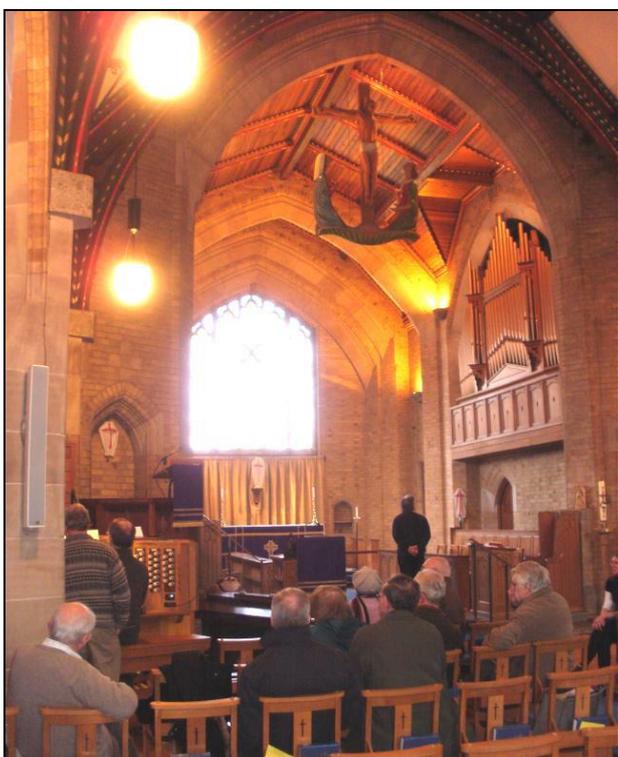


## APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER

### RECENT LDOA VISIT

#### Saturday 23rd February 2013 visit to All Saints Four Oaks

We were kindly invited to visit All Saints Four Oaks by our member and All Saints Director of Music Angela Sones, who opened proceedings with a comprehensive history of the organ.



All Saints Four Oaks, with the organ on RH side of the chancel and the mobile console on LH side

In 1972, a poor two manual organ at All Saints was replaced by a three manual organ of unknown make from St Luke's Parish Church, Dudley, which had been rebuilt by Nicholson & Lord around 1907. The Swell and Great departments were used virtually in their entirety, but the Choir department was discarded in favour of a superior one available from a redundant 1905 Laycock & Banister organ of Jubilee Methodist Chapel, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent. Together with new pipework made by Rogers of Leeds, stops of early 1920's vintage came from two other redundant J J Binns of Leeds organs. The Great Trumpet came from the Baptist Church, Farsley, Leeds and the Pedal Open Diapason and Bourdon stops came from Market Place Methodist Church, Stockton-on-Tees. In 1987, when Richard Hartshorn was the organist, a Solo manual was added, using and extending some existing stops, making the instrument more versatile. In particular, the Pedal Rohr Schalmey was made available on the Solo

and the Positif Krumhorn moved to the Solo and replaced by a Clarinet.

The catalyst for the 2011 rebuild was the umbilicus of the mobile console. It was cumbersome and splitting, thus becoming a health and safety issue as it also carried mains voltage. The Transmission System was very antiquated and not up to today's standards, and also the action was becoming temperamental and slow, making playing the instrument more and more taxing. The size of the instrument called for the addition of an up-to-date processor, and with it the additional playing aids

The substantial 2011 refurbishment was carried out by Peter Spencer, with Roy Massey acting as Organ Adviser on the changes. A Musicom console and data transmission system was installed. The positif Unda Maris (a re-tuned Dulciana) was discarded and a chuffy 4' flute installed. The Spitz Flute was given its proper name of Gemshorn and the Great Chimney Flute re-voiced to speak effectively. The coarse Swell Mixture was replaced by lighter brighter pipework, which blends better with the Swell Chorus, and the Swell Strings opened up to give more "presence".

Advantage was taken of the Musicom Facility to add digitally generated stops to expand the organ's range. 16' and 32' Open Wood diapasons together with a 32' Trombone were added to the Pedal department and an 8' Tuba Magna and 8' Trompette added to the Solo. The Trompette is also available on the Positif. The 4 manual organ now boasts 60 speaking stops and a full complement of pistons, together with stepper control all up to 100 levels. The memorable inaugural recital on the rebuilt organ was given on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 by none other than Prof. Ian Tracey.

The full specification as it now stands is:

#### Great

Quintaten 16', Open Diapason One 8', Open Diapason Two 8', Stopped Diapason 8', Principal 4', Chimney Flute 4', Twelfth  $2\frac{2}{3}$ , Fifteenth 2', Mixture III, Trumpet 8', Clarion 4'

#### Swell (enclosed)

Open Diapason 8', Gedact 8', Viol D'amour 8', Voix Celeste 8', Gemshorn 8', Harmonic Flute 4', Fifteenth 2', Mixture III, Contra Fagotto 16', Cornopean 8', Oboe 8', Clarion 4', Tremulant

#### Positif (Unenclosed)

Rohr Flute 8', Gemshorn 4', Spitz Flute 4', Nazard  $2\frac{2}{3}$ , Block Flute 2', Tierce  $1\frac{3}{5}$ , Larigot  $1\frac{3}{5}$ , Twenty Second 1', Clarinet 8', Trompette (d) 8', Trumpet 8', Clarion 4', Tremulant

### Solo

Open Diapason 8', Principal 4', Fifteenth 2', Mixture III, Trombone 16', Trompette (d) 8', Tuba Magna (d) 8', Rohr Schalmei 8', Krumhorn 8', Trumpet 8', Clarion 4'

### Pedal

Open Wood (d) 32', Open Diapason (d) 16', Open Wood (d) 16', Bourdon 16', Principal 8', Bass Flute 8', Fifteenth 4', Twenty Second 2', Mixture III, Trombone (d) 32', Trombone (d) 16', Trumpet 8', Clarion 4'. Rohr Schalmei 4'

### Accessories

8 General Pistons, 6 Pistons for each manual and pedal, Stepper pistons, 100 level memory. MIDI capability.



Angela Sones demonstrating the organ of All Saints Four Oaks, assisted by Richard Hartshorn

Angela then demonstrated the results of the rebuild by playing J S Bach's Fantasia in G Minor, impeccably performed as usual, before handing over the console to members to try the organ.



The casework of the organ of All Saints Four Oaks

With Richard Hartshorn providing assistance for an instrument he knows well, Andrew McMillan 'broke the ice' with Joseph Jongen's Choral No VI, and Gigout's Scherzo.

Peter King was next up, followed by John Baker, putting his lessons with Angela to good use with Prelude & Fugue No VII, from 8 Short Preludes & Fugues, attributed to J S Bach. Yours truly, Chris Greenhalgh, Pat Neville and Colin Brookes followed. Despite only the single opening for the egress of sound from the organ chamber, the organ speaks well into the church. The organ is a pleasure to play and Four Oaks is indeed fortunate in now possessing one of the most comprehensive specification organs in a parish church in the area.



Pat Neville at the organ of all Saints Four Oaks

The afternoon was nicely rounded off by adjourning to the Four Oaks pub, and being treated most generously to liquid refreshments by Richard Hartshorn, accompanied by much talk about all things 'organ'.

On behalf of the 13 members attending, our thanks to Angela Sones for hosting a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon, and to Richard Hartshorn for his invaluable registration assistance and generosity. TS

### YOUNG PERSONS' CATHEDRAL ORGAN DAY

One of the three aims set out in the Lichfield & District Organists' Association's constitution is 'to foster an interest in the organ and organ playing among young people', and having attended the Midlands Organ Day held at Derby in October 2010, it became very evident that by comparison with our colleagues in the Derby & District Organists' Association, we had done very little to fulfil this aim.

The LDOA Committee decided to invite a small group of our members with relevant experience to form a sub-committee to develop an initiative to attract young people to the organ. Having himself received encouragement to try the organ when a young chorister at St Mary Redcliffe, our President, Martyn Rawles, readily agreed to join me on the sub-committee, as did Cathy Lamb, and our Association members Eric Lunt, Deputy Headteacher at Lichfield's King Edward VI School, and Steve Mansfield, Managing Director of Excel Music Schools Ltd.

Having considered different approaches, we decided to target youngsters in the 10–13 year age group, ideally with an interest in music, and to organise an event employing a 'hands-on' workshop format, for around 24 youngsters. The result was this 'Young Persons' Cathedral Organ Day', held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2013 at Lichfield Cathedral. Publicity flyers were sent out via all the local schools, and

we were pleased to eventually fill all the places on the event.

The 3 hour programme was opened with a short recital by Martyn Rawles on the Cathedral's magnificent Hill organ, designed to 'grab' the children's attention from the outset, and the Indiana Jones theme certainly did just that! Handel's Largo and a work for pedals only were followed by Martyn, assisted by Eric Lunt and with video console screening, demonstrating the wide variety of sounds the 82 stops on the Hill organ could create, including imitating the various instruments the children were learning.

We then split into two workshops, running in parallel. The Science workshop was planned to be led by Warren Dransfield-Scott, Teacher of Physics at King Edward VI School, but unfortunately illness forced an eleventh hour change, and it was instead led by Eric Lunt. The workshop now comprised working in 3 small teams to each make an 'organ' from a Tupperware box, a penny whistle, a bicycle pump, scissors and duct tape. A good 'ice breaker', designed to challenge the children's inventiveness to produce a steady supply of wind and get a recognisable tune out of the 'organ', whilst also being great fun.



Children demonstrating their team's 'organ'

Then a one octave table mounted model organ, made and kindly loaned to us by organ builder Ed Stow (Derby), was used by me to demonstrate the workings of an organ, with the children taking their turns to pump the organ, play the keys, and operate the 3 stops.



Playing and hand pumping the model organ

The other workshop, led by Steve Mansfield, comprised demonstration of the Cathedral's Phoenix digital organ, including playing the theme from Harry Potter and the

James Bond Theme, much to the surprise of visitors to the Cathedral, then giving the children the opportunity to 'have a go' on the organ themselves, assisted by our very talented youngest member Henry Metcalfe.



Hands-on on the Phoenix organ, with Henry Metcalfe assisting with stops and Steve Mansfield looking on

Whilst awaiting their turn on the Phoenix organ, visits in small groups to the organ loft to see the Hill console at close quarters were led by Martyn Rawles.



Martyn Rawles showing eager prospective young organists the Hill organ console

The event was concluded with a final memorable flourish by Martyn Rawles on the Hill organ, playing Noel Rawsthorne's Hornpipe Humoresque and Widor's 'Toccata'.

Following the event, feedback forms were sent to each parent to complete in conjunction with their child, and the results have been most encouraging. The plan now is to have a debrief, and decide where we go from here.

Our gratitude to all the team organising and presenting the event, and in particular to Martyn for his enthusiastic support and gaining agreement of the Lichfield Cathedral Chapter to hold the event at Lichfield Cathedral. TS

PS. James Parsons has advised us of an RCO 'Raise Your Game' Workshop for young organists and pianists (typical age range 9 – 19), being held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013 in Birmingham, led by Henry Fairs, Gerdi Troskie and James Parsons. Full details on the RCO website.

### FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS

#### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013 Shenstone/Little Aston organ crawl, and 2013 AGM

Commencing at 11 am, organ crawl to Trinity Methodist Church, New Road, Shenstone, WS14 0NQ, to play the 2 manual organ built by Mike Thompson. Break for lunch – the Toby Carvery on Birmingham Rd, Shenstone Wood End (WS14 0NX) is both convenient and offers excellent food.

Then on to St Peter's Church, Roman Road, Little Aston, B74 3AT, for the 2013 AGM at 2.15 pm, followed by opportunity to play the two manual Halmshaw/HNB organ. Then finally back to Shenstone and St John the Baptist Church, St John's Hill, Shenstone, WS14 0JB to play the two manual Holdich organ.

#### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2013, St Augustine's, Rugeley

Visit commencing at 2 pm (3 manual 29 speaking stop Nicholson organ).

#### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013 Shrewsbury organ crawl

Visit to Shrewsbury by arrangement with David Leeke to St Chad's (3 manual Norman & Beard, rebuilt by Nicholson 1963, then major rebuild by Harrison in 2011), then St Mary's (4 manual Binns, 1912), then St Alkmund (2 manual Harrison & Harrison 1931, which for many years was in the chapel of Addington Palace), and finally Choral Evensong in St Chad's, sung by St Chad's Choir. This promises to be a superb visit to three very different but fine organs.

#### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013, President's Evening at Lichfield Cathedral

Evensong and visit hosted by Martyn Rawles.

#### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November Annual Dinner

Joint dinner with Birmingham Organists' Association including guest speaker. Venue and speaker yet to be confirmed.

#### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2014, St Mary's, Albrighton

Visit to St Mary Magdalene, Albrighton (2 manual organ originally by Jardine, and recently the subject of a £129,000 rebuild, with the addition of a 3<sup>rd</sup> manual). Note that the opening recital of this organ is being given by

Thomas Heywood, Australia's leading concert organist, at 7.30 pm Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April.

Possible visit combined with the above to the church of St Mary & St Chad, Brewood (2 manual organ built by J J Binns in 1910, with a major rebuild completed in 2012).

### NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE

#### 2013 AGM

This will take place at 2.15 pm on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April at St Peter's Church, Little Aston, combined with our visit to Shenstone and Little Aston.

#### Next Committee Meeting

The date of the next Committee Meeting is tba.

### MEMBERS' NEWS

#### Mark Andrews

We are greatly saddened to report the death of Mark Andrews from cancer on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at the John Taylor Hospice. The funeral service was held at the Ebenezer Mission Hall in Nechells on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

Mark had been a member for the last two years, and we offer our sincere condolences to his brother and family.

#### New Member

We are delighted to welcome a new member:

#### Dawn Clay

Dawn heard of us thanks to Clive Smith, and lives at Abbots Bromley, where she is organist at the local church.

We look forward to meeting Dawn at our future events.

### LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS

#### Organ Recitals 2013 - Evenings

In advance of official publication, some dates for your diary for the Autumn 2013 Evening Organ Recital Series at Lichfield Cathedral:

- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Cathy Lamb (Lichfield Cathedral)
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October - Andrew Lumsden (Winchester Cathedral), paying a welcome return to Lichfield
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Prof. Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - Martyn Rawles (Lichfield Cathedral)

## Organ Recitals 2013 – Lunchtimes

The Cathedral's website indicates that the Summer lunchtime Music for Reflection recitals will take place every Tuesday and Friday at 1.05 pm – 1.55 pm from July 16<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Few details at the moment, but Peter Morris (Walsall Borough Organist) is booked for the Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August recital, and Michael Rhodes (Victoria Hall, Hanley) is booked for Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August.

## New Appointment to the Cathedral

Following the move in 2012 by Revd. Cannon Dr Pete Wilcox to become the Dean of Liverpool Cathedral, the Revd. Canon Dr Anthony Moore was installed on 19th January 2013 as Cannon Chancellor at Lichfield Cathedral. Members may be interested to learn that he attended Exeter University as an organ scholar, pianist and choral scholar, where he was awarded his first degree. Anthony is also a keen bell ringer, and will be joining other campanologists, including some of our members, at the Cathedral.

## What's On At Lichfield Cathedral

A leaflet covering events from March to October 2013 is now available on the Cathedral's website: [www.lichfield-cathedral.org](http://www.lichfield-cathedral.org)

## IAO MATTERS

### IAO Centenary

2013 is the centenary year of the IAO. At the suggestion of John Brook, a meeting took place on May 31<sup>st</sup> 1913 in Southport for the express purpose of discussing the question of forming a federation of the then existing associations of organists. At the meeting it was agreed that delegates should meet in Manchester on 15<sup>th</sup> November for election of officials. The title of 'National Union of Organists' Associations' was adopted, and certain Rules & Regulations fixed. Interestingly, a capitation fee was fixed at two (old) pence per member per annum, and this compares to the £4 per member in 2013!

Originally, association members had to hold, or have held, an appointment as organist, either in a professional or amateur capacity, and the change to now encourage non-players to become members is perhaps the most significant change to have since taken place. There are now 80 associations affiliated to the IAO, with a total membership approaching 6000.

### London Organ Day, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2013

Pam Strong and David Gumbley made their customary annual visit to the London Organ Day, which unfortunately this year clashed with our visit to All Saints Four Oaks. I'm indebted to Pam for the photo, and to David for the following review of the event.

Attended by some 200 delegates, The London Organ Day took place at the prestigious venue of the Royal Festival Hall. The surroundings were ideal; the organ stands pre-

eminent on the stage and has benefited greatly from the improvements made to the acoustic of the Hall.



The Royal Festival Hall organ photographed in 2000  
by C.R.A. Davies



The Royal Festival Hall organ February 2013, showing the  
LH and central sections now re-installed, and the gap for  
the remaining RH section

Following a brief welcome, the Curator of the organ gave an interesting talk on the history of the instrument and the influence on its specification and voicing by Ralph Downes. At the time, the 'continental style' voicing caused both consternation and admiration; the Harrison and Harrison instrument stands witness to the enlightened view of 1950's organ building. A black and white film from 1950 showed the organ in the midst of construction and was followed by a contemporary LP, which featured excerpts from the opening Ceremony and Recital.

A recital of modern music featured two young organists; the voicing of the organ was displayed to good effect.

In the afternoon session, Andrew Scott, Head Voicer of H & H, gave a demonstration of the niceties of pipe voicing. There followed a discussion of the organ and its impact on the organ world of 1951.

The closing Recital was given by Kevin Bowyer, the International Recitalist, with a programme comprising Suite en Fa by Thierry Pallesco, Sonata 2 & 3 by Hindemith, and Fiesta (Celebration, Conversations, Stride Dance, Song, Fast Dance, Nocturne, Finale) by Iain Farrington.  
David Gumbley

Ed. The remaining RH section of the organ, comprising the Positive, Choir and Solo divisions, and the remaining Great and Pedal stops will be installed during 2013, and a month long festival is planned to run from 18<sup>th</sup> March to 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014 to celebrate the full restoration and 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the organ, with celebrity recitals by John Scott, Thomas Trotter and Olivier Latry amongst others.

### **Yorkshire Organ Day, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

Will be held at Leeds with the theme: 'The playing of French Organ Music on English Organs'. Venues include Leeds Minster, Leeds College of Music and St Bartholomew's, Armley (Tickets £16, including return transport to Armley from Leeds city centre)

### **Liverpool Organ Day, Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2013.**

Recitals at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral by David Poulter at 11.15 am, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral by Richard Lea at 2.30 pm, and St George's Hall by Ian Tracey at 5.30 pm. Admission to the recital at each venue £5.

### **IOA Nurnberg Congress 2013, 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

To be based in the historic city of Nurnberg, Germany. The Congress hotel is Le Meridien Grand. Only a few places remaining for this event.

### **Schnitzers & Schnitzels – Northern Germany Organ Course, 26-29<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

Sponsored by The Suffolk Organists' Association and The Organ Club, visiting Hamburg, Lübeck and Lüneburg, under the expert guidance of hosts James Parsons and William Saunders. Based in Hamburg.

### **Kent County Organists' Association Organ Festival, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

Will be held at All Saints' Church, Maidstone, and is open to candidates under the age of 21.

### **West of England & S E Wales Region Organ Day, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

Will be held at Tewkesbury.

## **RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS**

### **Andrew Fletcher Recital, Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013**

The theme of this series of lunchtime recitals is 'An A to Z of Organ Music', with today being the turn of composers whose names begin with M, N or P.

The first movement of Mendelssohn's Sonata No 3 in A, provided a majestic opening to today's recital, followed by a quieter passage that eventually builds to a reprise of the opening. The second and final movement is rather an anti-climax, although the Andante Tranquillo is indeed absolutely sublime. Staying with the 'M's', Henri Mulet's Rosace from Esquisses Byzantines followed, the delicate

runs depicting the shimmering shafts of light permeating through a rose window.

Notwithstanding the alphabet theme, Andrew always includes a piece by the master, J S Bach, and today's offering was the longest, and in Andrew's view the best of the Prelude & Fugues, in E Minor. Nicknamed the Wedge on account of the pattern formed by the notes of the Fugue.

Working through all the letters of the alphabet inevitably means some less well-known composers and works are going to be included, and representing 'N' was Adagio by Henry Nanney, Stanford University Professor Emeritus of Music and University Organist. Then followed the rather better known Will o' the Wisp by G B Nevin.

Completing the trio of composers representing the 'N's' with his composition 'Theme with Variations' was Thomas Tertius Noble, an English composer and organist who served as Organist & Choirmaster at Ely Cathedral then York Minster, before moving to the States and serving for 30 years at St Thomas Episcopal Church, New York City.

Representing the 'O's', the final piece was Prelude & Fugue in A by Sir Frederick Arthur Gore Ouseley, an English composer, organist, musicologist and priest, whose works are little known today, and providing a rather more subdued ending to today's recital than Andrew's usual finale.

TS

### **Peter Morris Recital, Walsall Town Hall, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013**

No doubt due to the bitterly cold day, the number attending today's lunchtime recital was somewhat 'thinner' than usual to hear Peter Morris open with Rheinberger's Sonata No 3 in G, a work Peter considered to be 'rather spring like', unlike today's weather! The opening pastorale is followed by a short middle section, followed by a very nice fugue.

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth from Messiah by Handel, transcribed for organ, was followed by three contrasting Lenten Chorale preludes by J S Bach – Mit fried und Freud, a Passiontide chorale Wir danken Dir, and finally O Lamm Gottes, described by Peter as 'a little gem', all from the Orgelbüchlein.

Prelude on Rockingham by Parry was followed by today's major J S Bach work. Instead of the Fantasia & Fugue in G Minor in the programme, Peter substituted J S Bach's Prelude & Fugue in C Major BWV 547. The lively Prelude is followed by the Fugue, with the long wait for the entry of the pedals being well worth the wait.

The finale of today's recital was provided by the young composer and organist David Bednall, who having previously held positions at Gloucester and Wells Cathedrals, now combines an extensive freelance career with the position of Sub Organist at Bristol Cathedral. His composition Toccata on Aberystwyth, a work published only this year, provided a suitably grand climax to today's recital.

TS

**Thomas Trotter Recital, Birmingham Town Hall,  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

Today's recital was in celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wagner's birth in 1813, and proved to be a popular programme, attracting an excellent turn-out. Thomas explained that he first was drawn to Wagner when he came across Lemare's transcription of The Mastersingers Overture in 1983, and sees his challenge today in playing Lemare's transcriptions for organ of Wagner's music as managing the stops so as to make the organ sound like an orchestra, as well as playing the number of notes involved!

Prelude to Act III of Lohengrin was Thomas's festive choice to open today's recital, with the majestic opening, leading to the quieter middle section, then finally the very familiar Bridal March.

The very descriptive Siegfried's Rhine Journey was followed by two excerpts from the opera Tannhäuser, with the beautiful Pilgrims' Chorus starting quietly, depicting the pilgrims in the distance rising to a great crescendo as they draw near and the fading away as they pass out of sight. Romance to the Evening Star followed, with the choice of registration imitating a harp.

The Ride of the Valkyries was one of Lemare's party-pieces and Thomas Trotter's playing of this work proved to be a real tour-de-force, and for me the highlight of today's recital.

The piece chosen for the finale was Overture to Rienzi. The slow introduction begins mysteriously with a single trumpet note, and this leads on to a soaring hymn-like theme (Rienzi's prayer); the prayer builds up to a majestic climax, and then erupts into an extended allegro movement. Dominated by ringing fanfares, the music maintains an exuberant, martial character throughout and fully exploited the qualities of both Thomas Trotter and the Town Hall organ. A breath-taking virtuoso performance and climax to today's recital! Incidentally, video clips of these last two works performed by Thomas Trotter can both be found on YouTube – well worth a look!

Unusually, we were treated to an encore today. In recognition of Lemare's contribution to today's music, Thomas performed one of the few well-known of Lemare's own compositions - predictably his Andantino in D-flat, but rather more commonly known as Moonlight and Roses. TS

**Anthony Hammond Presentation on the Life & Music  
of Pierre Cochereau, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

At this joint meeting with other local associations and the RSCM, Dr Anthony Hammond gave an illustrated talk about the legendary French organist, composer and renowned improviser Pierre Cochereau.

Equally renowned as an interpreter and improviser, Dr Anthony Hammond studied the organ in England with Roger Fisher and David Briggs, and in Paris with Dr. Naji Hakim. A graduate of the University of Bristol, he has held posts at Chester Cathedral and St. Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol, before spending a period as Sub-Organist at Bristol Cathedral. Today he is the Director of Music and Organist of Cirencester Parish Church, in the heart of the Cotswolds - one of England's grandest parish churches

and home to one of the country's finest organs. A Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and winner of the Dixon Prize for Improvisation, his passion for French organ music and improvisation led to doctoral research over a period of 7 years into the career and technique of legendary French organist and improviser Pierre Cochereau, for which he was awarded his Ph. D. in July 2010.



Dr Anthony Hammond

His CD recordings, mostly for the Priory label, are critically acclaimed both in Europe and in the U.S.A. Most of his concerts conclude with large-scale improvisations, and he enjoys bringing new audiences to the organ through his improvised accompaniments to classic silent films, in particular The Phantom of the Opera. He has broadcast for the B.B.C. and has given recitals in churches, cathedrals and concert halls throughout the U.K., in Europe and in the U.S.A.

Anthony Hammond first became 'hooked' on Pierre Cochereau when, at the age of 17, he purchased a tape at a Chester bookshop of Cochereau playing an improvisation at Notre Dame. In carrying out his research for his Ph. D., Anthony was able to gain great insight into Cochereau's life through having full assistance and support from the Cochereau family and former colleagues, as well as access to Cochereau's papers.

Pierre Cochereau was born in 1924 at Saint-Mande, near Paris, the son of a very successful shoemaker. Following violin and piano studies, he commenced organ lessons in 1938. He entered the Paris Conservatoire in 1943, and had 3 classes per week ostensibly with Dupré, but as he was often away on recital tours, Cochereau spent more time under Duruflé than Dupré. Following the death of Léonce de Saint-Martin in 1954, he was appointed titular organist at Notre Dame in 1955. He was responsible for work to rebuild the organ of the Notre Dame, in an attempt to make it suitable for playing a wide repertoire, not just the Romantic Repertoire, but the money ran out in 1972.

He recorded 80 albums and did 25 tours of the U.S.A. He also toured with a two manual pipe organ, which now forms part of a larger instrument located in Cannes. He performed at a Gala Concert in the Royal Albert Hall in 1982, together with Robin Richmond and Carlo Curley. He was Director of conservatoires in Le Mans, Nice and Lyon, but having been very ill in the latter part of his life, died of a brain haemorrhage in 1984, aged 59,

As part of his research, Anthony spent 200 hours doing his own reconstruction of a symphony improvised by Cochereau at St Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco in 1972, and in taking us through Cochereau's life, he interspersed

it with a performance for us of the 5 movements of this symphony. The score of this reconstruction was published by Dr. J. Butz Musikverlag in October 2009. In asking Pierre Cochereau's daughter if her father would have approved of his reconstruction, she commented that her father was so unpredictable that his response would have varied from one day to the next, but that he would have appreciated that his playing was sufficiently valued for someone to have taken the time and trouble to write it out!

In 2012, the University of Rochester Press published Anthony's new book on Pierre Cochereau, the first full length English language study of this incredible musician.

A most interesting and fascinating evening, presented by a very articulate and talented young man. TS

**Andrew Fletcher Recital, Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

Continuing the alphabet theme of this recital series, today was the turn of composers whose names being with P,Q,R and S, and having just returned from a holiday in the southern hemisphere, in looking at today's programme Andrew realised he ought to have returned to practise two weeks earlier!

Fantasia & Fugue in G by Parry provided a grand opening to today's recital, not to mention some fancy pedalling. The jaunty fugue followed, again with some lively pedalling, and a grand climax. A terrific and impressive piece.

Aria by Flor Peeters followed, and was originally not written for organ but was the slow movement of a trumpet sonata. A beautiful gentle piece.

Today's contribution from J S Bach took the form of Prelude & Fugue in F minor, followed by the short but beautiful Rosamund by Roger Quilter, the Sussex born composer known particularly for his songs. Rheinberger wrote a number of sonatas, which have become firm favourites, and the Introduction & Passacaglia from Sonata No 8 was the choice for today's recital, with the dramatic introduction being followed by a simple theme, then variations getting progressively more frenetic.

Next, Robert Schumann's relatively short but beautiful Canon in B Minor was described by Andrew as a tricky little piece. The finale of today's recital was Improvisation No 7, something of an anomaly to have an improvisation written down, but certainly providing a stirring climax to today's recital. TS

**Catherine Ennis Recital, Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

Catherine Ennis is Director of Music at the City of London church St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall. Formerly she was also Director of Music at St Marylebone Parish Church, London.

Born in London, she was smitten by the organ whilst at Christ's Hospital School, and became Organ Scholar at St Hugh's College, Oxford and later Assistant Organist of Christ Church Cathedral, in an era when such positions for women were scarce. Her subsequent career as recitalist and recording artist has taken her to many international

venues, and as a teacher she has been involved in three of the major conservatoires and St Giles Organ School. As an organ consultant she has helped create three major new London organs, including the Klais at St Lawrence Jewry. Amongst many appointments in her career, she is a past President of the IOA, and is President Elect of the RCO.



Catherine Ennis

In her introduction, Catherine commented that she had tried to include some pieces that hopefully Thomas Trotter will not have played for us, adding 'not easy at he plays everything!'

Playing without a page turner, her first piece was Gigout's very popular Grand Choeur Dialogue, providing a suitably lively opening to today's recital. In complete contrast, in Pachelbel's Variations on 'Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele', the chorale is followed by four short variations.

One of J S Bach's great works, Toccata & Fugue in F BWV 540, followed, with the challenging pedal solos and rhythmic momentum of the Toccata leading to the double fugue.

John Gardner is known for the bouncy little carol 'Tomorrow shall be my dancing day', but in fact his list of works extends to 249 opus numbers, created over a composing career of 70 years. He was a funny and erudite man, with a quirky sense of humour, and he in fact wrote his Sonata for Organ for Catherine Ennis when she was a very junior colleague of his at the Royal Academy of Music. The opening theme of the Sonata, which recurs throughout all three movements in various guises, consists of a rising scale in thirds, beginning and ending on the notes C – E, Catherine's initials.

Robert Schumann wrote three themes for his concert pianist, composer and wife Clara Schumann, who used them to write a set of three fugues for piano, afterwards adding short Preludes to accompany them. Organ transcriptions of these Three Preludes & Fugues, Op 16, were the next works performed by Catherine.

The final piece in today's recital was prefaced by Catherine with 'and now for something completely different'. Smetana's Bohemian Dances from The Bartered Bride were certainly that, with bells, whistles and cymbelstern, frenetic flying fingers and feet, and an 'all guns blazing' climax!

Lasting some 15 minutes longer than Thomas Trotter's normal programme, very definitely good value for money from this lively, charming lady, not to mention a very accomplished organist!  
TS

**Peter Morris Recital, Walsall Town Hall, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013**

On a cold winter's day, Peter Morris greeted us with 'Happy Spring!' for this eclectic programme of organ pieces.

The first two works were by composers from the same century but writing for very different organs, and therefore with very different styles. Buxtehude is a favourite composer of Peter's, and his Prelude & Fugue in F major needs 3 manuals and a comprehensive pedal division. By contrast, John Stanley's Voluntary No 2 Op 6 needs just 2 manuals and of course no pedal division, with Peter employing for the first adagio movement just one stop.

Romance Sans Paroles Op 92 by Lefébure-Wély proved to be a slow sweet piece, in total contrast to the usual fare from this composer. Peter heard this next piece, Scintillating Stars by John Howlett, played on this organ some 15 years ago. A short pleasant piece, typical of its 1940's era. Percy Fletcher is well-known for his Festival Toccata, but today's offering from this composer was Festal Offertorium, and with its bold fanfares very much recognisably from the same composer. A very nice lively piece, and one new to me.

Naji Hakim succeeded Olivier Messiaen in 1993 at the Église de la Sainte-Trinité, Paris, and in Peter's introduction of this next short piece based on an Easter hymn, Variations: O filli et filiae, he was quick to reassure us that 'it wasn't very Messiaen.'

A recent holiday to Spain was the catalyst for this final short piece with a long title, 'Sonata de primo tono para clave o para organ con trompeta real' by the Spanish organist and composer José Lidon. With no Spanish Trompeta Real to draw on, Peter made best use of the Walsall Town Hall organ's reeds to approximate as close as possible to the required strident timbre.

For the next recital on 18<sup>th</sup> April, Peter promised us 'Toccatas', and then following a recent agreement by Walsall Council to allow access to the Town Hall organ by Birmingham Conservatoire students, Henry Fairs will be bringing along some of his students to perform for the final recital of the 2012/13 series on 16<sup>th</sup> May.  
TS

**Thomas Trotter Recital, Birmingham Symphony Hall, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

This bitterly cold spring day didn't help swell today's attendance, but there was a commendable representation by our Association members.

With an eye to Easter this coming weekend, Thomas opened today's recital with Herbert Howell's Saraband for the Morning of Easter, a nice flourish for Easter Day. Having previously performed a recital here at Symphony Hall comprising all 6 of J S Bach Trio Sonatas, today it was just the one – Trio Sonata No 1 BWV 525, with its two

bright Allegros sandwiching an Adagio, and played with absolute assuredness and precision.

William Boyce began his career as a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral, and later became Composer and Organist of the chapel Royal and Master of the King's Musik. Thomas recalled that when he played works by William Boyce at St Paul's he was acutely aware that the composer's remains were buried in the crypt just two paces from the console on which he was performing! Two pieces by Boyce were featured, with firstly Voluntary in D comprising two movements Larghetto and then Vivace, the Trumpet alternating with the quieter Cor Anglais to produce an echo effect, enhanced by being located in chambers on opposite sides of the organ case. Secondly, Symphony No 1 followed, comprising two fast dance movements enclosing an expressive central movement.

Samuel Barber only wrote 3 pieces for organ, and Wondrous Love was an ideal choice to show off the orchestral stops of the Klais organ. The work comprises the hymn then 4 variations - a beautiful piece, very suitable for Lent.

The final 3 contrasting pieces had a common theme of 'In London Town'. Carillon de Westminster by Vierne, then the jolly Chelsea Fayre by a predecessor of Thomas Trotter's at St Margaret's, Westminster, Reginald Goss-Custard, and finally a new arrangement of Knightsbridge March, the piece that shot its composer Eric Coates to overnight fame, when the BBC used it as the signature tune for its radio programme 'In Town Tonight'. Deployment of the En Chamade Trumpet for this last piece ensured a suitably lively ending to today's varied recital.  
TS

**ORGAN THEMED EASTER PUZZLE**

We have an Organ Themed Easter puzzle to provide a bit of light relief for you, with which the children/grandchildren can join in over Easter. See the two attachments to this newsletter, one containing the puzzle, and the other related instructions for its completion. Find the hidden stops, and something often associated with Easter.

Members are invited to submit solutions to the Editor, and once again our compiler of the puzzle has generously donated not one, but three, £10 W H Smith gift voucher for the first three members to submit the correct solution.

**FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS**

**LDOA Members' Recitals/Events**

**Mervin Jones - Darlaston Town Hall**

Concert of popular theatre organ music on 2nd Thursday of every month, with Mervin Jones at the 3 manual Binns Organ, 1.30 to 3.30 pm.

Unfortunately, Mervin was hospitalised last November, which resulted in him not being able to perform at the Darlaston Town Hall Christmas concert, missing only his second concert in 16 years of monthly concerts. We, and no doubt his 140 'regulars' at these concerts, are very glad to hear that, although still not in the best of health, he has

recovered sufficiently to be able to perform once again at Darlaston.

#### Peter Morris - Walsall Town Hall

The 2012/13 recitals series by our Honorary Member and Walsall Borough Organist Peter Morris continues monthly (generally 3rd Thursday of the month). The next recital is on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

Peter is also performing lunchtime recitals at Coventry Cathedral on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, and at Lichfield Cathedral on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August.

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

Further free lunchtime organ recitals will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and a Festive Season recital on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December by our Treasurer and Shenstone resident organist Pat Neville at 12.45 pm to 1.30 pm. Bring your sandwiches – drinks will be available. Come and go as you please.

#### Martyn Rawles

In addition to the recital listed for Lichfield Cathedral, Martyn Rawles is giving an organ recital on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013, 12:30 – 1:10 pm, at Christchurch Priory, Dorset.

#### Cathy Lamb

In addition to the recital listed for Lichfield Cathedral, Cathy Lamb is giving the following organ recitals:

- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013, 7:30 pm St Alphage's, Burnt Oak, Middlesex
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013, 12:30 – 1:05 pm St Albans' Cathedral & Abbey, Hertfordshire
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013, 12:30 – 1:10 pm Christchurch Priory, Dorset

#### **Recitals In Local Area (to 30/06/2013)**

##### **April 2013**

Bank Holiday Monday 1 April 2013 • 3:30 • Southwell Minster  
Kevin Bowyer (Glasgow University Organist)

Thurs 4 April 2013 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham  
Laurence Caldecote (St Nicolas, Nuneaton)

Frid 5 April 2013 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Christopher Brown (Halifax Minster)

Frid 5 April 2013 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Emmanuel, Wylde Green  
Andrew Fletcher (University of Birmingham)

Sat 6 April 2013 • 12:00 • Malvern Priory  
Thomas Heywood (Melbourne Town Hall, Australia)

Sun 7 April 2013 • 2:30 • St Mary Magdalene, Albrighton  
Thomas Heywood (Melbourne Town Hall, Australia)

Sun 7 April 2013 • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley  
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Mon 8 April 2013 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall  
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Sat 13 April 2013 • 12:00 to 1.00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley  
Thomas Heywood (Melbourne Town Hall, Australia)

Thurs 18 April 2013 • 1:00 • Walsall Town Hall  
Peter Morris (Walsall Borough Organist)

Frid 19 April 2013 • 1:10 to 1:50 • Birmingham Cathedral  
Adrian Richards (King's Lynn Minster)

Sat 20 April 2013 • 12:00 to 12.45 • Stoke Minster  
Geoffrey Walker (Denstone College, Uttoxeter)

Sat 20 April 2013 • 1:30 to 2:30 • St Paul's, Birmingham  
Tim Harper (Birmingham Cathedral)

Sat 20 April 2013 • 2:00 to 4:30 • Wolverhampton Civic Hall  
Donald MacKenzie (Odeon Cinema, Leicester Square)

Sat 20 April 2013 • 7:30 • Belmont Abbey  
Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)

Sun 21 April 2013 • 6:55 to 7:35 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Richard Walker (St Chad's, Shrewsbury)

Mon 22 April 2013 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall  
David Baskeyfield (New York, USA)

Frid 26 April 2013 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Emmanuel, Wylde Green  
Andrew Fletcher (University of Birmingham)

Frid 26 April 2013 • 1:10 to 1:50 • Birmingham Cathedral  
George Castle (Winchester Cathedral)

Tues 30 April 2013 • 1:10 to 1:50 • Worcester Cathedral  
James Luxton (Worcester Cathedral)

##### **May 2013**

Thurs 2 May 2013 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham  
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Frid 3 May 2013 • 1:10 to 1:50 • Birmingham Cathedral  
David Dewar (St Andrew's Chippenham)

Sun 5 May 2013 • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley  
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Bank Holiday Monday 6 May 2013 (World Organ Day) • 4:00 to 5:00 • St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham  
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Bank Holiday Monday 6 May 2013 • 3:30 • Southwell Minster  
Paul Derrett (International Recitalist)

Thurs 9 May 2013 • 7:30 to 9:30 • Ellesmere College (The Great Hall)  
Jonathan Scott (Failsworth)

Sat 11 May 2013 • 12:00 to 1.00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley  
Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)

Mon 13 May 2013 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall  
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Mon 13 May 2013 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral  
Peter Morris (Walsall Town Hall)

Thurs 16 May 2013 • 1:00 • Walsall Town Hall  
Birmingham Conservatoire students

Sun 19 May 2013 • 6:55 to 7:35 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Jane Watts (Concert Organist)

Sat 25 May 2013 • 12:00 to 12.45 • Stoke Minster  
Jon Payne (St Thomas', Stourbridge)

Bank Holiday Monday 27 May 2013 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral  
Andrew Cantrill (Bures Saint Mary, Suffolk)

Bank Holiday Monday 27 May 2013 • 3:30 • Southwell Minster  
Paul Hale (Southwell Minster)

Wed 29 May 2013 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Shrewsbury Abbey  
Francis Murton (Wrekin College, Wellington)

Sat 31 May 2013 • 1:10 to 1:50 • Birmingham Cathedral  
Tim Harper (Birmingham Cathedral)

### **June 2013**

Sat 1 June 2013 • 12:00 • Malvern Priory  
Piers Maxim (Malvern Priory)

Sun 2 June 2013 • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley  
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Mon 3 June 2013 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
Thomas Trotter with Celia Craig (Oboe)

Thurs 6 June 2013 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham  
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Frid 7 June 2013 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Alex Woodrow (Bradford Cathedral)

Frid 7 June 2013 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Emmanuel, Wylde Green  
Andrew Fletcher (University of Birmingham)

Sat 8 June 2013 • 12:00 to 1.00 • Victoria Hall, Hanley  
Michael Rhodes (Victoria Hall, Hanley)

Sat 8 June 2013 • 12:15 to 1.00 • St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick  
Christopher Boodle (Stroud Parish Church)

Mon 10 June 2013 • 1:00 to 1:30 • Coventry Cathedral  
Tom Winpenny (St Albans Cathedral & Abbey)

Tues 11 June 2013 • 1:10 to 1:45 • Warwick Road United Reformed Church  
Thomas Allery (Magdalen College, Oxford)

Frid 14 June 2013 • 1:10 to 1:50 • Birmingham Cathedral  
Jonathan Stamp (Birmingham Cathedral)

Sat 15 June 2013 • 12:00 to 12.45 • Stoke Minster  
Lawrence Caldecote (St Nicolas, Nuneaton)

Sat 15 June 2013 • 12:00 to 1.00 • St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick  
Anthony Hammond (Cirencester Parish Church)

Sun 16 June 2013 • 6:55 to 7:35 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Francis Murton (Wrekin College, Wellington)

Wed 19 June 2013 • 7:30 • Southwell Minster  
John Kitchen (Edinburgh University Organist)

Sat 22 June 2013 • 12:15 to 1.00 • St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick  
Mark Swinton (St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick)

Wed 26 June 2013 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Shrewsbury Abbey  
Laurence Caldecote (St Nicolas, Nuneaton)

Frid 28 June 2013 • 1:10 to 1:50 • Birmingham Cathedral  
Henry Fairs (Birmingham University)

Sat 29 June 2013 • 12:15 to 1.00 • St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick  
Jonathan Lilley (Ely Cathedral)

For a complete listing of organ recitals in the UK and further details 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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**Editorial Note - next Newsletter is planned for June 2013, with deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 25/05/13, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7N**