

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS

Covid-19 and our 2021 visits.

The roadmap announced by Boris Johnson on 22nd February shows that Step 4 will take place no earlier than 21st June 2021, when the government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact. In expectation of this, we have drafted a provisional programme, which includes visits postponed from 2020, including the visit to Rugby School, now provisionally planned for Saturday 11th September 2021, a combined 2020 and 2021 AGM, plus some new visits. We will announce our visit programme once the date for Step 4 is confirmed, and in the meantime try to establish if indeed there is any possibility of holding any events prior to Step 4.

Tuesday 6th April 2021 – 'Meet the President' Zoom event

In the absence of visits, and with no President's Evening since October 2019, we're indebted to our President, Martyn Rawles, for kindly offering to meet members virtually via Zoom, to give them the opportunity to learn and ask questions about his life as a cathedral organist and choir director, since his formative years as a chorister at St Mary Redcliffe Bristol to the present, or indeed to seek his guidance on organ playing/practice techniques or repertoire. For those members who have met Martyn, they will know he is very approachable and helpful, and for those members who haven't, the evening provides an opportunity to meet and get to know him, albeit virtually.



Martyn Rawles

Please let Trevor Smedley or Richard Syner have your questions **by Saturday 3rd April**, indicating whether you wish to ask your question directly or for Trevor to ask on your behalf. Our contact email addresses are on the back page of this newsletter.

The event will commence at 7.30pm and Richard Syner will provide in advance the link for you to log onto the Zoom event. Looking forward to seeing you on 6th April.

RECENT EVENTS

Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 7.30pm, a virtual demonstration + organ recital by Paul Hodgetts

With no visits possible for the next few weeks, we decided to 'dip a toe' into the water with an on-line event via Zoom, a 'first' for LDOA.

We're grateful to LDOA member Paul Hodgetts for agreeing to put on a virtual demonstration of his home Hauptwerk organ using various sample sets, with a short recital. Paul built his 4-manual organ from scratch, and you may recall his project was featured in our June 2020 newsletter, so we're delighted to now have an opportunity to hear the results of his efforts.

Zoom is optimised for business conference calls etc, rather than music, where the standard filters built into Zoom to cut out background noise seem to put organ music into this same category! In trials carried out before the event, it became clear that some technical ingenuity would be required to overcome the limitations of Zoom, and we are indebted to Paul with support from Paul Carr for coming up with a workable solution, which included pre-recording the recital part of the presentation.

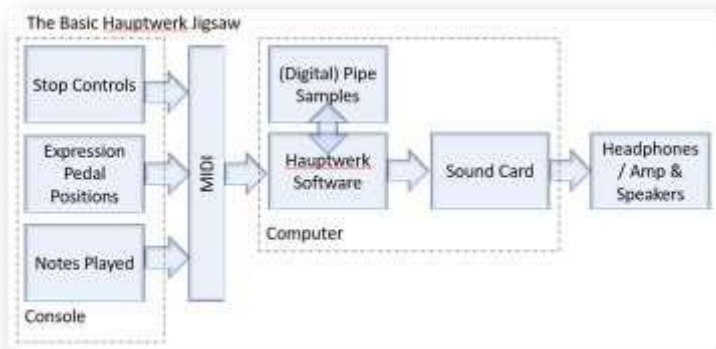
With some 18 members joining us for the event, we were delighted to see some new faces of members joining us since Covid-19 struck, who we have yet to have the opportunity to meet in person.



Paul Hodgetts' Hauptwerk organ

Most readers of this newsletter will have heard of Hauptwerk, even if not fully aware of what it is and how it works, and there are at least some members who indeed have their own Hauptwerk instruments, whilst for others this may be something completely new.

Hauptwerk is computer software that takes incoming MIDI signals, looks up the required sounds in a digital sample library and sends those digital samples to your computer's Audio Interface (Sound Card).



This is shown in the diagram above.

- The MIDI signals come from a standard Organ Console.
- Hauptwerk runs on standard home computers (PC or Mac, although you need a relatively high amount of RAM - 16GB minimum - to run large instruments).
- The Sample library also sits on the computer. Several firms record and sell organ sample sets, although Hauptwerk comes with the IIP/30 Brindley and Foster instrument of St Anne's Moseley and there are some stunning completely free sample sets available online.
- As shown above, a computer's built-in Sound Card will work, but much better performance is available from an external plug-in box (which will probably be called an Audio Interface although it does the same job).
- Decent Headphones will plug straight into the Sound Card or Audio Interface, or the sound can be routed to a complex of multiple channels of amplification and surround sound speakers.

One benefit of having a system built of multiple, independent, and (for everything except the console itself) commodity items is that a simple system can be created (relatively) inexpensively and then upgraded piece by piece.

In theory, the main selling point of Hauptwerk is that by loading different sample sets, you can play repertoire on the type of instrument that the composer would have known. In practice, a lot of users have taken the opportunity to create something far more elaborate than we could possibly have afforded to buy.

Paul opened proceedings with a description of the construction of his Hauptwerk organ. using his mobile phone to take us on a 'tour' of the impressive 4 manual 68 stop console, complete with touch screens, 16 thumb pistons per manual, and a formidable array of 32 toe pistons.

His original version of the console didn't include touch screen stop jams, as can be seen in the photo below, and the console sides have also been improved.



Paul Hodgetts' Hauptwerk organ – original version, before installing touch screen stop jams

Paul has a number of sample sets, and chose three for the recital to demonstrate the organ, commencing first with the sample set of Friesach Cathedral (German modern/eclectic), Paul playing *Toccata in F BuxWV 157 (Buxtehude)*, *Allegretto from Six Short Preludes and Postludes Op 101/i (Stanford)*, *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland BWV659 (J S Bach)*, and *Sonata No 2 - Allegro Moderato & Fugue (Mendelssohn)*.

Then to the UK to use the Willis sample of Salisbury Cathedral for *Elegy (George Thalben-Ball)*, demonstrating the range of colours of this organ, *Psalm Prelude Set 1 No 1 (Howells)*, and *Cantique (Elgar)* with Paul drawing the Willis Tuba for the finale chords.

Finally, to Dudelange Cathedral, Luxembourg, and from *Tombeau de Titelouze (Dupré) - Creator Alme Siderum, Jesu Redemptor Omnium, A Solus Ortus Cardine, Te Lucis Ante Terminum, Coelestis Urbs Jerusalem*, and finishing with a dramatic 'full on' flourish with *Placare Christe Servuis!*

Finally, over to members to ask questions of Paul. He explained that he started building his first Hauptwerk about ten years ago, although now with the experience of what to do and in what order, he believes it would take him less than a year to build this organ. Paul clearly has some very useful skills for such a project as he is a business software engineer, with degrees in Physics, IT and Business Administration. The internet in general and eBay in particular are great sources for components, and the total cost was under £3k excluding a computer (he uses his work laptop – Hauptwerk places considerable demands on RAM, with Paul's computer having 32 GB). He has designed an innovative key arrangement which gives a credible simulated tracker action touch. His sound system

is modest as he mainly uses headphones - in consideration for other family members!

Paul has been making full use of his organ over the last year, and as he is working towards his ARCO, he finds his superb Hauptwerk set-up a great motivation to practice. Many thanks to Paul for his accomplished playing, and for his efforts in putting on a most interesting event. Zoom and laptop speakers hardly do justice to the sound of Paul's organ, but it did give us an insight into what's possible at modest cost with technical expertise, and a lot of time and effort. An enviable home instrument indeed! Our thanks also to Richard Syner for hosting the event. TS

Ed. Any members thinking of embarking on their own Hauptwerk project may find Paul's very comprehensive 21-page report on his Hauptwerk project with copious photos very informative, a copy of which can be found on our website at:

<http://www.iao.org.uk/lichfield/downloads/PaulHodgettsHauptwerkProject.pdf>

LDOA member Greg Lewin has also made his own Hauptwerk organ, but has taken a different route by using a console from a redundant Nicholson organ as his starting point. His project report can also be found on our website at:

<http://www.iao.org.uk/lichfield/downloads/GregLewinOldburyHauptwerkProject.pdf>

Thursday 25th March 2021 Zoom event – Behind the Scenes: Lichfield Cathedral Choir in Lockdown

With Covid-19 restrictions in place for the last year, LDOA honorary member and Director of Music at Lichfield Cathedral Ben Lamb has had to become creative to try and keep choral singing alive in some form at Lichfield Cathedral. This Zoom event was held to enable Ben to share with others what's been entailed in creating music for the Cathedral's online services.

Helen Geary, Director of Fundraising at Lichfield Cathedral, welcomed attendees to the Zoom event, with some 80 people participating, including a number of LDOA members, before handing over to Ben Lamb.

Ben opened his presentation by contrasting his pre-Covid normal working day of a busy 8-9am beginning and 4.30-6.30pm end then various meetings, rehearsals etc in between, with the first 'Lockdown 1' days, when all the music staff except Ben himself were furloughed.

To try and keep choral activities going, Ben had at first given the boy and girl choristers exercises. When moving to use Zoom live, problems were encountered, so he had to climb a steep learning curve to get to grips with software new to him, including Adobe Premier Pro Video Editing software. This was screen shared with us to show Ben conducting, with sheet music on screen and tracks of the audio waveforms. The music score and accompaniment were sent out to choristers by Dropbox, for them to record their own voices, then return via Dropbox to Ben. Then, use of Adobe Audition editing software to convert the stereo audio tracks to mono, and iZotope audio editing software to eliminate unwanted background noise. This time-consuming procedure of course has to be repeated for every recording from every chorister.

Ben then demonstrated the use of SADiE Digital Multitrack Audio Recording, Editing, Mixing and Mastering software to produce John Rutter's work *For the Beauty of the Earth*, for inclusion in the Mothering Sunday service on 14th March. For this, Ben also incorporated orchestral players into the production, so again audio recordings of each individual player had to be made, edited and progressively added to build up to a full orchestra, then the choral parts similarly added. Next, reverb was added so as to simulate the acoustic of the Cathedral, and a final check that the audio via headphones is still OK when played through speakers. Ben said that there had been some issues with echo, but I must admit I thought the ethereal sound worked rather well, and was intentional! Finally, the video part was added, which comprised still photos of spring flowers around the environs of the Cathedral.

After the end of the formal presentation, the session was opened up for questions asked from the audience via Helen, with Sue Perkins wanting to know the time it took Ben to create and edit John Rutter's *The Beauty of the Earth* production, which Ben estimated took almost 50 hours work to produce a track of less than 4 minutes run time! Even to produce a hymn for inclusion in the service, he estimates it takes 20 hours work. When asked to pick his favourite work produced in the last year, unsurprisingly Ben opted for *The Beauty of the Earth*.

When asked when he thought there would be a return to normal live services and congregational singing, all Ben could suggest at the moment was some time in the next school term. Helen enquired if there was anything learned during lockdown that Ben envisaged could be taken forward, and he identified the following:

- Better time management
- Live streaming of services continuing, to cater for people unable to attend services
- Use with new choristers of a bank of training videos he now has available
- Tablets have been purchased for use by all the choristers, and Ben has digitised most of the music scores for use in lieu of paper music, although he confirmed that the psalters will be retained.

Jeff Sim, a parent to three choristers, on behalf of all the choristers' parents expressed his appreciation for Ben's hard work and efforts to keep choral singing going under such difficult lockdown circumstances. It was indeed an eye-opener for us all just how much effort and technical expertise has gone into producing what Ben has achieved during lockdown, for which he deserves great credit.

To close, Helen Geary invited us to un-mute ourselves to give Ben a well-deserved round of applause for his most interesting and informative presentation.

There was a modest charge for the event, and Helen informed us that this, plus generous additional voluntary donations, raised a creditable and no doubt very welcome £600 to support music at the Cathedral. TS

IAO/RCO MATTERS

London Organ Day on-line: Saturday 6th March 2021

London Organ Day's artistic adviser, Tom Bell, produced an online programme that included a recital by Daniel Cook (Durham Cathedral), a video presentation from Fugue State Films, and a recital by Francesca Massey (Rochester Cathedral), which included a quite thrilling performance of Reubke's *Sonata on the 94th Psalm*. All members of the IAO were able to attend this FREE event on-line, and it is now available to view retrospectively via: <https://iao.org.uk/london-organ-day/>

Donations to help defray the costs of the event would, of course, be appreciated and can be made via the London Organ Day website.

IAO Music Festival 2021

Depending on progress with containing the virus in the UK, it is still hoped that the postponed five-day festival in Edinburgh may go ahead as a 'live' event in July with a similar programme to that publicised last year. Decision on the 'live' event is in abeyance, but Council hopes to make booking details available by the next e-NewsSheet (due mid-April) and in the June edition of *Organists' Review*.

The next OrganFest will now be moved to 2022.

IAO Midlands Organ Day 2021: Saturday 25th September 2021

The 2020 Midlands Organ Day planned for Saturday 26th September 2020 at St Matthew's Church Northampton was regrettably postponed, and will now take place on Saturday 25th September 2021.

Details may be found at: <http://www.northamptonorganists.org.uk/midlands-organ-day>

Yorkshire Organ Day - postponed

Originally planned to take place in Hull on Wednesday 2nd June 2021, given the current uncertainties about the progress of the pandemic and extent to which the public will have been vaccinated by early summer, the organisers of this event have reluctantly decided to postpone it until 2022.

International Organ Day 2021

The Royal College of Organists (RCO) has announced a week-long festival for the 'King of Instruments', culminating in interNational Organ Day on Saturday 24th April 2021.

With 2020's inaugural National Organ Day having been largely cancelled amid the UK's Covid-19 lockdown, the 2021 celebrations are being designed for both live and online participation. An invitation to participate has been extended to the IAO, and has also been extended to organists around the world to make this an international event for the first time.

To further extend the scope and scale of activities, a week of themed days and events is being promoted by the RCO

to create a full Organ Week starting from Sunday 18 April.

The Schedule

The entire week will be broadcast online:

- Starting on Sunday 18 April with performances on organs from World Heritage Sites across the world (to coincide with World Heritage Day). Sunday will also be designated RCO Choral Day to highlight the work organists are doing to develop their choirs in the current climate.
- The programme on Monday will highlight the work of local organ associations across the UK.
- Tuesday will feature a programme of cinema and theatre organ music.
- Wednesday will explore organs in different locations, such as in the Masonic London Grand Temple and other Masonic Halls. They will also show how Freemasons are supporting many initiatives across the country to help people with learning the organ.
- A celebrity recital by Stephen Farr, the RCO's Chief Examiner, will be broadcast on Thursday 22 April from Sidney Sussex College Cambridge.
- Friday will put a focus on youth, with a programme designed to showcase the organ and encourage participation.
- For interNational Organ Day itself on Saturday 24 April, the RCO will feature a wealth of content submitted by exponents of the instrument from across the globe, and this is where they want as many people as possible to get involved!

For more information and details on how to take part in Organ Week and interNational Organ Day, visit www.rco.org.uk/events/international-organ-day-2021

MEMBERS' NEWS

LDOA Student Members' Awards

Liam Condon

Our congratulations to one of our talented student members, Liam Condon, on the award of his ARCO.



Liam Condon

Liam is in his second year as Organ Scholar of Lichfield Cathedral, where he shares playing duties for services with our President, Martyn Rawles. The services are live streamed and then uploaded to YouTube, where Liam's accomplished playing of closing voluntaries in particular are well worth listening to.

Callum Alger

Many congratulations to another of our student members Callum Alger, on the award of his FRCO with the Turpin and Durrant prizes.



Callum Alger (Wells Cathedral Feb 2019)

Callum is currently the Interim Director of Music at the Collegiate Church of St Peter, Wolverhampton, in addition to studying on the Advanced Postgraduate Diploma (Professional Performance) course at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, with a Headley Music Scholarship, under the guidance of Daniel Moul.

Callum can be heard playing William Walton's *Crown Imperial* on the superb Willis organ of St Peter's Wolverhampton via the church's Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/StPetersChurchWolverhampton/videos/vb.208321889305364/1295480354122059/?type=2&theater>

If you'd like to hear more of Callum at the organ of St Peter's, he has uploaded many videos to YouTube, which can be accessed via:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=callum+alger+organist

Philip Scriven at Cranleigh School

No, not a current member of course, but I spotted a video from October 2020 on YouTube of our ex-President Philip Scriven playing the Mander organ of Cranleigh School, where he is Organist in Residence. He's playing one of my favourite French organ works, Guillemant's *Sonata No 1 in D Minor*, so I thought I'd share it with you. Thrilling playing, using a super-sized tablet for his music score!

See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_Y05WzRF0I

Steve Mansfield

Many members will know LDOA member Steve Mansfield from his accomplished playing at Members' Recitals, for hosting our visit to Hill Street Baptist Church, Swadlingcote, in 2015, and his superb demonstration from memory of the Burton-on-Trent Town Hall Wurlitzer in

2017, as well as being one of the presenters for the Young Persons' Cathedral Organ Day events we held at Lichfield Cathedral.

So, you'll be sorry to learn that Steve contracted Covid-19 just before Christmas. Although he didn't need assistance with breathing, so wasn't hospitalised, he has been extremely ill, and has been diagnosed with Long Covid, affecting his liver as well as neurological (memory, concentration & focus etc). Thankfully, none of his family caught Covid. He is recovering slowly, and was able to return to work teaching at the beginning of March. Although short term memory continues to be a problem, it thankfully doesn't affect his organ playing.

We offer Steve our very best wishes for a return soon to full health.

NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE

2021 Subscriptions

2021 subscriptions were due on 1st January 2021, so a final reminder for anyone who has yet to pay. We do hope everyone will 'stick with us' in the hope of better times to come in the remainder of this year.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS

Covid -19 restrictions

When our last newsletter was published, the Cathedral was actually closed, but then subsequently re-opened for services, and the following notice of the current situation is posted on the Cathedral's website:

'From Sunday 28 March we will return, where possible, to welcoming a congregation into the Cathedral to worship in-person. As we continue to offer the Cathedral as a safe space for the roll-out of the vaccination programme there may be times when we cannot open to the public however, worship will continue online.'

'As we re-open the Cathedral, we realise that for some a visit to the Cathedral still may not be possible and we have made steps to allow everyone to join in with our daily routine of prayers and worship. We continue to live stream 3 services daily across our Facebook and YouTube channels.'

Lichfield Cathedral 'Music for Reflection'

Still awaiting news on any *Music for Reflection* concerts this year. With no organ recitals at the Cathedral since October 2019, fingers crossed for some good news about the chance to hear the Hill organ again in recitals in 2021.

NEWS & SNIPPETS FROM THE ORGAN WORLD

Harrison & Harrison Ltd – major organ projects

I'm once again indebted to Stephen Alliss, Harrison & Harrison Head Tuner, for providing the following update on H & H major projects:

York Minster Organ

The York Minster organ was removed in October 2018 by Harrison & Harrison, and taken to their works for a £2m 'once in a century' repair and refurbishment. The complete reconstruction based on the Harrison & Harrison musical concept of 1917/1931 has now been completed and Stephen reports that Robert Sharpe is thrilled with the result. Robert Sharpe was interviewed about the organ for the BBC 'Look North' programme on 6th March, and the interview can be viewed via:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6MaDQdPaohA>

There is another short interview and demo by Robert Sharpe on YouTube via:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExR0cf5EgdY>

A five-minute video clip of the refurbishment project can be viewed via:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WYkDMrvJ98>

The Eucharist and blessing of the organ was live streamed on Sunday 7th March 2021, and can now be viewed via:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjEg-RU2F9Y>

The organ will be dedicated by the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell at Easter Sunday Evensong on 4th April 2021

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

Harrison & Harrison have been awarded the contract for the renovation of the Walker organ of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, anticipated for completion in autumn 2022.



The Walker organ of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

Each one of the 4,565 pipes of the organ will be removed, cleaned and restored. The wind system, which has been slowly failing, will be replaced and the electrical components of the organ will be updated to meet current regulatory requirements. At a cost of over £1m, the

renovation is primarily being undertaken with the aim of ensuring good mechanical function and safe access for maintenance in the long term, coupled with great care to retain the fine voicing and original tonal qualities of the organ.

Work is progressing, albeit rather slowly at the moment. They are expecting to push forward with this project in the next couple of weeks. Some of the pipework is back in Durham for repairs and more will follow in due course as plans are finalised.

Christ Church, Greenwich, Connecticut, USA

Harrison & Harrison have been commissioned to build a new 4 manual 86-stop landmark instrument for Christ Church, Greenwich, Connecticut, USA. The organ is to be entirely new, and work is progressing ahead of schedule in the workshop, with installation planned for 2022. The organ, or at least half of it, is progressing on the building room floor, and the metalshop staff are working six days a week to keep to schedule with the production of pipework.

Norwich Cathedral

Now 75 years on from when the 4 manual 105 stop Norman & Beard organ was first restored, ciphers are an increasing mechanical problem. All the pipes need removing, cleaning and restoring, the mechanisms within the organ itself need renewing and modernising, the worn-out key action needs replacement, and the unreliable and outdated electronics of the console brought up to date.

The project is expected to cost £1.8m, inclusive of a new chamber organ. It is proposed that the fundamental sound and character will be preserved, whilst at the same time internally restructuring the instrument so that the sound is distributed more evenly to both sides of the pulpitum screen.



Norwich Cathedral organ (East case)

Harrison & Harrison have been awarded the contract to refurbish and restore the organ of Norwich Cathedral, and their drawing office is currently being kept busy with plans, with work on site due to start in 2022.

Nicholson & Co Ltd – major organ projects

Manchester Town Hall Organ

Nicholson's have been commissioned to undertake the historical reconstruction of the organ in Manchester Town Hall. The organ, the most significant surviving instrument of the few built in the UK by the Parisian organ builder Aristide Cavallé-Coll in 1877, was enlarged by him in 1893, and then rebuilt by the English firms Lewis & Co. in 1912 and Jardine & Co. in 1970. Nicholson's will be undertaking the work in an equal collaboration with the Dutch firm of Flentrop Orgelbouw.

The organ was wholly dismantled in late summer of 2020, with completion due by the end of 2023 to coincide in 2024 with the re-opening of Waterhouse's much-loved building.

Bute Hall, University of Glasgow

The Bute Hall is the graduation hall of the University of Glasgow and was designed by George Gilbert Scott. In 1901, a four-manual organ by Lewis & Co. of London was built in a fine case in the west gallery of the hall. The organ was dramatically rebuilt in 1962 by Hill, Norman & Beard, with many tonal changes. As phase two of a planned three-phase project to restore the organ, Nicholson's will be undertaking major work on the instrument. The console will be removed for complete restoration and upgrading, including a new piston capture system and modern playing aids. A new solid-state electrical transmission will also be installed.

Radley College, Oxfordshire

Nicholson's have been commissioned to build a new organ for the chapel. This will, once again, be sited in the centre of the west gallery, within a new oak case. The organ will have three manuals and 53 stops, with mechanical action to the manuals and electro-pneumatic action to the Pedal Organ. This £1.5m project is part of a £6m buildings expansion project, and construction commenced in 2020, with installation expected to be completed by the end of 2021, and the official opening of the organ early 2022.

St Mary's Church, Portsea

The organ of St Mary's Church in Portsea was built by the London firm of J.W. Walker & Sons for the new church in 1889, and proved to be the first of a series of major contracts in what became a golden period for the Walker firm.

The organ was altered by Walker's in 1965: although the stoplist remained unchanged, many of the reeds were revoiced. The console was replaced with one of modern design. Further work was undertaken in 1981 by George Martin & Partner of Portsmouth; this included lowering the pitch of the organ to nearer standard pitch.

The forthcoming project will be the first comprehensive restoration in the organ's life. Alongside the obvious goal

of returning the entire instrument to first-class condition, the principal objective will be to conserve and restore the Victorian heritage of this instrument. The pipework will be returned to its original pitch, scaling, pressures and voicing. The wind system and all soundboards and chests will all be thoroughly restored, with new three-stage electro-pneumatic key actions of traditional design being provided throughout. The 1965 console will be replaced with a new console designed in the style of Walker consoles of the 1880s. Completion by end 2021.

St Gabriel's, Pimlico

Nicholson's will be rebuilding the 1894 J J Binns three manual 36 stop organ afresh. The main priority will be to ensure the reliability of the organ for many decades to come. New slider soundboards with new electro-pneumatic actions are to be provided, along with a wholly new winding system. Significant tonal revisions will be undertaken to bring the tonal centre of gravity of the organ down towards a Romantic ethos, without trying to replicate the original Binns scheme. A rather unsatisfactory 1970 pipe front in the north aisle will be replaced by a new case of period style.

Henry Willis & Sons Ltd

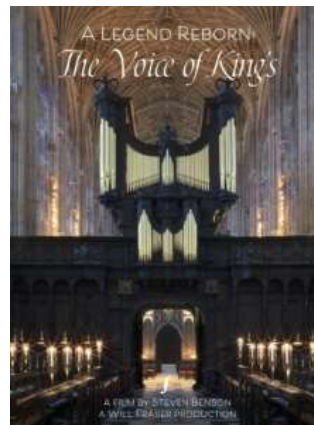
Current projects:

- Liverpool Philharmonic Hall – 1939 Rushworth & Dreaper 3 manual 54 stop organ
- St Michael's Church of Scotland, Linlithgow – 1912 Henry Willis organ
- The University of St Andrews – 1868 T C Lewis organ
- The Wesley Centre, Malton – 1877 Forster & Andrews organ

Fugue State Films

We were given updates by Stephen Alliss on the progress of the recent Harrison & Harrison restoration of the organ of King's College, Cambridge.

Fugue State Films have produced a 2xDVD plus 2xCD boxset featuring an extensive documentary film detailing the restoration of the iconic 1934 Harrison & Harrison organ.



Filmed over more than a year at all stages of the restoration, and presented and narrated by David Briggs, this is the ultimate in-depth portrait of the rebirth of one of the world's most famous musical instruments.

In addition to the documentary, the boxset includes an extraordinary set of filmed performances, also duplicated over the two CDs, by organ scholars past and present. David Briggs improvises, and Robert Quinney, Ashley Grote, Tom Winpenny, Richard Gowers, Henry Websdale and Donal McCann play a wonderful range of music by Bach, Mendelssohn, Reger, Vaughan-Williams, Bridge, Howells, Murrill, Vierne, Dupré, Alain, Messiaen and Bingham.

The boxset can be obtained from:

<https://fuguestatefilms.co.uk>

Journal of the Institute of British Organ Building

The annual journal of the Institute of British Organ Building, *Organ Building - Volume Twenty*, has just been published on 26th March 2021, and may be purchased for £19.50 from the Institute's website at:

<https://www.ibo.co.uk/webStore/organBuilding.php>

Kevin Mayhew Obituary

The death was announced of Kevin Mayhew on 14th January 2021, age 78, following a short infection.



Kevin Mayhew, 1942-2021

Members who have purchased organ music over the years will undoubtedly be familiar with Kevin Mayhew through his publishing company.

Educated at Westminster Cathedral Choir School and then St Edmund's College, Ware, he left to work in publishing at the age of 16. He subsequently formed Kevin Mayhew Publishers in 1976, set up to service the entire Christian community. He was also a gifted composer. Five years ago, he was diagnosed with the cruel disease progressive supranuclear palsy. He leaves behind his wife Barbara, seven hugely talented daughters and 15 grandchildren.

Cathedral Choirs' Emergency Fund

In the December 2020 Newsletter, we reported on the initiative by The Cathedral Music Trust to raise money for the Cathedral Choirs' Emergency Fund, to support choirs silenced during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A virtual performance by 54 cathedral/college/church organists of J S Bach's *Toccat & Fugue in D Minor*, produced by Nicholas Freestone of Worcester Cathedral, in November 2019 contributed to the fund reaching its target of £1m.

ON-LINE RECITALS

A number of organists, faced with cancelled recitals, have resorted to streaming live organ recitals and uploaded them to YouTube, including the following:

- Jonathan Scott, concert organist, is continuing to live stream regular recitals via YouTube, with his brother pianist Tom Scott joining him for some recitals. His most recent recital was at Ripon Cathedral on Saturday 20th March 2021. With due respect to Saint-Saëns, it always grieves me to see eminent organists sitting patiently at the console for this composer's Symphony No 3 (Organ) but only being called upon to contribute the occasional full organ chords, so I'm gratified to report Jonathan Scott included in his programme his own skilful thrilling transcription for organ of the whole of this symphony. See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZes9n_n_K0
- *Sunday Afternoon Organ Music* at Holy Trinity Wordsley, performed by Paul Carr, was suspended after the March 2020 recital. So, Paul Carr is continuing to perform a short programme at 3pm on the first Sunday of the month online. The videos are hosted on *Sunday Afternoon Organ Music's* Facebook page, and the most recent recital on Sunday 7th March 2021 can be found at: www.facebook.com/SundayAfternoonOrganMusic
- Paul Carr's 'Thursday Live' series of recitals on the first Thursday of the month at St Chad's Cathedral continue to be broadcast live, featuring both Paul Carr and David Saint, and the most recent recital on 4th March 2021 can be found via: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpFue_ebXec&t=154s
- Gert van Hoef, the young Dutch organist, is continuing to give weekly one-hour recitals on Thursday evenings, which are live streamed on YouTube. He uses both his home Hauptwerk organ, and is now also playing various pipe organs in Dutch churches.
- Richard McVeigh continues to give frequent on-line broadcasts via *Beauty in Sound* on YouTube, mainly on his home Hauptwerk organ, on which he is able to access sample sets of a number of different notable organs. Richard has announced he is embarking on an exciting new project within his *Beauty in Sound* channel. He has commissioned Romsey Organ Works to build him a 4-manual Hauptwerk organ, with the console design replicating the Harrison & Harrison console of York Minster, where Richard was one time Organ Scholar. Once the organ is complete, his plan is for renowned organists to also have access to it for recitals and masterclasses, which will be broadcast on his *Beauty on Sound* channel. For his announcement and details of his plans see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mE0GrfVgyic>
- Bridlington Priory is uploading weekly on-line recitals on Mondays to YouTube, through until Monday 5th April 2021, when Paul Dewhurst will be the organist.
- St Paul's Cathedral, London, is regrettably currently closed to the public, but in 2021 and 2022, they are holding a special two-year long organ recital series called **Organ Giants** to celebrate 150 years of the Willis Organ of St Paul's. They are presenting the complete organ works of J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Robert & Clara Schumann and Brahms. Alongside this

will be selected works demonstrating the influence of J.S. Bach. These Sunday recitals commenced on 10th January, and will be livestreamed weekly until at least the end of April. See:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=st+pa+ul%27s+cathedral+organ+giants

- Over the course of the last year, Daniel Cook, Master of the Choristers & Organist at Durham Cathedral, has posted on YouTube over 200 recordings of pieces played on his home Hauptwerk organ, using the Salisbury Cathedral sample set, the digital sampling of which he oversaw when he was Assistant Director of Music there.

VACANCIES

Organist required for St John's Hospital Chapel, Lichfield

Subsequent to this vacancy being shown in our December 2020 newsletter, we are advised by Revd Helen M Barton that she believes they have now found a suitable organist to fill this vacancy

FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS

LDOA Members' Recitals/Events

Angela Sones

Angela Sones' recital at Emmanuel Church Wylde Green has been rescheduled to Friday 2nd July 2021 at 1pm. (previously 7th May 2021)

Martyn Rawles

See St Modwen's recitals series below

Liam Condon

See St Modwen's recitals series below

Cathy Lamb

See St Modwen's recitals series below

Karen Thompson

See St Modwen's recitals series below

St Modwen's Parish Church, Burton-on-Trent

Having been one of the few local venues to hold live recitals in 2020, following the announcement by Boris Johnson of the roadmap to take us back to something approaching normal, LDOA member and St Modwen's Organist Tony Westerman has been quick off the mark to arrange a recitals series for 2021 on the fine Hill Norman & Beard organ, including recitals by no less than four LDOA members. The recitals are on Wednesdays at 12.30 – 1.15pm, and admission is free with retiring collection. Details as follows:

- 2nd June 2021 – Ben Bloor (London Oratory)
- 9th June 2021 – Tom Corfield (Derby)

- 16th June 2021 – Liam Condon (Lichfield Cathedral)
- 23rd June 2021 – Karen Thompson (Burton)
- 30th June 2021 – Edward Turner (Derby Cathedral)
- 7th July 2021 – Benjamin Mills (London)
- 14th July 2021 – Matthew Gibson (London)
- 1st September 2021 – Alexander Binns (Derby Cathedral)
- 8th September 2021 – Cathy Lamb (Lichfield Cathedral School)
- 15th September 2021 – Mary Cobbold (Holy Trinity, Millhouses, Sheffield)
- 22nd September 2021 – John Keys (Nottingham City Organist)
- 29th September 2021 – Martyn Rawles (Lichfield Cathedral)

Broadway URC, Walsall

Broadway URC Organist & Choir-director, Alan Taylor, has provisionally arranged the following Saturday morning 'Coffee & Cake' organ concerts, subject of course to any Covid-19 restrictions at the time. 11.15am start, with coffee and cake served before the concert, and retiring collection:

- Saturday 10th July 2021 – organist t.b.c.
- Saturday 14th August 2021 – Daniel Greenway (Liverpool Cathedral)
- Saturday 28th August – Maximillian Elliott (St Olave's, York)
- Saturday 11th September 2021 – Thomas Keogh (Holy Cross Priory, Leicester)
- Saturday 9th October 2021 – organist t.b.c.

Recitals In Local Area (To end of May 2021)

Still very few local recitals showing for April/May on the main website for listing organ recitals nationally www.organrecitals.com, and the few currently listed are, with one exception, on-line only recitals. There are signs of better times to come from June, with local recitals planned for St Modwen's (Burton-on-Trent), Broadway URC (Walsall), Victoria Hall (Hanley), St Chad's (Shrewsbury), St Laurence (Ludlow) and Derby Cathedral.

April 2021

Sun 4 April 2021 • 3.00 to 3.20 • Holy Trinity Wordsley – ON-LINE ONLY
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Thurs 8 April 2021 • 1.15 to 1.45 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham Cathedral – ON-LINE ONLY
David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham) & Paul Carr (Birmingham)

May 2021

Sat 1 May 2021 • 5.00 to 6.00 • Guild Chapel, Stratford-upon-Avon
Oliver Hancock (St Mary's, Warwick)

Sun 2 May 2021 • 3.00 to 3.20 • Holy Trinity Wordsley – ON-LINE ONLY
Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Thurs 6 May 2021 • 1.15 to 1.45 • St Chad's Cathedral,
Birmingham Cathedral – **ON-LINE ONLY**
David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham) & Paul
Carr (Birmingham)

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Ed. – the next newsletter is planned for June 2021, with a deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/05/21, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA