



ULSTER SOCIETY OF ORGANISTS AND CHOIRMASTERS

President: Philip Stopford

NEWSLETTER ~ April 2008

~ APRIL EVENT ~

Saturday 12th April

CHORAL FESTIVAL

(Joint event with R.S.C.M.)

REHEARSAL2:00 ~ 4:00 p.m.

FESTIVAL SERVICE5:00 p.m.

conducted by

GORDON STEWART

Kirklees Borough Organist

**SAINT ANNE'S CATHEDRAL,
DONEGALL STREET, BELFAST BT1 2HB**

R.S.C.M. Music Booklets for this event can be obtained from
Philip Stopford at St. Anne's ~ Tel. 028 9032 8332

Organ Recital by Gordon Stewart in St. Anne's at 7:30 p.m.

The Cathedral is on Donegall St. (an extension of Clifton St.) about 0.4 miles (600m) from the Clifton St. exit of the Westlink (follow the signs for City Centre). From the A2/M3 Bangor direction, leave the new M3 bridge just after crossing the river, turn left into Nelson Street at the lights, right into Dunbar Link at next lights, left into York Street at next lights, and left into Donegall Street at the lights.



Address for Satellite Navigation users is: *Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2HB*
and the church co-ordinates are *54° 36' 09.0" North* and *5° 55' 45.0" West*

GORDON STEWART

Gordon Stewart is one of Britain's busiest organists. Throughout Europe and in America, South Africa and New Zealand, he has delighted audiences with programmes ranging from the earliest known organ music through the baroque to the virtuosic 19th and 20th century repertoire. He was born in Dundee and studied at the Royal Manchester College of Music and at the Geneva Conservatoire, gaining a performer's diploma with distinction from the former and a premier prix de virtuosité from the latter. His teachers included Gillian Weir, Lionel Rogg and Eric Chadwick.



A former organist of Blackburn and Manchester Cathedrals, he has been for 15 years organist of Huddersfield Town Hall (Kirklees Borough Organist) with its magnificent Father Willis organ.

In addition to organ playing, Gordon is one of the regular conductors on BBC's Songs of Praise and has worked on programmes throughout England and in South Africa and Athens. He spent three years as Musical Director of the Millennium Youth Choir. He is a past President of the IAO and has been awarded Fellowships of both the RSCM and the RCO.

The Royal School of Church Music is an educational charity committed to enabling the best use of music in worship, church life, and the wider community. It is an open, life-long



learning organization, offering direct and indirect education and training through its programmes, published resources, courses, and activities. With more than 8,500 affiliates, members and friends in over 40 countries it is an international network, encouraged by over 750 volunteers, and supported by a small staff based in the UK.

Founded by Sir Sydney Nicholson in 1927, its original emphases were English and choral music. Now, in a diverse international context, the RSCM's work is far broader and more diverse. It offers models of good practice, provides programmes and resources that can be adapted to local circumstances, and supports the work of local churches through its voluntary committees.

The RSCM affirms the continuation of the great tradition of choral church music in cathedrals, parish churches, chapels and schools, and seeks to enable each worshipping community to discover good music appropriate to its needs. It aims for high standards in all it does, from the simplest singing or playing in a small church or community to the most advanced choral activity.

For further information, contact the Co-ordinator for RSCM Ireland:
Peter Parshall (Email: pparshall@rscm.com or tel.: +353 (0) 1 671 2426)
www.rscmireland.org

2008 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

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, Saturday 14th



VISIT TO PORTADOWN

The district of Portadown is home to quite a few historically significant organs, and reliable sources indicate that our last visit here was in the fifties. The day will probably be similar in format to that which we enjoyed in Monaghan last year.

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. The Great Hall of Campbell College will be the venue for this landmark event. *SEE THE PRIORITY BOOKING FORM ON PAGES 9 & 10.*

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.

FRIDAY 11TH APRIL**7:30 P.M.**Admission by Programme **£10****PORTAFERRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MEETINGHOUSE STREET, PORTAFERRY****The Chapel Choir of the Royal Hospital Chelsea with The Alexander String Quartet**

This choir has built an enviable reputation as one of the finest liturgical choirs in London. Under the direction of Ian Curror, this reputation has been gained through a wide repertoire of music and high quality of singing and musicianship. The Alexander String Quartet was formed in 1988 by members of the Ulster Orchestra. It performs throughout the province and is one of the most experienced string quartets in Ireland.

Contact Ian McDonnell (028 xxxx xxxx) or visit www.friendsppc.org

SATURDAY 12TH APRIL**7:30 P.M.****FOC****ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, ST. PETER'S SQUARE SOUTH, BELFAST BT12 4BU****CHORAL MASS**

Saturday 12th April

Renaissance, directed by Ian Mills

with

Nigel McClintock (organ)

Service: Messe Solennelle by Langlais

SATURDAY 12TH APRIL**7:30 P.M.****£10****ST. ANNE'S CATHEDRAL, DONEGALL STREET, BELFAST BT1 2HB****ORGAN RECITAL**by **GORDON STEWART**

Kirklees Borough Organist

Tickets will be available at the door,
and include a complimentary wine reception.

**WEDNESDAY 16TH ~ SATURDAY 19TH APRIL****ST. COMGALL'S PARISH CENTRE, BRUNSWICK ROAD, BANGOR BT20 3DS****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)

SUNDAY 20TH APRIL

3:00 P.M.

FOC

PARISH OF SAINT MARY WITH HOLY REDEEMER, CRUMLIN ROAD, BELFAST



The Rector, Churchwardens and Select Vestry invite you to

**A SERVICE OF REDEDICATION
OF THE RECENTLY RESTORED ORGAN**

in Saint Mary's Parish Church
and to refreshments afterwards in the Parochial Hall

R.S.V.P. to XXX

WEDNESDAYS: 2ND APRIL, 23RD APRIL, 14TH MAY

7:00 P.M.

"BACH PLUS" Colm Carey, Belfast City Organist, along with students from the Belfast School of Music, presents a series of three concerts.

"It's easy to play any musical instrument: all you have to do is touch the right key at the right time and the instrument will play itself."

Johann Sebastian Bach



"BACH +1"

Wednesday 2nd April

St. Patrick's Church, Donegall Street, Belfast

"BACH +2"

Wednesday 23rd April

St. Martin's Church, Newtownards Road, Belfast

"BACH +3"

Wednesday 14th May

St. George's Church, High Street, Belfast

Admission is free. Suggested donation to church funds, as retiring collection: £2

What's on ...

FRIDAY 9TH MAY

7:45 P.M.

£ TBC

ST. FINNIAN'S PARISH CHURCH, CREGAGH, BELFAST

Renaissance, directed by Ian Mills

with

Richard Campbell (organ)

An evening of popular choral music

introduced by Rev. Canon Noel Battye

RENAISSANCE

SATURDAY 10TH MAY

7:30 P.M.

FOC

ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, ST. PETER'S SQUARE SOUTH, BELFAST BT12 4BU

CHORAL MASS

Saturday 10th May

St. Peter's Cathedral Schola

Schola is the newly formed boys' choir of the cathedral, directed by the cathedral's recently appointed Director of Music, Nigel McClintock.



FRIDAY 16TH MAY

7:30 P.M.

Minimum Donation £10

MARIE CURIE 60TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Fisherwick Church, Malone Road, Belfast



Charity Registration Number: 207994

Melisma, directed by Philip Stopford

Festival Brass, conducted by Alan Corry

and soloist **Elizabeth Ross & Guests**

The proceeds from this concert will help our member Neale Agnew to raise sponsorship for the Marie Curie 'Bike the Baltic' Cycle Challenge across Europe - which will raise £1m for Marie Curie Cancer Care services. The concert is in memory of Neale's mother, Marie, who died at the Marie Curie Hospice in 2007.

Tickets from: Matchetts Musical Instruments (9032 6695); Fisherwick Church Office (9066 6683); and Lesley Wright, Community Fundraiser (xxxx xxxx)

SUNDAY 15TH JUNE

3:30 P.M.

FOC

BANGOR ABBEY, NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, BANGOR, BT20 4BW

The Priory Singers will make their final appearance (under the direction of Harry Grindle) when they will sing Evensong in Bangor Abbey, accompanied by Phillip Elliott (organ). Bishop Edward Darling will be the preacher and the music will be largely by composers associated with the Abbey.

FRIDAY 20TH - SUNDAY 29TH JUNE

PIPEWORKS ORGAN FESTIVAL, DUBLIN



From its beginnings in 1980 as the Dublin International Organ & Choral Festival, the Pipeworks Festival has brought to audiences a diverse programme of music-making with the organ at its centre.

An important feature of the festival is the International Organ Competition in Christchurch Cathedral which attracts young virtuosi from all corners of the world.

The competition jurors this year are Thomas Trotter (UK), Hans Fagius (Sweden), David Higgs (USA), Margareta Hürholz (Germany), and Daniel Roth (France).

Further information about the festival from www.pipeworksfestival.com

By post: Pipeworks, St Catherine's Church, Thomas Street, Dublin 8

By 'phone: 00 353 8 5786 8860

WEDNESDAY 25TH JUNE

7:00 P.M.

£ TBC

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, DUNDALK, CO. LOUTH



Pipeworks juror Daniel Roth, organist of the famous Parisian church of St Sulpice, presents French symphonic masterworks on the superb Father Willis organ in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dundalk. This recital concludes a day of events in Dundalk featuring this magnificent instrument. Special travel arrangements by rail are available for Pipeworks friends and sponsors.

See Pipeworks listing above for contact information.

WEDNESDAY 25TH JULY

More details in future newsletters

ST. COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL, LONDONDERRY

David Briggs "Phantom of the Opera" Silent Movie Improvisation Concert

"EASIER THAN IT SOUNDS REVISITED" - March Event at Ravenhill Presbyterian

These are the pieces recommended by Peter Wright during this informative afternoon:

TWELVE PRELUDES ON GREGORIAN CHANT THEMES (Jeanne Demessieux) Alfred Publishing
Contains a piece for Palm Sunday "Hosanna Filio David" - set for CertRCO

TWO MASSES FOR ORGAN (Francois Couperin) Dover Publications
"Messe pour les Couvents," contains "Tierce en taille" - set for Grade 6
"Messe pour les Paroisses", contains "Offertoire sur les grands jeux"

A LITTLE ORGAN BOOK (in memory of Hubert Parry) Banks Music Publications
"Lento" (Bridge) - set for Grade 6

UNBEATEN TRACKS (ed. John Scott) - contemporary pieces for CertRCO and ARCO Faber Music
"Fanfare" (Watkins)

LE TOMBEAU DE TITELOUZE (Dupré) - pieces set for ABRSM grades Alphonse Leduc
"In dulci jubilo" & a piece for All Saints' - "Toccata on 'Placare Christe Servulus'"

CHORALE PRELUDES (Flor Peeters) Edition Peters

CHORALE PRELUDES (Buxtehude) Various Publishers

ORGELBÜCHLEIN (J.S. Bach) Various Publishers

A LEIGHTON ORGAN ALBUM Oxford University Press
"Fanfare"

A WILLIAM MATHIAS ORGAN ALBUM Oxford University Press
"Toccata Giocosa"

GRADED ANTHOLOGIES (Associated Board, ed. Anne Marsden-Thomas) Cramer Publishing

THE FABER EARLY ORGAN SERIES (ed. James Dalton) Faber Music

FESTIVAL FLOURISH Kevin Mayhew Publishing
"Pontifical Processional" (Stanley Vann) & "Deo Gratias" (Philip Moore)

Below are some publisher's details, but we recommend you try Musicroom first as it seems to stock most of the pieces listed.

Musicroom	Tel. 01284 725 725	www.musicroom.com
Faber Music	Tel: 01279 828 989	www.fabermusic.com
Kevin Mayhew Publishing	Tel. 01449 737 978	www.kevinmayhew.com
Alfred Publishing UK Ltd.	Tel. 01279 828 960	www.alfred.com
Sheet Music Plus	USA based	www.sheetmusicplus.com
Oxford University Press	Tel. 01865 556 767	www.oup.co.uk/music
Edition Peters	Tel. 020 7553 4000	www.editionpeters.com
St. George's Music Shop	Tel. 01603 626 414	www.stgeorgesmusic.co.uk

SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2008

10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



ALL DAY CHORAL WORKSHOP

conducted by John Rutter



IN THE GREAT HALL OF CAMPBELL COLLEGE

BELMONT ROAD BELFAST BT4 2ND

USOC is honoured to host this very famous composer presenting one of his legendary “Come and Sing” days.

The event is initially only open to Members of USOC and members of their choirs. There will be a nominal charge of £5.00 for any non-members attending.

More Information and >>
Booking Form Overleaf >>





WITH JOHN RUTTER

SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2008

CAMPBELL COLLEGE GREAT HALL

10:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

It is important that this is filled in and sent before 30th April.

Although there is no charge for members, we have to make this a ticket only event, in order that it is neither over-subscribed, nor indeed under-subscribed. Obviously there will be other members of the public who would like to attend, but we feel that we have to serve our membership first and foremost, therefore we are offering tickets to members first. These are of course free to members, and in order to maximise the benefit to our members, we are also taking bookings for members of their choirs as well - although these additional non-members will have to pay £5.00 each to defray expenses. Please also note that we require you to enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

***John Rutter insists that there are NO SPECTATORS,
all those attending must be SINGING PARTICIPANTS.***

I would like ____ free tickets for myself and _____
(This person must be a member)

I would also like _____ tickets at £5.00 for the members of the choir of _____ Church.

I enclose a cheque made payable to USOC for the correct amount. ☐

I also enclose a stamped addressed envelope ☐

Total number of: *Soprano* ____ *Alto* ____ *Tenor* ____ *Bass* ____

Please note that demand for tickets for this event is likely to be high, so we have to be very strict about the closing date for priority applications, inclusion of SAE, a cheque for the correct amount, signed, dated etc.

After the closing date, the public in general will be invited to apply for tickets on a strictly first come first served basis.

Name _____

Send this completed form to our Treasurer : Mr Philip Walden

X

X

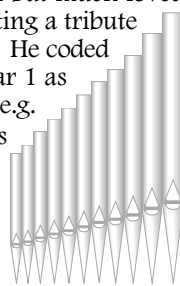
X

X

This form must arrive before 30 April



This month's brainteaser concerns that not too well known but much loved trivial composer, I. M. A. Nobody, who was thinking of writing a tribute Prelude and Fugue to one of his favourite church composers. He coded their surnames using the standard convention, shown in bar 1 as the well known musical equivalent of BACH (used by many e.g. Liszt and Reger) and of course bar 2 shows Duruflé's famous cipher of ALAIN's name which is simply an extension of the BACH representation, where the A B C D E F G H "real note sequence" is simply repeated to cover the entire alphabet. Each bar represents one composer's surname, but the poor guy must have had no inspiration at all. The competition is to work out the ten composers' surnames represented by bars 3 - 12 below. This month's prize will be donated by Alistair McCartney, who runs POPCo, the Pipe Organ Preservation Company, as well as the USOC website.



Entries to be with the Secretariat by the end of the May trip at the latest ...

Last month's winner was *Lois Benyon*, who correctly named the saints as:

05740579 Magnus	0-30597545 Matthew	054200-2-3 Peter
0-3205545 Anne	0245757420 Columba	00-7-520-2-3 Fulbert
0407420-10 Botolph	0000020 Gertrude	0779111212 Theodulph
0030-4-20 George's (Windsor)	05530381210887 Patrick's	(Breastplate)
09109129757254 Clement	0-4-203100-2-4 Agnes	000-1-3-10 Bees
0-2-3-3-5-7 Cecilia	057957109 James	0-3-72-1-5 Denio

Congratulations to all those who took the time to send in their solution (many more than for the first one), and indeed nearly all of them were correct. And remember, you can send it in by post, phone, text, email or whatever means... Lois - David McElderry from Wells Kennedy will be in touch with you soon ...



AUDIO ARCHIVE

Alistair McCartney is compiling an audio archive of organs past and present in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

So far he has collected several hundred hours of material ranging from the 1950s to the present day. This represents just under one hundred organs and includes instruments which have long since disappeared. These not only consist of solo performances but also include the organ in the context of choir accompaniment and broadcast services.

Aside from private recordings, details of over sixty published recordings on LP, Cassette and CD can be seen at

www.organ.dnet.co.uk/niorgan/recordings.html

Members are encouraged to look at this list and advise of any omissions or errors. Pipe organs specifically are the intention, and the quality of performance or recording is not considered. If any member has recordings, in any format, including reel to reel, and thinks they would be relevant to the archive, please contact Alistair at *al at dnet dot co dot uk*

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

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

CONTACT

HONORARY SECRETARIES:

Stephen & Carolyn Hamill

X

X

X

[usoc \[at\] phoenix-organs \[dot\] co \[dot\] uk](mailto:usoc[at]phoenix-organs[dot]co[dot]uk)

HONORARY TREASURER:

Philip Walden

X

X

[philip \[dot\] walden \[at\] btinternet \[dot\] com](mailto:philip[dot]walden[at]btinternet[dot]com)

