4 manual 55 speaking stop Kenneth Jones & Associates organ, on which the opening recital was given by Nicholas Kynaston in 2001. Nicholson has just carried out a refurbishment, and the re-opening recital by the international concert organist David Briggs took place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30pm. (See review on Pg 9)

There is also a 3 manual 32 stop Bryceson organ in the Temple Speech Room, a 2 manual 6 stop Harrison &

Harrison organ in the Memorial Chapel, and a 2 manual 5 stop Škrabl of Slovenia organ in the Music School.

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 – President's Evening at Lichfield Cathedral**

Visit to Lichfield Cathedral hosted by our President, Martyn Rawles, to attend the RSCM Lichfield Area Annual Massed Choirs Festival, commencing at 5.30pm with Evensong, followed by our annual treat of the opportunity to play the magnificent Hill organ. Drinks and nibbles provided.

### **Other 2020 visits/events in the pipeline**

A November visit, and our Annual Dinner at a local hostelry.

### **RECENT LDOA VISITS/EVENTS**

#### **Vierne Day at Derby, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

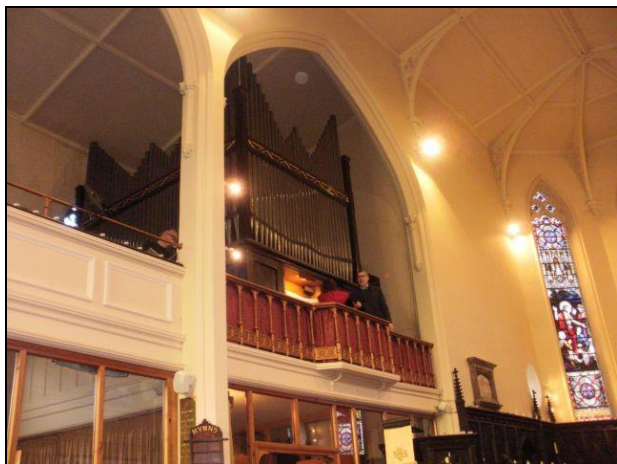
To celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Louis Vierne's birth in 1870, Derby & District Organists Association had arranged an event on Derby, centred at St John's Bridge Street and Derby Cathedral, with LDOA members kindly invited to also attend.

#### **Afternoon session at St John's Bridge Street**

The first part of the afternoon took the form of a workshop led by David Cowen. Associate Organist of Leicester Cathedral, and who has a particular affinity with the music of Vierne.

The organ of St John's was built by Henry Willis in 1875 as a two-manual organ, enlarged to a three-manual organ by Adkins in 1914, before being returned to the two-manual scheme in the Johnson rebuild of 1975, and then comprehensively overhauled by the late Ed Stowe of Derby in 2010.

The two manual 26 stop organ is located on the east end of the north gallery from where it speaks unhindered into the body of the church, but rather a remote location from which David Cowen had to lead his workshop.



David Cowen leading his Vierne workshop at St John's Bridge Street

Of Vierne's most well-known organ works - his six symphonies, *Pieces de Fantaisie* and *24 Pieces en Style*

*Libre* - David chose the latter for his workshop, the title alluding to a style free from the strict teaching regime at the time of the Paris Conservatoire. David offered helpful guidance on the playing of Vierne to volunteers, firstly to Suzanne Blagg, playing *Arabesque*, followed by Andrew Storer, St John's Organist, playing *Cortège*, then Richard Brice playing *Elegy*, and finally Laurence Rodgers playing *Carillon de Longport*.

After very welcome teas/coffees, courtesy of Rosemary Corfield and Pam Storer, the second part of the afternoon, was by DDOA members, led by Stephen Johns, with input of insightful comments by Tom Corfield. Entitled *Vierne in Context*, the presentation was supported by helpful handouts and playing of excerpts using CD's and the church's piano. It looked into the background to Vierne's life, his musical training as a composer and performer, the instruments for which he wrote, principally those by Aristide Cavallé-Coll, and exploring in more detail the music that will be played this evening at Derby Cathedral, namely the large scale five movement 2<sup>nd</sup> *Symphony* and three pieces from *Pièces de Fantaisie* (*Clair de Lune*, *Fantômes* and *Carillon de Westminster*).



David Cowen, centre, flanked by his workshop 'volunteers' (from L to R) Andy Storer, Laurence Rodgers, Suzanne Blagg and Richard Brice

With appetites well and truly whetted for this evening by two most knowledgeable presenters, we adjourned for a sumptuous sandwich tea, and some welcome hot drinks after the chill of the church, before making our way to Derby Cathedral.

#### **Evening session at Derby Cathedral**

The 30 or so attending the afternoon session, including a few LDOA members, was swelled by members of the public for this evening's Vierne recital at Derby Cathedral by the youngest cathedral Director of Music in England Alexander Binns, and Assistant Director of Music Edward Turner.

Alexander's favourite composers are first J S Bach and then Vierne, and he opened this Vierne recital on the Compton organ, playing all five movements of *Symphony No 2*, which he described as classic Vierne - dark, and reflecting much of his private life. A most accomplished performance of this dramatic work.

Alexander then handed over to Edward Turner to play three movements from *Pièces de Fantaisie*, with first *Fantômes*, a work introduced to him by Tom Corfield, and

describing in music the conversations between seven phantoms. An extraordinary piece! Next to the dreamy *Clair de Lune*, then onto more familiar ground to close with the very popular finale to recitals, *Carillon de Westminster*.



Edward Turner and Alexander Binns taking their well-deserved applause

A superb recital, with the discussions and guidance this afternoon on what to watch out for adding to the appreciation and enjoyment of this evening's recital. Congratulations to DDOA on a most interesting and successful anniversary event. TS

### MEMBERS' NEWS

#### Peter Morris article in *Organists' Review*

Since our visit to St Peter's Collegiate Church Wolverhampton last November, our honorary member and Organist Emeritus at St Peter's, Peter Morris, has written a very comprehensive article entitled *The History of the Willis Organ at St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton*. The article covers the organ refurbishment project he led to a successful conclusion, and it has been published on pages 35-40 of the March 2020 issue of *Organists' Review*. A most informative and interesting read. If anyone would like a copy of the *History of St Peter's organ*, Peter Morris will happily send one (£5 including p&p - cheques to Peter Morris). Contact via: [morrisp@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:morrisp@blueyonder.co.uk)

The organ was re-dedicated by the Bishop of Wolverhampton at a service on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019, and the inaugural recital is due to be given by Professor Ian Tracey on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 7.30pm.

#### Dennis Cornes at The Tower Ballroom Blackpool Wurlitzer

LDOA member Dennis Cornes achieved a lifelong ambition on October 8<sup>th</sup> 2019 when, at the age of 83, he finally had the opportunity to play the Blackpool Tower Ballroom Wurlitzer.

Dennis joined Brewood Parish Church choir in May 1943, and was appointed Organist at St John's, Bishops Wood in

1950. In 1956 he was appointed Organist & Choirmaster at Brewood Parish Church, and then Assistant Organist from 1980 to 2007, and indeed still plays at churches in the Brewood area.

He has played keyboards in various dance bands and social clubs, and is no stranger to the cinema organ, as he played the Wolverhampton Gaumont Cinema 3 manual 7 rank Compton organ from 1955 to 1965, as shown in the old photo below (from pre-digital days!)



Dennis Cornes at the Wolverhampton Gaumont Cinema Compton organ (1955)

For the *Wurlitzer Experience* event, Dennis was accompanied by eight family members and friends, and for his memorable hour at the console was assisted by one of the resident organists, Chris Hopkins. Armed only with his aide memoire book of titles/keys, Dennis played for an hour from memory, opening and closing the session with Reg Dixon's signature tune *I do like to be beside the seaside*, including ascending and descending on the lift whilst seated at the console!



LDOA member Dennis Cornes at the Blackpool Tower Wurlitzer, with one of the resident organists Chris Hopkins assisting

The experience event came complete with 50 copies of a professionally produced DVD of Dennis playing for his hour, a copy of which Dennis has kindly provided to us. If any member would like to view the DVD, just contact Trevor Smedley, and you are very welcome to borrow it.

#### New Members

We are delighted to welcome to our Association no less than five new members joining us since the last newsletter.

### Rosemary Bridge

Rosemary is Organist at St Andrew's Church, Kettlebrook, Tamworth, and lives at Drayton Bassett. Our thanks to LDOA member Peter King for the introduction.

### Ann Tomlin

Ann, who lives at Middleton, plays the organ and heard about us via our website.

### Isabel Corkley

Isabel is Organist at Christ Church, Gentleshaw, and lives at Cannock Wood. Again, she heard about us via our website.

### George & William Eardley-Taylor

Brothers George and William are students, and both play the organ. They heard about our Association through Cathy Lamb, for which we are most grateful to Cathy. George and William live in Kings Bromley.

We trust that when the current coronavirus restrictions are behind us, we will be able to resume our activities, and meet up with our new members.

### Beating Isolation despite arthritis

LDOA member Tony Westerman is a very accomplished organist, as any members who have heard him play recitals at St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent will attest, but he suffers from arthritis, which causes him problems with the heavier action of tracker instruments, and reaching for octaves is also problem. He has therefore offered some useful repertoire suggestions for members who are fellow sufferers:

*The solution has been to avoid romantic pieces and French Frenzies and concentrate on contrapuntal pieces. Revisiting the Bach Trio Sonatas is providing hours of practice pleasure at the moment without the pain involved in chromatic chordal progressions. If the Sonatas are a step too far, members could take a look at the Bach 48 Preludes and Fugues or the Scarlatti Sonatas, many of which work well on the organ, as do pieces by Praetorius, Pachelbel, Weckman and Walther. There are also pieces by earlier composers such as Byrd and Bull that work well with a single 8' flute.*

Tony Westerman

### NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE

Matters of interest to members arising from the Committee Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February as follows:

- Subscriptions were due on 1st January 2020. Mike Rudd reported that, despite reminders, there are still 7 members who have yet to pay their subscriptions. Trevor Smedley will assist Mike with expediting these.
- New LDOA flyers drafted, ready for review by the Committee before printing
- Peter Morris co-opted to the Committee to replace Chris Booth attended his first committee meeting. Our thanks to Chris for his contribution to the Committee was recorded. Peter's formal appointment to be voted on at the AGM.
- Trevor Smedley announced that he was looking to hand over the chairmanship of the Association during this next

year, but was willing to continue on the Committee as Newsletter Editor. Any members interested in joining the Committee, or indeed taking over the chairmanship, please contact Trevor Smedley or Richard Syner.

Next Committee Meeting - June 2020, date t.b.a.

### NEWS & SNIPPETS FROM THE ORGAN WORLD

#### Atlantic City Organ – restoration project update

The Wannamaker organ in Macey's department store in Philadelphia has generally been recognised at the largest functional pipe organ in the world, comprising 464 ranks, 401 stops and 28,750 pipes, weighing 287 tons, and being played twice a day, six days a week. However, it is destined to lose its 'crown' in the not to distant future, as work is progressing to restore to working order the largest pipe organ ever built.

The largest pipe organ ever built, based on number of pipes, is the Boardwalk Hall Auditorium Organ in Atlantic City, New Jersey, USA, built by the Midmer-Losh Organ Company between 1929 and 1932. The original scheme for the organ comprised 44,000 pipes, but as-built the organ contains seven manuals, 449 ranks, 337 stops, and 33,114 pipes. As can be seen in the photo below, the console has seven manuals, the Choir and the Great having seven octaves, the Swell six octaves and the rest the conventional five octaves.

There are no pipes on view as they are housed in eight chambers, including some in the ceiling, with ornamental grilles. It contains the world's largest Diaphone, the 64' Diaphone-Dulzian in the Pedal Right Division, which is also one of only two full-length 64' stops in the world, not to mention ten 32'stops! (The other organ with a 64' stop is the 64' Contra-Trombone reed stop in the Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ.) The Grand Ophicleide stop on the Pedal Right Division, speaking on 100" wind pressure, is also recognised by *The Guinness Book of World Records* as the loudest organ stop in the world. It is described as having "a pure trumpet note of ear-splitting volume, more than six times the volume of the loudest locomotive whistle". In fact, the Grand Ophicleide produces 130 dB at 1 metre distance. The organ weighs in at approximately 150 tons.



The console of the Midmer-Losh organ in Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City

Why the need for such a large organ you may ask? Well, in 1929 in the days before sophisticated sound amplification systems, it was required to fill with sound an auditorium that originally seated 41,000 people. Early in this century, the Main Auditorium was reappointed with the emphasis on accommodating sporting events and concerts, so the seating capacity is now in the region of 25,000.

Most of the organ hasn't functioned since 1944, following the 1944 Great Atlantic Hurricane. A partial restoration took place in 1998 but was largely reversed by construction damage during the renovation of the Boardwalk Hall shortly afterwards in 2001, when inexplicably pipes were removed, windlines to various pipe chambers were cut, the relay for the left stage chamber was cut out, various switching and control cables were cut, and switching contacts, magnets and pipes were covered in cement dust.

In 2013 the organ once again began to be restored with 15-20% of the organ operational, and it was used for the *Miss America* pageant in September 2013, its first public performance in 40 years. The current restoration project led by the Historic Organ Restoration Committee, is a ten year \$16m project funded by donations from the general public and charitable foundations. At the end of 2019, 233 of the 449 ranks were playing – 53% of the organ – all in only two of the eight chambers! In 2020, work is planned to restore the first of the ranks of the centre chambers, and both of the 100" reeds in Gallery I will come on line. Upon completion of the choir division, they will move to the Gallery I and II divisions, across to the Gallery III and IV, and finally to the String II and Brass Chorus, completing the work on the Gallery level divisions before undertaking the herculean task of restoring the Echo and Fanfare organs in the ceiling.

At the current rate of funding, the restoration project is expected to be completed by 2023, but there is one significant factor that will remain a problem – tuning. With 33,114 pipes, eight chambers hundreds of feet apart, some having five different levels, all at potentially different temperatures, getting the whole organ in tune is an impossibility!

### **Salisbury Cathedral organ**

The restoration of the famous Father Willis organ by Harrison & Harrison is now complete, and a Festal Evensong with re-dedication was planned for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April followed by an Organ Festival, but Stephen Alliss, Head Tuner of Harrison & Harrison advises that: *'All celebratory events and the first scheduled recording are cancelled for the time being. David Briggs may play in September, but Thomas Trotter will now be some time next year. It was a pleasure to work on the tonal finishing here and ensure that the Willis sound lives on. The Great and Swell are still cone tuned as originally and we have been able to restore that method to the Father Willis pipes on the Choir division too.'*

### **Canterbury Cathedral organ**

The new Canterbury Cathedral Organ built by Harrison & Harrison is now fully installed, with new pipes fitted on either side of the Quire set in the North and South

Triforium spaces. The £4.2 million funding came from The Organ Project and donations from The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral.

Some of the oldest and most cherished pipes have been reused in the new organ. Those made by Samuel Green in the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century formed one of the main sounds in the centre of the original instrument and had done since they were first installed.

Although some of the Samuel Green pipes were too fragile to be reused, these too have returned to the Cathedral and are on display at the entrance to the organ. The much missed 32 foot pipes, which give the organ a deeper, rumbling sound, have also returned. Thomas Trotter was scheduled to give a recital on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, followed by Adrian Bawtree on 9<sup>th</sup> May, David Newsholme on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and David Flood on 6<sup>th</sup> June, but Stephen Alliss confirms: *'Canterbury Cathedral organ is complete but without any of the opening recital series being able to go ahead. The organ is an absolute triumph, and has had visits from prominent organists from the UK and beyond, all of whom were amazed by what has been achieved here'.*

### **York Minster Organ**

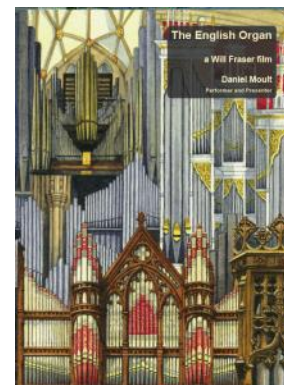
The York Minster organ was removed in October 2018 by Harrison & Harrison, and taken to their works in Durham for a £2m repair and refurbishment. The complete reconstruction based on the Harrison & Harrison musical concept of 1917/1931 is expected to take two years, and Stephen Alliss advises the current status as: *'York Minster work continues to progress well with the main structure standing in the building room at Durham. Completion of on-site voicing is due mid-February 2021 but given the current situation the schedule may slip slightly'.*

### **St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh**

Harrison & Harrison are cleaning and overhauling the Henry Willis/Harrison & Harrison organ, and Stephen Alliss advises that; *'reassembly has begun on site but again, work is at standstill due to the current situation.'*

### **The English Organ DVD**

For those members who are largely staying at home with no organ recitals to attend, the following might just be 'just the job' to see and hear some quality organ music.



The English Organ DVD set

Produced by Fugue State Films and presented by The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's Dan Mout, *The*

*English Organ* is a 4xDVD, 3xCD boxed set, the result of a huge project by organist Dan Mount and film producer Will Fraser.

It is filmed over more than a year in forty locations on three continents, UK, USA, Australia and New Zealand. It is the definitive documentary about the story of the English organ and its music over five hundred years from c1550 to the present. Daniel Moulton presents three feature length documentaries, as well as performing more than ten hours of repertoire from Byrd to the present on thirty-three iconic organs. Each organ has a filmed demonstration or portrait, and amounts to a magnificent portrait of an instrument and a culture.

This luxurious boxed set is the magnum opus of Fugue State Films, and will appeal to anyone with an interest in music, the organ or English history. Priced at £62.50, via: <https://fuguestatefilms.co.uk/product/the-english-organ/>

### **Gert van Hoef concerts YouTube broadcasts**

Most of you will have heard of the young Dutch organist Gert van Hoef, and indeed maybe, like me, have had the pleasure of attending his concerts at the Victoria Hall, Hanley, accompanied by his lovely wife and page turner Marjolein. He has been very active on YouTube from a very young age, with over 400 YouTube videos, but is now a very accomplished performer. As he is not able to play public recitals currently, he has started a weekly live recital from his home, where he plays his Hauptwerk electronic organ using sample sets of various organs in The Netherlands. The concerts from 19/03 and 26/03 at 19.00 UK time (20.00 Netherlands time) can still be viewed on YouTube, and so if you have a spare hour on Thursday evenings, and want to be uplifted, just search for him on YouTube.

### **Sam Bristow Appointment**

Sam Bristow graduated with first class honours from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in 2019, and having been Organ Scholar at Coventry Cathedral, Birmingham Cathedral and currently Salisbury Cathedral, he has been appointed as William and Irene Miller Organ Scholar at St Paul's Cathedral London for 2020/21. Sam takes up his prestigious appointment in September 2020.

### **RSCM Appointment**

The RSCM has appointed its former Deputy Director Rosemary Field to a newly created role – Head of Organ Studies. The purpose of the role will be to drive the development of a new range of church-specific courses in organ playing, building on the RSCM's track record of training organists for churches.

### **DESPERATE TO ATTEND AN ORGAN RECITAL?**

With the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, and no prospect of visits or organ recitals for the next few weeks, how about an organ recital home delivery?

For those who are mainly remaining indoors, the Chairman is happy to offer LDOA members the loan from his collection of the following organ DVDs:

- *The King of Instruments*, a double DVD set performed by Gillian Weir on the Priory label
- *The Great Organ of Liverpool Cathedral*, performed on the Willis organ and narrated by Prof Ian Tracey, on the Priory label
- *The Grand Organ of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral*, performed on the Walker organ and narrated by Richard Lea, on the Priory label
- *The Grand Organ of Westminster Abbey* performed on the Harrison & Harrison organ and narrated by Daniel Cook, on the Priory label
- *The Grand Organ of St Paul's Cathedral* performed and narrated by Simon Johnson, on the Priory label
- *The Grand Organ of York Minster*, performed and narrated by John Scott Whiteley on the Priory label
- *The Grand Organ of Salisbury Cathedral*, performed on the Father Willis organ by David Halls, on the Priory label
- *The Town Hall Tradition*, performed on the William Hill organ of Birmingham Town Hall by Thomas Trotter, who also talks about his life, career and work as Birmingham City Organist, and gives a comprehensive sonic tour of the organ. The DVD is on the Regent label.
- *A Shropshire Idyll*, a recital by Thomas Trotter on the organ of St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, with bonus tracks of Thomas talking about the music he performs on the recording, and Shaun Ward, DoM at St Laurence's, gives a tour of the organ. The DVD is on the Regent label.
- *Widor, Master of the Organ Symphony*, a double DVD set comprising a documentary about Widor's organ works presented by Gerard Brooks, with John Near, Daniel Roth and Anne-Isabelle de Parcevaux, together with the whole of Symphony No. 5 (at St Ouen, Rouen) and No 6 (at Orléans Cathedral), played by Gerard Brooks, and also with Daniel Roth live at St Sulpice. DVDs on Fugue State Films label.
- *Towards a Modernist Organ*, performed by David Butterworth on three organs in Nottingham (St Mary's Parish Church, Wollaton Hall and the Albert Hall), with bonus tracks recorded also at the German Lutheran Church and Hallam Court, and a 15-minute film exploring the history of the five organs. DVD on the Fugue State Films label
- *Dennis Cornes at the Blackpool Tower Mighty Wurlitzer*, with LDOA member Dennis Cornes playing an hour of light music in Blackpool Tower Ballroom. DVD produced by Brian David Films.

The DVDs generally comprise a recital by the organist at the cathedral/church whose instrument is featured, plus bonus tracks on the featured organ. So, if you would like to take up the offer of the loan of one or more DVDs to help relieve the boredom of being stuck at home, do contact Trevor Smedley at [trevorsmedley@ntlworld.com](mailto:trevorsmedley@ntlworld.com)

### **LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS**

Owing to the coronavirus restrictions, all services and events at Lichfield Cathedral have been cancelled or

postponed until further notice. The following advertised events may therefore be subject to change:

### **Music for Reflection**

The 2020 'Music for Reflection' lunchtime concerts will take place on Wednesdays from 1.15 to 1.50pm. Dates and performers as follows:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 – Nicholas Freestone (organ), Assistant Director of Music, Worcester Cathedral
- 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – John Robinson (organ), Director of Music Blackburn Cathedral
- 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – Henry Metcalfe, LDOA Student Member and Organ Scholar, St Mary's, Bourne Street, London
- 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 - Alex Binns (organ), Director of Music, Derby Cathedral
- 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – Lichfield Cathedral Music School Department Ensemble. A complete performance of Mendelssohn's exuberant *Octet*
- 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – Ailsa Cochrane (mezzo-soprano) and Paul Whitehall (piano). A programme of song, including Finzi's Shakespeare settings, *Let us garlands bring*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 – Jonathan Allsopp (organ), Assistant Director of Music, Southwell Minster

Awaiting details of the autumn evening organ recitals.

### **Lichfield Cathedral Chorus Concert**

Owing to the current coronavirus restrictions, Elgar's *The Kingdom*, which was due to be performed on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 at Lichfield Cathedral, has been postponed.

## **IAO/RCO MATTERS**

### **IAO Music Festival 2020**

The next IAO Music Festival will take place in Edinburgh, where the new IAO President Dr John Kitchen is based, from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

The programme will include:

- A celebrity recital on the Reiger organ of St Giles Cathedral by Naji Hakim
- Visits/recitals on the organs of Paisley Abbey by Andrew Forbes, and Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum Glasgow by John Kitchen
- A performance by John Kitchen in Greyfriars Kirk of Couperin's *Messes pour les Paroisses*, with a plainsong choir
- A recital by John Kitchen at Usher Hall
- An organ recital in Canongate Kirk by Paul Stubbings
- The Russell Collection of Early Keyboard Instruments and a concert by the Kellie Consort in St Cecilia's Hall, University of Edinburgh
- A talk by Paul Baxter, MD of Delphian Records, about the recordings he has made with the choir of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral
- Organ Competition in conjunction with the RCO in St Cuthbert's Church

Full details, and on-line booking arrangements are available via: <https://iao.org.uk/festival-invitation/>

Alan Taylor advises that early booking of hotel accommodation in the centre of Edinburgh is essential.

### **IAO Midlands Organ Day 2020**

The 2020 Midlands Organ Day will be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020 in Northampton. The event will be based at St Matthew's Church and All Saints' Church, and have a theme of 'Liturgical Playing', based on masterclasses lead by Simon Johnson and Richard Pinel.

The latest draft timetable for the Day is still fluid but looks like this:

#### **Event 1: IAO Midlands Organ Day**

- 10.00 Registration and welcome. Tea and coffee available at £1 per cup.
- 10.30 The St. Matthew's Walker Organ: an introduction by Justin Miller, and Andrew Reid, and short recital by LDOA student member Callum Alger.
- 11.00 Masterclass 1: hymns, psalms (plainsong and/or Anglican chant) and liturgical improvisation.
- 12.30 Lunch break – lunch or picnic bags available at St Matthew's Parish Rooms – pre-booking required. Open Consoles will be available throughout the lunch break at St Matthew's, St Gregory's, All Saints' and New Testament Church of God, Northampton.
- 2.30 Masterclass 2, with the choristers of St. Matthew's church: accompanying choral repertoire.
- 4.00 Refreshment break. Tea and coffee available at £1 per cup.
- 4.30 Finale: performance of music worked on in the Masterclasses
- 5.00 Supper available at St. Matthew's – booking required. Open Console at St Michael and All Angels.

There will be opportunities during the breaks throughout the day to try state-of-the-art digital organs, and to browse and buy organ music, DVDs and CDs from Church Organ World.

#### **Event 2: Evening recital celebrating 125 years of the iconic Walker organ at St. Matthews**

Simon Johnson, Richard Pinel, Andrew Reid and Callum Alger showcase the Walker organ in a spectacular joint recital, featuring Duruflé's *Trois Danses*, and *Neptune from Holst's The Planets*.

This timetable and the recital programme is provisional and may be subject to change.

For full details and booking arrangements, see:

<http://www.northamptonorganists.org.uk/midlands-organ-day/>

### **RCO National Organ Day for 2020**

In the previous newsletter, we covered The Royal College of Organists announcement of plans to hold a National Organ Day on Saturday 18 April 2020, as the centrepiece of a year of outreach to promote the organ as an

instrument, and improve access to those interested in learning to play. The current coronavirus restrictions, clearly impact this day, and the following announcement now appears on the RCO website:

*National Organ Day events on April 18th are individually and locally organised, and the decision to proceed or otherwise is one that can only be made by those involved.*

*We strongly encourage all organisers to ensure that they are following the latest Government advice, and that they and their supporters are comfortable with their decision.*

*As of today, Tuesday 17th March, we note that many organists and venue organisers have already taken the decision to cancel. These include the WOOFYT demonstration and performance of Mr Majeika and the Magic Organ in Westminster, performances in Freemasons' Hall and other events across the UK.*

*Other events are currently scheduled to continue, either in their original or a revised form. While RCO Chief Executive Sir Andrew Parmley, for example, intends to continue with plans to play a 12-hour Organathon on National Organ Day, the decision whether to allow an audience to attend will be taken nearer the time.*

*We recognise that many will be disappointed by this turn of events, but we encourage everyone who has made exciting National Organ Day plans to keep them ready to be reactivated for International Organ Day on 17th April 2021, when we plan to join up with organists across several continents.*

### **Covid-19: RCO Response & Support for Organists**

The Royal College of Organists has announced a number of initiatives to support organists through the Covid-19 pandemic, including increased access to educational resources, fresh online tuition, and regular information and updates.

These measures include making the full iRCO online learning platform available to guest as well as member accounts. This means that with a free guest account, all organists worldwide can now access hundreds of videos, audio files, papers, articles and other material. Where RCO courses, classes and other events have been cancelled or postponed, the College is also preparing online webinars and presentations to cover as much of the content as possible.

As well as helping organists constructively fill the enforced downtime they now have, the RCO is also making urgent representations to the government on both income and access to instruments.

[Click here to read the latest RCO update in full](#), covering the latest on RCO representations to Government, events and online services, RCO accreditation and more.

### **Unlimited Access to the iRCO Virtual Campus**

Recognising that many organists are now looking for ways to use their lockdown time for learning and practice, the College has now opened the full iRCO virtual campus to **all** organists. This means that until 30 June 2020, guest

users as well as College members can now access for free more than 300 videos, audio files, papers, articles and other content covering everything from technique to repertoire, performance to professional skills. Anyone wishing to access iRCO for the first time should visit [i.rco.org.uk](http://i.rco.org.uk) and register for a guest or member account as appropriate (existing iRCO users should continue to sign in as normal).

### **Advice & Learning Support**

As well as providing full access to the wealth of learning content in iRCO, and setting up new online tuition, the RCO is working to pull together regular information, learning suggestions and practical advice which organists might find useful during this difficult time.

They are aiming to publish a new curated list of suggestions every week throughout the crisis. This will be presented as an article in the iRCO blog, StopPress (see Suggestions for the Week Ahead, below), and that article will then feature in a regular (hopefully weekly) edition of this email, RCO e-Diary.

Throughout the unfolding Covid-19 situation they will send RCO e-Diary to everyone on their mailing lists, so please encourage anyone you think might find this helpful to subscribe at [www.rco.org.uk/email\\_preferences.php](http://www.rco.org.uk/email_preferences.php)

### **Suggestions for the Week Ahead - Playing Styles**

The first set of ideas for learning, practice and development can now be found at iRCO StopPress.

[Click here to access the article at iRCO StopPress](#) (you will be invited to set up your free account if you have not already done so)

Among this week's suggestions are a series of films, reading lists and RCO Journal articles to help you explore five significant organ schools:

- Early English
- French Baroque
- North German Praeludium and Fuga
- German Romantic
- French Romanticism

Please do share this information as widely as you can with anyone who you think might find it helpful.

And finally, please do note that while the College team is currently working hard (from home) to set up these new initiatives and maintain business-as-usual wherever possible, the RCO do appreciate your understanding if some of their responses are a little slower or less complete than they might be in more normal times.

### **RCO Medal 2020**

At a ceremony at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 7th March, RCO President Gerard Brooks awarded RCO Medals to:

- Prof. Davitt Moroney, in recognition of distinguished achievement as an organist, harpsichordist and musicologist



- Mr Daniel Roth Hon FRCO, in recognition of distinguished achievement as an organist, pedagogue and composer
- Ms Judith Weir CBE, in recognition of distinguished achievement in organ and choral composition

### RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS

#### Ben Markovic recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Today's recital was given by Ben Markovic, a name new to me. Ben hails from Barnet in North London. He came to the organ as recently as 2017, having been inspired by Ashley Wagner, a previous recitalist at Emmanuel and now Assistant Director of Music at St. Philip's Cathedral Birmingham. Ben's organ teacher is Terence Atkins who today acted as his page turner. Ben is currently Organ Scholar at Worcester Cathedral, and in September takes up the post of Organ Scholar at Queens' College Cambridge. As is the 'custom', organists' socks are meant to be a fashion statement; Ben sported socks in the 'Harlequin' design!

His recital opened with Gabriel Pierné's *Three Pieces op 26 – Prelude, Cantilène and Scherzando de concert*. Clever use was made of the Apse organ Oboe in the *Cantilène*, and the final movement involved considerable movement up and down the manuals. Next, the *Andante* from Guilman's *4th Organ Sonata Op 61*. This was a very gentle and restful piece by comparison to the *Finale* of his *1st Organ Sonata*! In a change to the published programme, Ben then played Dupré's *Prelude and Fugue in G minor*. I have been a slow but certain convert to the music of Herbert Howells, and I enjoyed his *Psalm Prelude Set 1 No. 1* composed in response to Psalm 34 verse 6 – *'Lo the poor crieth and the Lord heareth him: yea, and saveth him out of all his troubles'*

Ben's programme finished with Walter Alcock's *Introduction & Passacaglia*. When he was at Salisbury Cathedral, Alcock refused to allow certain parts of the organ to leave the cathedral in order to prevent unwanted tonal alterations to the Father Willis organ! He had the unique distinction of playing the organ at Westminster Abbey for the Coronation of three Kings – Edward VII, George V and George VI. His *Introduction & Passacaglia* is a tour de force, and Ben made good use of the Emmanuel Tuba!

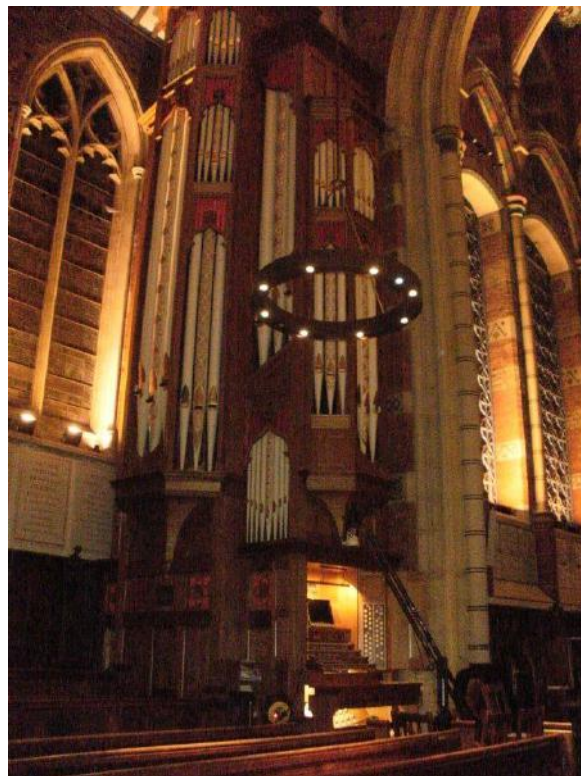
John H Allen

#### David Briggs recital at Rugby School Chapel Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020

The fine four manual 55 speaking stop Kenneth Jones & Associates organ in the Rugby School Chapel has just been refurbished by Nicholson. As we have a visit planned for September 2020, tonight's recital to celebrate the re-opening of the organ by David Briggs, the internationally renowned organist and Artist-in-Residence at the Cathedral of St John the Divine, New York City, presented a great opportunity to hear the results of the work on the organ since I had the privilege of playing it in 2014.

In the splendid School Chapel packed with both members of the public and many Rugby School students, following

Director of Music Richard Tanner's welcome, Andrew Caskie, Managing Director of Nicholson & Co Ltd, gave a brief account of the work his company had carried out. The most significant change was replacing the tracker action by electric action, as well as cleaning and voicing of the 3721 pipes.



The organ of Rugby School Chapel

David Briggs opened his recital with J S Bach's *Tocatta & Fugue in D Minor BWV 565*, played with much ornamentation and some unusual choices of registration. David Briggs is of course recognised as a brilliant improviser, so next followed an improvisation to accompany a screening of the silent movie of Charlie Chaplin's *The Immigrant*.

David Briggs is also famed for his transcriptions of orchestra works for the organ, and so followed with his own brilliant arrangement of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* by Paul Dukas, forever associated with Walt Disney's classic animated film *Fantasia*.

For his final offering, the audience had been asked to submit themes from which David Briggs would choose one upon which to improvise. With the audience made up of predominantly young students, I have to confess I'd heard of few of their suggestions, and in the event the one chosen wasn't familiar to me, and I suspect many others! The overly long improvisation was followed by *Flight of the Bumblebee*.

David Briggs is a phenomenally talented organist, but I would question the choice, for an audience comprising mainly young students, of improvising to a Charlie Chaplin silent movie, and then an improvisation on a theme that wasn't familiar to many in the audience. In my view, a rather self-indulgent programme, but the organ certainly had an impressive workout, and should make for a great visit for us in September.

TS

## Thomas Trotter 800<sup>th</sup> Birmingham recital at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Today was a notable milestone for Thomas Trotter - his 800<sup>th</sup> recital in Birmingham no less – attended by HRH The Duke of Kent and Birmingham's Lord Mayor, and with the audience swelled by hundreds of school children.

Previous organists at Birmingham Town Hall were Thomas Munden (1834-1837) and George Hollins (1817-1841), but the role of Birmingham City Organist wasn't officially established until 1842 when James Stimpson (1842-1886) was appointed. Then followed C W Perkins (1888-1923), George Dorrington Cunningham (1924-1949), Sir George Thalben-Ball (1949-1983), with Thomas Trotter being appointed as his successor in 1883.

In fact, it was only a chance remark from a friend that alerted Thomas to the vacancy and he just managed to complete his application before the closing date. He had already played at the Town Hall a couple of years earlier, deputising at short notice when Sir George Thalben-Ball was unwell, and the experience, and the warmth of the audience had left a deep impression on him. Thomas commented that he had to play an audition at the Great Hall at the University of Birmingham along with three other candidates. Tom Caulcott, Chief Executive of Birmingham City Council in the 1980's, oversaw the appointment process, and had the casting vote. Although Thomas, at the age of 26, was the least experienced of the candidates, he was chosen to succeed Sir George. Incidentally, Tom Caulcott was also instrumental in enabling Symphony Hall to be built, so Thomas has reason to be grateful to Tom Caulcott, and indeed his obituary (he died in January 2020) appears in the front of today's souvenir programme.

For the first year of Thomas's tenure, in fact the Town Hall organ was out of action, undergoing a major rebuilding and restoration, so recitals in the first year were at St Paul's in the Jewellery Quarter. Then in 1996, the Town Hall was closed for a complete refurbishment, so again Thomas had to decamp, this time to St Phillip's Cathedral, for the next 11 years until the long-awaited re-opening of the Town Hall in 2007. The Klais organ of Symphony Hall, for which Thomas was project consultant, was completed in 2001, so Thomas now has the unique privilege of presiding over two of the very finest, but very different, concert hall organs in the country.

So, to today's recital, with first J S Bach's *Prelude & Fugue in E Minor BWV 548*, the *Fugue* of which derives its nickname of 'The Wedge' from the distinctive shape of its subject, which fans out chromatically in both directions from the initial tonic note. Next to *Two Fugues on BACH Op 60 Nos 3 & 5* by Schumann, the shortest of six varied movements.

Then to a commission to mark Thomas's 800<sup>th</sup> recital as Birmingham City Organist, *Variations on a Theme by Sweelinck (Ballo del Granduca), Concert Piece No 4, Op 96*, composed by the Canadian organist, composer, and teacher Rachel Laurin. Written as a homage to Thomas Trotter, she describes the ten variations as 'providing for a vast array of colours, atmosphere and tempos that feature the full spectrum of the modern organ'.

Next to another contemporary piece, *Miroir* by Ad Wammes, a work with a very distinctive erratic rhythm. Thomas first heard it played here by a candidate in an organ competition, and promptly 'pinched it'!

Transcriptions of orchestral pieces for the organ have long been a tradition of town hall recitals, so it was appropriate for such a transcription to provide today's finale, with *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, by Dukas. First performed during Symphony Hall's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday celebrations in 2012, Thomas Trotter's own transcription of the colourful orchestral score was specially conceived for the Klais organ, exploiting all its resources in a compelling recreation of Dukas's masterpiece of musical story-telling. Indeed, Thomas has a score marked up specifically for the Klais organ, with registrations stored on a memory stick. A magnificent tour de force to end the programme.

Just time for a short encore, with the gentle lilting melody *Serenata* by the German-Jewish virtuoso pianist and composer Moszkowski, to complete a splendid celebratory recital. TS

## Angela Sones recital at Brownhills Methodist Church, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020

The 'Alpine' style Brownhills Methodist Church was opened in 1967, and contains an organ by Hardy from Mount Zion Chapel, Brownhills, rebuilt and enlarged on installation in the gallery at the back of the church by the local organ builder W Hawkins & Sons. LDOA member Chris Booth was taught to play the organ here at the church, and Chris introduced today's organist, LDOA member Angela Sones.

For her programme of 'Organ Lollipops', assisted by Richard Hartshorn, Angela opened the recital with J S Bach's lively *Gigue Fugue BWV 577*, providing an early workout for the feet. Then to first Gordon Young's tuneful *Prelude in Classic Style* followed by Percy Whitlock's mellow *Folk Tune* from *Five Short Pieces*. Next to *Prelude Integritas*, a sublime composition by her mentor Andrew Fletcher, which Angela has featured on a number of occasions.



Angela Sones at the organ of Brownhills Methodist Church

Then to one of the most recognisable by the general public of organ pieces, J S Bach's *Tocatta & Fugue in D Minor BWV 565*, followed in total contrast by G B Nevin's featherlight scherzo *Will O'The Wisp*, and *Rondeau* from Purcell's *Abdelazar Suite*. Next to Petro Yon's delightful

*Toccatina for the Flutes*, followed in lighter vein by R Goss-Custard's jolly *Chelsea Fayre*, before finishing with 'fairground music' in the form of the most well-known of Lefébure-Wély's compositions, the lively *Sortie in E<sup>b</sup>*.

A most enjoyable recital, well-attended considering today's gales, and nicely rounded off with some very welcome refreshments. TS

### **Thomas Trotter recital, at Birmingham Town Hall Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Thomas opened today's recital with one of my favourite J S Bach works *Toccatina in F BWV 540*, providing an early workout for the feet, with the two extended pedal solos demonstrating Thomas's immaculate pedal technique.

Next to works by two composers, Beethoven and Mozart, who were both organists in their youth, wrote little for the organ, but both wrote music for mechanical clocks. First to Beethoven for the pretty little miniature in true musical-box style, *Allegro in G*, and a not to be missed opportunity for Thomas to deploy his favourite Whitechapel Bells, followed by Mozart for *Adagio & Allegro in F, K594*, and which has now become a staple of the organ repertoire.

Thomas is scheduled to perform in the Inauguration Festival at Vienna Cathedral on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020 following the 3.2 million Euro restoration and partial renewal by Rieger of the Kauffmann-Orgel, which had remained silent since 1991, and with the smaller 1991 organ linked to the main organ, now comprises a combined total of 185 stops. As is Thomas's custom, we were therefore to be guinea pigs for his likely encore in Vienna, Thomas's own arrangement for organ of Lehar's *Gold & Silver Waltz*

Finally to Duruflé's *Prelude, Adagio et Choral varié sur le Veni Creator*. The delicately impressionistic scherzo-like *Prelude* leads on to prayerful contemplation in the mystical *Adagio*, but this is rudely interrupted by a dramatic Pentecostal visitation, and finally the whole hymn-tune appears in radiant glory, followed by three quiet variations and a grand toccata-like finale.

Just time for a contrasting 'birthday request' with *Caribbean Dance* by Madeleine Dring, and a further excuse to deploy the Whitechapel Bells! TS

### **Angela Sones recital at Birmingham Cathedral, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

Today's recitalist, LDOA member Angela Sones, was introduced by Assistant Head of Music at Birmingham Cathedral Ashley Wagner. Angela is no stranger to this organ as she had access to it when at Birmingham Conservatoire and had lessons here with Marcus Huxley.

Angela had chosen a programme suited to this the first week of Lent, opening with the *Prelude* from *Suite Op 5* by Duruflé, a work she performed for her finals in 1996, and a work she also had the privilege of playing on the organ in the composer's Paris apartment. This atmospheric piece starts quietly, builds to a climax, then subsides to a hushed ending.

Next to a work Angela in fact learnt here with Marcus Huxley, *Prelude, Fugue et Variation* by Franck, followed by a very familiar Passiontide piece, J S Bach's *O Mensch, bewein' dein Sunde gross BWV 622*. Then to Reger's *Benedictus*, demonstrating the string colours of the Cathedral organ.



Angela Sones at the organ of Birmingham Cathedral

After the restrained pieces chosen to reflect Lent, Angela closed with Andriessen's *Thema Met Variations voor Orgel*, and an opportunity to deploy the Trompetta Real and Tuba Minor for the grand climax.

An accomplished performance, well supported and including a contingent from All Saints' Four Oaks, LDOA members, and Angela's proud Dad. TS

### **David Saint recital at Emmanuel Wylde Green Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

David Saint is Director of Music at St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham, and having given a recital there only yesterday, included three items from that programme in today's recital.

First to Flor Peeters for *Suite Modale*, with its strident choral opening *Koraal*, featherlight *Scherzo*, the dreamy *Adagio*, and concluding with the lively *Toccatina*, the tune being picked out in the pedals. Next to Couperin's *Tierce en taille* (Tierce in the tenor) from *Messe des Couvents*, followed by my favourite J S Bach work, *Prelude & Fugue in B Minor BWV 544*, and by the looks of David's well-worn score, a favourite also of his. Beautifully articulated.

Next to *Prelude Fugue & Variation* by Cesar Frank, Organist of St Clotilde, with its beautiful plaintive prelude, the bold fugue, and the variation including a reprise of the opening melody.

Finally, to *Choral varie sur Veni Creator Spiritus* by Duruflé, with first its grand chorale, followed by short variations culminating in a terrific flourish with the toccata-like grand climax.



David Saint taking his bow at Emmanuel Wylde Green

In his introduction, Richard Mason commented that it was four decades since David last came to Emmanuel, so let's hope he makes a return visit before 2060! TS

**Thomas Trotter recital at Birmingham Town Hall Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

For what seems destined from subsequent developments to be the last recital attended for some time, Thomas Trotter had chosen a programme reflecting St David's Day on 1<sup>st</sup> March and St Patrick's Day on 17<sup>th</sup> March, with a colourful selection of music from Wales and Ireland.

To Wales for the first half of the recital and William Matthias for *Toccata Giocosa*, with its vibrant trumpet fanfares and dancing irregular rhythms. Then staying in Wales with Vaughan Williams for *Three Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes*, the rather grand *Bryn Calfaria*, the sublime *Rhosymedre*, and *Hyfrydol*, building to a full organ climax. Remaining in Wales for *Concert Fantasia on a Welsh March* by W T Best, effectively a set of variations on *Men of Harlech*, containing some brilliant passagework for the pedals, and an opportunity for Thomas to deploy his Whitechapel Bells stop.

Finally, the Irish 'got a look in' with Dublin-born Michael Balfe's *I Dreamt I dwelt in Marble Halls*, the aria from *Bohemian Girl*, arranged here for organ by Lemare. Then to Leroy Anderson's arrangement of some Irish folk tunes for the six movement *Irish Suite*, with Thomas's own arrangement for organ of two movements with first the luscious *The last Rose of Summer*, followed by the *Suite's* brilliant finale *The Girl I Left Behind*, sounding like a hornpipe rhythm and Thomas finding a place once again for his Whitechapel Bells!

Finally, to Sir Charles Stanford, born in Dublin but who spent most of life in the musical establishment of England. His *Fantasia & Toccata*, with its sonorous chords and

bravura flourishes, creates a mood of high drama at the beginning, followed by a second more reflective theme, ending softly. The animated *Toccata* builds up an exciting rhythmic momentum as it proceeds to its final majestic conclusion. TS

**VACANCIES**

**Holy Trinity Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield**

It is understood from Revd John Routh that progress has finally been made in their search for a Director of Music/Organist, with the appointment expected imminently of Margaret Simpson.

**Organist & choir-leader required at All Saints' Church, Sudbury.**

The vacancy remains unfilled. See our website [www.iao.org.uk/lichfield](http://www.iao.org.uk/lichfield) for details, or contact Alan Smith: [alansmith54@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:alansmith54@tiscali.co.uk) /01889 567437

**FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS**

Owing to the coronavirus pandemic, recitals to the end of April have assumed to be cancelled or postponed, but recitals from May onwards are also likely to be subject to change, so please check directly with the venue before making any wasted journeys.

**LDOA Members' Recitals/Events**

Cathy Lamb

In addition to her Lichfield Cathedral School/Lichfield Cathedral duties, Cathy will be giving the following recitals:

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020 from 12.30 to 1.10pm at Christchurch Priory
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020 from 7.30 to 9.30pm – inaugural recital following major restoration of the 1811 G P England organ at St Andrew's, Shifnal
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 from 1.10 to 2pm at St Alphege's, Solihull
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 from 1.15 to 1.55pm at St Mary Redcliffe
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 1.10pm at St Michael's, Croydon
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 from 12.30 to 1.15pm at St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent

Callum Alger

LDOA student member Callum Alger, now Organ Scholar at Westminster Cathedral, will be performing the following recitals:

- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 from 5.45 to 6.15pm at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square
- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020 from 4.45 to 5.15pm at Westminster Cathedral
- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – playing as part of the IAO Midlands Organ Day from 10am to 9pm at St Matthew's Church, Northampton
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 from 1.10 to 2pm at Southwark Cathedral

- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2020 from 5.00 to 6.00pm at The Swiss Church, London

#### Pat Neville - Trinity Methodist Church, Shenstone

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020, free 'Come & Go' Organ Recital from 12.45 to 1.30pm. Bring your sandwiches – hot drinks will be available. Come and go as you please.

#### Karen Thompson

See listing below for St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent

#### Stanley Monkhouse

Although now retired from St Modwen's, Stanley is making a return visit – see listing below for St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent.

#### Liam Condon

See listing below for St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent

#### Henry Metcalfe

LDOA student member and Organ Scholar at St Mary's Bourne Street, London, is giving a recital at Lichfield Cathedral as part of the 'Music for Reflection' lunchtime organ recitals series on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020 from 1.15 to 1.50pm.

#### St Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent

LDOA member Tony Westerman has arranged the following 2020 Wednesday lunchtime recitals, from 12.30 to 1.15pm, at St Modwen's:

#### Summer Recitals – 'Melody, Rhythm & Whimsy'

- 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 – Karen Thompson (Burton)
- 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – John Keys (Nottingham City Organist)
- 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Ben Bloor (Brompton Oratory)
- 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Stanley Monkhouse (Burton)
- 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 – Mary Cobbold (Holy Trinity, Millhouses, Sheffield)
- 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Matthew Gibson (Queen's College, Oxford)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 – Tom Corfield (Derby)
- 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Cathy Lamb (Lichfield Cathedral School)
- 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Ben Mills (Keble College, Oxford)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 – Liam Condon (Lichfield Cathedral)

#### Angela Sones

In addition to recitals at All Saints' Four Oaks (see below) Angela Sones is giving a recital on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 1pm at Howden Minster, in Yorkshire's East Riding.

#### Richard Hartshorn

See All Saints' Four Oaks listing below

#### All Saints' Four Oaks

Following the success of the 2019 concert series, Angela Sones is pleased to announce their exciting 2020 Lunchtime Organ Concert Series at All Saints' Parish

Church, Four Oaks, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 1.00-1.45pm, commencing on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Details as follows:

- 20<sup>th</sup> June 2020 - Peter Dyke (Hereford Cathedral)
- 18<sup>th</sup> July 2020 - Angela Sones (All Saints, Four Oaks)
- August - No Concert
- 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - Charlotte Howdle & Olivia Howdle play Bach *Double Violin Concerto* with Organ and Harpsichord Continuo
- 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020 - Angela Sones & Richard Hartshorn - *Four Hands, Four Feet, Four Manuals*
- 21<sup>st</sup> November 2020 - Angela Sones & Richard Hartshorn - *Christmas Sparkle*

All concerts are free admission with a retiring collection. All welcome!

#### Broadway URC, Walsall

LDOA member and Walsall URC Organist & Choir-director Alan Taylor has arranged the following 'Coffee & Cake' organ recitals for 2020, commencing at 11.15am:

- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - Thomas Keogh (Holy Cross Priory, Leicester)
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – William Peart (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Maximillian Elliott (St Olave's Church, York)
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – Daniel Greenway (Liverpool Cathedral)
- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Paul Carr (Birmingham), to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organ.

#### St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton

Following the successful completion in December 2019 of the £250,000 refurbishment of the 'Father' Willis organ of St Peter's Wolverhampton, LDOA honorary member and St Peter's Organist Emeritus, Peter Morris, has secured the services of Professor Ian Tracey to perform the inaugural recital, on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7.30pm.

Members having sampled this fine organ on our visit last November, the opportunity of hearing it played by Ian Tracey promises to be a not-to-be-missed event!

#### **Recitals In Local Area (to end of May 2020)**

Given the current government restrictions banning public events, no local recitals have been listed for April/May, and indeed the main website for listing recitals nationally [www.organrecitals.com](http://www.organrecitals.com) 'has been shut down for the time being' by Steve Smith.

For a complete listing of organ recitals in the UK once public events are able to resume, go to: [www.organrecitals.com](http://www.organrecitals.com)

For details of recital organ specifications go to the National Pipe Organ Register at: [www.npor.org.uk](http://www.npor.org.uk)

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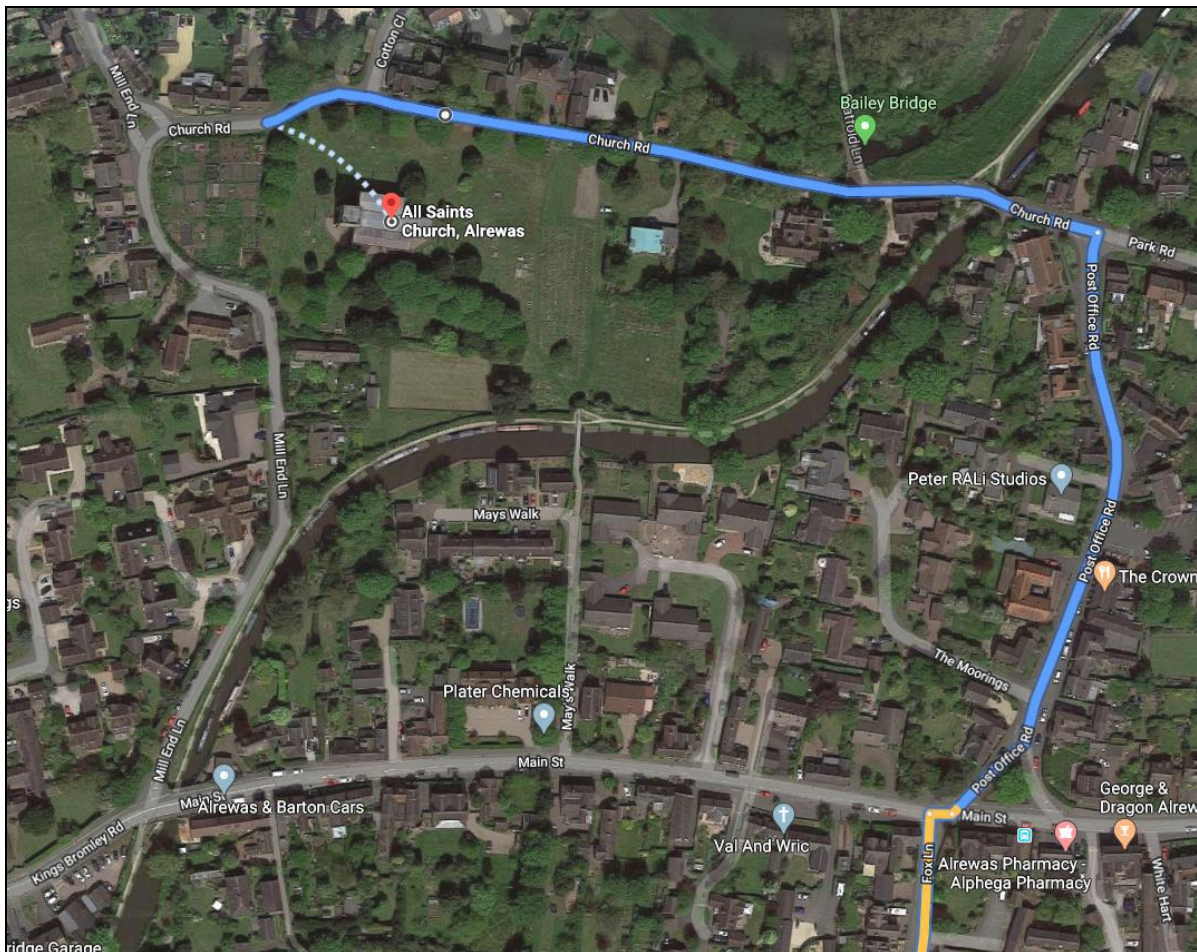
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**Ed. – the next newsletter is planned for June 2020, with a deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/05/20, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA**

## [APPENDIX](#)

### [Directions for the visit to All Saints' Church, Alrewas, on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020](#)

All Saints' Church, Alrewas is located at Church Rd, Alrewas, Burton-on-Trent, DE13 7BT. Access from Lichfield is via the A38, take the A513 slip road, signposted Alrewas/Tamworth, then turn right at the roundabout onto A513 signposted Kings Bromley. Take the first right, into Fox Lane, signposted Alrewas, then continue across Main St into Post Office Rd, and turn left at the T-junction. Continue a short way along Church Rd, until you see a gap on the left just before the church, and turn into the hardstanding by the graveyard. For anyone with mobility problems, there are a few roadside spaces for cars further along Church Rd, directly outside the church.



[Locator map for All Saints' Church, Alrewas](#)