



AGM 2008

**Saturday 12th January 2008 at 3pm
St Peter's Church, Antrim Road, Belfast**

**Hosted by our member Mr Stephen Hamill
Who will also give a short recital and presentation,**

“Would you like chips with that?!”

The organ has recently been digitally enhanced!

Directions Turn off the Westlink in Belfast at the Crumlin Road exit, following this road sign. At the first roundabout (Carlisle Circus) turn right onto Antrim Road. The Church is about a mile up this road on the right hand side.

The AGM will include nominations of officers and a presentation of the new Constitution of the Society (please see further details). Please do attend this important event in the life of the Society.

THANK YOU!

ULSTER SOCIETY OF ORGANISTS AND CHOIRMASTERS

President: James Little

CONSTITUTION

The last AGM considered a revised set of objects for the Society as the first part of an updating of the Society's constitution. Members present wanted a rather less radical revision than had been presented last year, but comments were made on a few emendations which would be appropriate. Account has been taken of these in the attached new constitution, which the Committee has agreed and recommends to the AGM.

If anyone needs a copy of the former version (the 1974 constitution), please contact the Secretary.

The 2008 St Peter's Saturday Mass series begins with **MELISMA** on Saturday 19th January 2008 at 7.30pm, when the setting will be Mass in E flat for unaccompanied double choir by Josef Rheinberger. The anthem will be Herbert Howells 'Long, long ago.'



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Estonian composer Arvo Pärt, will be attending the world premiere performances in Louth, Ireland in February 2008 of his new work based on St. Patrick's Breastplate.

Arvo Pärt one of the most original musical voices and spiritually-oriented of living composers, was commissioned by Eamonn Quinn, Artistic Director of Louth Contemporary Music Society (LCMS) to write a new piece of sacred music using the emotive text of St Patrick's Breastplate (Christ beside me, Christ within me..). The composer has named the composition The Deer's Cry.

World premiere performances will take place in St. Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda on 13 Feb. 2008 and St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dundalk on 14 Feb. 2008.

In keeping with Louth Contemporary Music Society's desire to commission new sacred music based on existing Irish texts, there will be further world premières each evening. The Latvian composer Georg Pelecis will set the poem I See His Blood upon the Rose by Joseph Mary Plunkett who is a descendent of the local saint, St Oliver Plunkett. Co. Down composer Deirdre McKay has set the last words of St. Oliver Plunkett Comendo Spiritum Meum. Rihard Dubra the Latvian composer will also premiere a new work.

The première performances are presented under the title Arvo Pärt's World Premiere: Baltic Voices in Ireland. The world premiere performances will be performed by one of the world's foremost choirs the State Choir Latvija, the largest professional choir in Latvia, conducted by Irish conductor Fergus Sheil.

Tickets are now on sale from:

www.centralticketbureau.com.

Telephone Bookings ROI: 0818 205 205; UK 0870 850 2896,

International :++ 353 1 4487777

The Central Ticket Bureau, Liberty Hall, 33 Eden Quay, Dublin 1

www.ticketmaster.ie and all Ticketmaster outlets

Drogheda Arts Office 00353 41 987 6165

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The Elgar Birthplace Museum is delighted to announce the release of an exciting new DVD and CD of Elgar's Organ Sonata Op. 28, with James Lancelot at the organ of Durham Cathedral.

Filmed by Durham Media Academy, the DVD takes us on an encyclopaedic journey through all aspects of the Sonata, Elgar and the organ, and includes:

- A complete recording of the Sonata, on both DVD and audio CD
- Archive from The Elgar Birthplace Museum, which helps to illustrate the real Elgar - the man behind the music
- A feature on Harrison & Harrison, builders and restorers of Durham Cathedral's Organ
- Virtual conversations between leading Elgar scholars, Dr Jeremy Dibble, Dr Relf Clark and organist James Lancelot
- A masterclass by James Lancelot, who takes us on an organist's eye view of Durham Cathedral Organ

The Elgar Birthplace Museum is the exclusive retailer of this DVD and CD package - you won't find it anywhere else. Order now from the secure shopping pages of our website:

<http://www.elgarfoundation.org/trolleyed/2/57/index.htm>

If you are involved with an organists' association, please let the other members know about this unique package.

Purchasing from our website helps the Elgar Birthplace Museum (Charity Registration Number 266849), as profits from sales go toward the running costs of the Museum.

‘A Meditation for the Feast of the Epiphany’ with Sciolto
(directed by Paul Berry) and Jonathan Geoghegan (organ).

7.00 pm, Sunday, 6th January 2008, St Finnian’s Church, Cregagh

A service of music and readings reflecting on Epiphany, including music
by Britten, Shaw, Lauridsen and Stopford.

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Parish of ST. BARTHOLOMEW

Stranmillis, Belfast

needs a
Organist/Director of Music

We seek someone who will

- encourage and develop our well-regarded choir
- support worship in a broad range of musical styles, from medieval to contemporary
- build on the enthusiasm and ability of young musicians in the parish



For more information, please contact:

Revd. Ron Elsdon, 16 Mount Pleasant, Belfast
BT9 5DS

e-mail: elsdon.rj@nireland.com
028 9066 9995

or: Dr. Aidan Thomson

e-mail: a.thomson@qub.ac.uk

0777 916 4440

Any items of interest or news, or church posts you wish to advertise, should be sent to me at music@belfastcathedral.org or Director of Music, Belfast Cathedral, Donegall Street, Belfast, BT1 2HB. Thank you. Philip Stopford, Hon.Sec. On this occasion I shall forward them on to the new Secretary, whoever that may be?! I hope you have enjoyed my bulletins!