



ULSTER SOCIETY OF ORGANISTS AND CHOIRMASTERS

President: Philip Stopford

NEWSLETTER ~ March 2008

~ MARCH EVENT ~

Saturday 1st March

3:00 p.m.

Ravenhill Presbyterian Church

“EASIER THAN IT SOUNDS!”

Peter Wright

Director of Music, Southwark Cathedral

presents

Approachable Organ Repertoire
for Sunday by Sunday use

The church is 0.5 miles (800m) up the Ravenhill Road from the city centre end on the left hand side, just 180m past the junction with Ormeau Embankment.

From the Rosetta Roundabout, it is 1.17 miles (1900m) towards the city centre on the Ravenhill Road on the right hand side.

It is best to turn down Ravenhill Avenue (on the country side of the church), off which there are numerous side streets where you can park.

Address for Satellite Navigation users is: *244 Ravenhill Road Belfast BT6 8EF*
and the church co-ordinates are *54° 35' 19.1" North* and *5° 54' 36.0" West*

HOW TO GET THERE



PETER WRIGHT

Peter Wright was born in Hertfordshire. He was educated at Highgate School and then spent two years at the Royal College of Music, studying with Richard Popplewell and Angus Morrison, and gaining various prizes and diplomas. In 1973, he went to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, as Organ Scholar, and during his time there he continued his organ studies with such luminaries as Dame Gillian Weir and with Flor Peeters in Belgium.

In November 1977, Peter was appointed Sub-Organist at Guildford Cathedral - a post that he held for twelve years.



In March 1989, he succeeded Harry Bramma as Organist and Director of Music at Southwark Cathedral. Under his direction the Choir has recorded three CDs, undertaken three tours to the USA and several to the continent, and broadcast regularly on radio and television. It sang at the Three Choirs Concert of the St. Alban's International Organ Festival in 2001. In August 2002, both the Cathedral Boys and Girls Choirs participated in a performance of Bach's St. Matthew Passion with Trevor Pinnock as part of The Proms season.

Peter is much in demand as an organ recitalist and choral conductor, both here and abroad, and enjoys a wide and varied repertoire. He has recorded the first CD of the restored Lewis organ at Southwark, which includes the complete published works of the French organist and composer Augustin Barié. He was principal conductor of the Guildford Chamber Choir from 1984 to 1994, and of the Surrey Festival Choir from 1987 to 2001. For several years he was conductor at the annual Edington Festival of Music within the Liturgy.

Peter has travelled widely in Europe and elsewhere as a conductor and recitalist, including Japan, South Africa, USA, Bermuda, Australia and New Zealand. During 2000 he performed the complete organ works of J. S. Bach as part of the series of Monday lunchtime recitals at Southwark and recently gave a recital in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris.

In April 2000, he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Guild of Church Musicians, in recognition of his work at Southwark. Between 1997 and 2002 he held the office of Honorary Secretary of the Royal College of Organists, afterwards becoming a Vice-President and retaining his role as Chief Examiner. He became President in 2005.

2008 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

APRIL, Saturday 12th



CHORAL FESTIVAL (Joint event with RSCM)

Conducted by Gordon Stewart, Kirklees Borough Organist
St. Anne's Cathedral, Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2HB
Rehearsal 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., and Festival Service 5:00 p.m.
RSCM Music booklet can be obtained from Philip Stopford.
In addition, at 7:30 p.m., Gordon will give an Organ Recital.

MAY, Saturday 3rd - Monday 5th



ANNUAL BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND TRIP

Staying in Chester, we will be visiting Blackburn Cathedral;
St. Anne's, Manchester; Preston Minster; St. John's Parish, Preston;
Chester Cathedral; St. Asaph Cathedral; Roger Fisher's home,
and of course both Liverpool Cathedrals as well as other venues.

JUNE

Date and details to be confirmed.

MEMBERS' RECITAL OR OUT OF TOWN MEETING

SEPTEMBER, Saturday 20th



CHORAL WORKSHOP conducted by John Rutter

USOC is honoured to be able to host this very famous
composer presenting what will be a full day event. We are
still finalising the details regarding the venue and exactly
what form the day is going to take ...

OCTOBER, Saturday 18th



USING THE INTERNET FOR MUSICAL RESOURCES

3:00 p.m. St. John's Malone, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 6SX
Donald Davison will show us what the internet can provide
in terms of free resources for church organists from both
the organ and choral viewpoints.

NOVEMBER, Saturday 15th



An event to celebrate the centenary of Olivier Messiaen's birth
(10th December, 1908)

This will be presented by Colm Carey in conjunction with
Belfast City Council.

Full details will be confirmed in due course.

SATURDAY 8TH MARCH**7:30 P.M.****TICKETS £8 (£5)****PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE, HIGH STREET, BELFAST****RENAISSANCE***and friends**directed by Ian Mills***HANDEL: DIXIT DOMINUS***and music for Passiontide***SUNDAY 9TH MARCH****5:00 P.M.****F.O.C.****CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, NEWINGTON AVENUE, BELFAST**

Choral Vespers sung by Cappella Caeciliana, conducted by Donal McCricken.
 Visit www.caeciliana.org for information about the choir.

WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH**7:30 P.M.****£15****CARLO CURLEY AT CAMPBELL COLLEGE, BELMONT ROAD, BELFAST**

The College is delighted to present the charismatic Carlo Curley, one of the world's foremost concert organists (www.carlo.com). The ticket price includes a wine and canapé reception. Tickets are available from the College on return of a booking form. Visit www.campbellcollege.co.uk to download a booking form, or telephone 028 9076 3076.

SATURDAY 29TH MARCH**7:30 P.M.****TICKETS £10 (£8)****TOWNSEND STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BELFAST**

To celebrate the 175th anniversary of Townsend Street Presbyterian Church, the Exon Singers will give a concert of excerpts from Handel's Messiah, with organist Jeffrey Makinson and conductor Matthew Owens. The choir will also take part in a festival service at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday 30th March.

The church is located between Peter's Hill and Divis Street, off the Westlink.

THE
Exon
 SINGERS

The Exon Singers is recognised as one of the UK's leading chamber choirs. Founded in 1966, this choir has become renowned for its dynamic and expressive performances of music from the Renaissance to the present day. It can often be heard on BBC Radio 3 and 4 and on several CDs,

which can be purchased on the choir's website, www.exonsingers.org.uk.

Under the direction of Matthew Owens, the choir has also received considerable recognition for the commissioning of new works from some of the today's most exciting composers - Richard Allain, David Briggs, Grayston Ives, Francis Jackson, Gabriel Jackson, George Lloyd and Howard Skempton.

WEDNESDAYS: 2ND APRIL, 23RD APRIL, 14TH MAY**7:30 P.M.****“BACH PLUS”**

Colm Carey, Belfast City Organist, along with several students from the Belfast School of Music, presents a series of three concerts with instrumental and organ music by J. S. Bach and his contemporaries.

“BACH +1” 2nd April St. Patrick’s Church, Donegall Street, Belfast

“BACH +2” 23rd April St. Martin’s Church, Newtownards Road, Belfast

“BACH +3” 14th May St. George’s Church, High Street, Belfast

WEDNESDAY 16TH - SATURDAY 19TH APRIL**ST. COMGALL’S PARISH CENTRE, BRUNSWICK ROAD, BANGOR****BANGOR INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL**

This highly successful Festival offers classes in Youth, Mixed, Ladies and Male Voice Choirs, Ladies and Mens' Barbershop, plus Madrigal, Sacred and Light Entertainment Sections. Further information is available from www.bicf.co.uk

SATURDAY 19TH APRIL**7:30 P.M.****TICKETS (AT THE DOOR) £10****THE ASSEMBLY HALL, UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER AT JORDANSTOWN**

The Abbey Singers' Spring Concert
conducted by Brian Agus

with Eugene O'Hagan (Tenor)

and Third Carrickfergus Silver Band, *conducted by Desmond Graham*

The programme will include Hiawatha's Wedding Feast (Samuel Coleridge-Taylor)

FRIDAY 20TH - SUNDAY 29TH JUNE**PIPEWORKS ORGAN FESTIVAL, DUBLIN**

From its beginnings in 1980 as the Dublin International Organ & Choral Festival, Pipeworks has brought to Irish audiences a diverse programme of music-making with the organ at its centre, fully exploiting not only the wonderful range of instruments to be found in Dublin but the splendid cathedrals, churches and concert halls which house them.

A feature of the triennial festival is the Dublin International Organ Competition in Christchurch Cathedral which attracts young virtuosi from all corners of the world. All the classes are open to the public, and the guest competition jurors this year are Thomas Trotter (UK), Hans Fagius (Sweden), David Higgs (USA), Margareta Hürholz (Germany), and Daniel Roth (France). Daniel Roth will also give a recital on Wednesday 25th June on the Father Willis organ in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dundalk.

**DANIEL ROTH**

Further information about the festival from www.pipeworksfestival.com

For all the Saints, who never rest at all...

Competition Corner

We spend a lot of our time playing or singing hymns, but how much do we actually take in? Idle moments leafing through hymn books might draw us to think about the names of the tunes. So I thought this month we would see just what has stuck in our minds and what has blown through. The answers are all the names of hymn tunes, and they are all to do with Saints, some of whom have days, and some not. The tunes are represented as a string of numbers separated by dots. Each number is the deviation from the STARTING NOTE (which is obviously zero) as a number of semitones. The rhythm is entirely up to you. As an easy example, the title of this competition might well have more than a loose connection to the numbers 0.-3.-5.-7.-12.-10.-7.-5.-12.-3 which equate to DBAGDEGADB which in turn is the tune "Sine Nomine". Note that it could also equate to CAGFCDFGCA or indeed GEDCGACDGE as we are only dealing in *relative* notes here, the *absolute* notes being irrelevant. The first two are done as further examples for you (please note these aren't saints, but the rest should be):

- 0 . 9 . 10 . 7 . 12 . 10 . 7 . 5 . 4 . 5 _____ CRIMOND
- 0 . 0 . 0 . 0 . 5 . 4 . 2 . 0 _____ PRAISE MY SOUL
- 0 . 5 . 7 . 4 . 0 . 5 . 7 . 9 _____
- 0 . -3 . 0 . 5 . 9 . 7 . 5 . 4 . 5 _____
- 0 . 5 . 4 . 2 . 0 . 0 . -2 . -3 _____
- 0 . -3 . 2 . 0 . 5 . 5 . 4 . 5 _____
- 0 . 2 . 4 . 5 . 7 . 5 . 7 . 4 . 2 . 0 _____
- 0 . 0 . -7 . -5 . 2 . 0 . -2 . -3 _____
- 0 . 4 . 0 . 7 . 4 . 2 . 0 . -1 . 0 _____
- 0 . 0 . 0 . 0 . 0 . 2 . 0 _____
- 0 . 7 . 7 . 9 . 11 . 12 . 12 _____
- 0 . 0 . 3 . 0 . -4 . -2 . 0 _____
- 0 . 5 . 5 . 3 . 0 . 3 . 8 . 12 . 10 . 8 . 8 . 7 _____
- 0 . 9 . 10 . 9 . 12 . 9 . 7 . 5 . 7 . 2 . 5 . 4 _____
- 0 . -4 . -2 . 0 . 3 . 1 . 0 . 0 . -2 . -4 _____
- 0 . 0 . 0 . -1 . -3 . -1 . 0 _____
- 0 . -2 . -3 . -3 . -5 . -7 _____
- 0 . 5 . 7 . 9 . 5 . 7 . 10 . 9 _____
- 0 . -3 . -7 . 2 . -1 . -5 _____

Fill in the Saints' names and send to the Secretariat by post, e-mail or phone. First correct entry out of the hat wins a bottle of wine kindly donated to us by "Father Arthur" McElderry, of the Wells Kennedy organ-building firm based in Lisburn. Can we have entries in by 20th March at the latest, please.

Answers to February's Competition

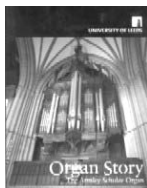
- PHILIP PROSSER built a new 2 manual 13 stop tracker in 1987 for the RIAM in Dublin
 - Bobby (*Greyfriars Kirk Edinburgh*), Paddington (*St Mary*), Allen (*infamous hybrid pipe-digital*), (*St*) George (*Walthamstow*) and (*St*) David (*'s Hall Cardiff*) were all organs built by PETER COLLINS
 - First Knotty Ash - Ken Dodd might say "How TICKELL ed I am"
 - The RIEGER in St Giles' Edinburgh is certainly loud and the woodwork of the case has quite a red tinge
 - DOBSON mounted the "Trompeta de los angeles" en-chamade in his new organ for the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles California -it can be seen at [\[www.dobsonorgan.com/html/instruments/op75_losangeles.html\]](http://www.dobsonorgan.com/html/instruments/op75_losangeles.html)
 - The 'Big Solo Reed' in the WALKER organ in Ampleforth Abbey is called Trompeta Argentea. The pipes are in a recess above the high altar, and there are unfounded rumours that the pipes are made of silver, allegedly...
 - Last newsletter - and this one - tells you that you can hear Daniel Roth playing the WILLIS organ in Dundalk Cathedral on Wednesday 25 June
 - MANDER exported 7 organs - including the rather spectacular III/54 for Urakami Cathedral, Nagasaki [\[www.mander-organs.com/portfolio/urakami-c.html\]](http://www.mander-organs.com/portfolio/urakami-c.html)
- The names fit in as shown above, and the organ stop is of course CLARINET. First prize goes to Alistair McCartney, and second prize to Dick Walker.

We would be glad to hear from any of you who might have a suggestion for a competition, from a nebulous idea to a fully worked out scheme. I'm sure many of you are competition/crossword/puzzle addicts. Come on down ...

Bill Gates gets in everywhere. The eagle-eyed amongst you may well have noticed the typo at the bottom of page 6 last month, where Belfast Cathedral moved to a place called Donegal Street. The spell checker that Microsoft so thoughtfully provides to stop us mere mortals looking like absolute tubes automatically removes the final "I" when it thinks you're not looking. Even the Microsoft guys in Redmond know where Donegal is, and exactly how to spell it. Except that this is Ireland complete with all its anomalies, and of course they don't really know at all. Don't forget this is the same company who pioneered the use of the "Are you sure?" dialogue box - which to me implies that they aren't sure themselves. Half way down page 5 we did manage to catch it on and quickly hit the "undo Auto Correction" key. We have promised each other a night out if we publish a "typo-less" newsletter, so we actually save money when you point out such things to us.

We also apologise for neglecting to include directions to St Martin's - a few of you did point out this omission, and we hope to remedy this from now on. It is so easy to assume that everyone knows where these places are ...

DVD RELEASE £16.00 Available from www.armley-schulze.freemove.co.uk/sales



The story of the restoration of the historic Schulze organ at St. Bartholomew's Church, Armley, where Graham Barber is organist. The first part traces the organ's history from its inception in 1869, and follows the process of rescue from terminal decline to glorious rebirth. The second part is a complete performance of Reubke's Sonata on the 94th Psalm, along with an introduction to the Sonata, together with a performance of Bach's Choral Prelude "In Dulci Jubilo."

MESSAGE FROM THE HON. TREASURER

Thank you to all members who have already paid their subscriptions, by whatever means, for 2008. However, I would be delighted to receive subscriptions from those members who have still to pay.

Members paying their subscriptions this year have again shown generous support for the Arthur Beggs Fund by making a supplementary donation. This Fund is now in a very healthy state and attracting interest payments such that we need to take care to avoid tax liability. Therefore I am asking that members refrain from making further donations for the time being, while steps are taken to promote the intended use of the Fund's resources. However, those members who have enhanced standing orders may leave them, as more expense would be involved amending them.

The current annual subscriptions are:

Northern Ireland & Republic of Ireland....	£20	Mainland Great Britain....	£10
International Overseas Member	£7	Full-time Student	£10

Do contact the Treasurer if you have any queries in this regard.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Thank you to those who amended their membership details so promptly. Any items for inclusion in the April Newsletter should be sent to the Hon. Secs. by the middle of March please. Contact details are below.

CONTACT

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HONORARY TREASURER:

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