



**Chester & North-East Wales
Organists' & Choirmasters' Association**
Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists
www.cnewoca.org.uk

Newsletter – December 2021

Thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership of the Association. This is very encouraging.

We wish all our members, their families and friends, a very happy and blessed Christmas and a good and healthy 2022.

Programme January 2022 – July 2022

Details of the programme for the second part of the season are given below. We do hope that many of you will be able to join us at these events. With the present increase in the number of Covid-19 infections (due to the Omicron variant of the virus), we shall be carefully following the advice issued by both the UK and Welsh governments as it impacts on our meetings. We shall post any changes to the programme dates and times on the website and in future editions of the newsletter.

Saturday 22nd January 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Quiz and social time together.

Our Lady of the Rosary, Buckley CH7 2AF

Come along and relax and join our quiz. It will help that long month of January pass more quickly.



Saturday 26th February 2:00pm-4:00pm
Christ Church Higher Bebington,
Kings Road, Bebington, Wirral, CH63 8LX



The fine three manual and pedal organ built by Rushworth and Dreaper has recently been rebuilt with two consoles by David Wells Organ Builders. Come along to hear about the work carried out and see, hear and play this instrument.

NPOR reference: <https://www.npor.org.uk/NPORView.html?RI=N08536>

Monday March 21st 7:30pm – 9:00pm
St. John the Baptist,
Vicar's Lane, Little St. John Street, Chester, CH1 1SN

This 1838 William Hill organ was built as a temporary instrument for the coronation of Queen Victoria in Westminster Abbey 1838; It was built during the brief partnership of Hill and Davison and it was reported in the Musical World (vol. 10, 44) that Frederick Davison had 'designed and executed' the organ; It was afterwards returned to Hill's workshops and rebuilt for this church. It was transported to Chester by barge and placed in a gallery at the west end. Henry Gauntlett gave the first recital after the dedication (as he could play the pedals!). Over its lifetime the 28 stop instrument has been moved from the gallery to the south transept and to the north transept.

Come and see, hear and play this historic instrument in Chester's original cathedral.

NPOR reference: <https://www.npor.org.uk/NPORView.html?RI=N04296>



April meeting – details will follow when they are available.

**Monday 16th May following Evensong (5:30pm)
Chester Cathedral,
Chester, CH1 2HU**

After Evensong, we shall be able to hear the organ played by some of the Cathedral's musicians and learn about the instrument and their work at the Cathedral. There may well be an opportunity for members to play the organ themselves.

NPOR reference:

<https://www.npor.org.uk/NPORView.html?RI=K00226>



Saturday June 18th 2:00pm-4:00pm

St Mary's Eastham

Stanley Lane, Eastham, Birkenhead, Wirral CH62 0AG

An opportunity to see inside this lovely church with parts dating from the 12th century and to hear and play the Jardine organ.



NPOR reference: <https://www.npor.org.uk/NPORView.html?RI=N08448>

July 2022

Our Annual General Meeting and a presentation on “New Music for Sunday Worship”. *More information will follow shortly.*

Another Touring Organ



Unlikely as it may seem, Pierre Cochereau, the famous organist of Notre Dame Paris, once used a small touring organ. He appears to have only used it once, in July and August of 1969, when he toured small seaside resorts and spas in France.

The organ was built in 1962 by Philippe Hartmann, a builder that I have not come across before. It had two manuals and pedal and contained 12 stops. It weighed about 700 kilos and was contained in what looked like an enlarged two-wheeled horsebox, and unbelievably was towed by a

Mercedes 280SL coupe. The car eventually met an untimely end as it suffered with clutch and suspension problems.

The organ was all of a piece and the trailer also contained rails and jacks to move it into the various buildings. It is recorded that there were a number of problems in moving the instrument in and out of the various small churches. At one church a stone had to be removed from an arch to get it in and in another where they were met with a flight of steep steps; here the army, assisted by a large winch, was called in to help.



Fortunately, a two CD set of the instrument exists; the recordings were made at 12 of the sites visited. (I have a copy of the CDs but I don't think it is available now.) All twelve tracks are of improvisations in typical Cochereau style, although the small organ with hardly any reverberation results in a sound unlike any other Cochereau recording.

One of the evening concerts happened to be the day that the moon landing took place, this was announced in the church and Cochereau improvised in "Au clair de la lune".

Because of the difficulties encountered on the tour it was never repeated and the CD notes do not indicate what happened to the organ afterwards.

Jim Treloar

Postscript

A "Mobile" organ (2 ranks) was built by Manders for Rick Wakeman and apparently he still has the instrument. (Rick Wakeman is best known for being in the progressive rock band Yes across five tenures between 1971 and 2004 and for his solo albums released in the 1970s).



Other “Touring” organs (from the Mander-Organs forum (by Niccolo))

You might find following these links interesting!

- Link Unit Organ – Charles Sharpe Minor 1885 – 1957
<http://www.theatreorgans.com/btoc/history.htm>
- Touring Organ by Harrison & Harrison – George Thomas Pattman 1875 – 1961
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Pattman
- Moller Opus 6690 – Reginald Foort 1893 – 1980
<http://theatreorgans.com/travellingmoller/index.htm>
<https://pipeorgandatabase.org/organ/33188>
- Organo Portativo – Giorgio Questa 1929 – 2010
https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giorgio_Questa
- Open air konzert Orgel – Hoffmann & Schindler Organ Builders
<https://orgelbau-hoffmann.de/open-air-konzert-orgel-mieten/>
- Mobile Orgue – Plaisance du Gers Organ Builders
<http://birouste.free.fr/Mobilorgue/description/descr.html>
- The Flavour Conductor – Mander Organs
<https://mander-organs.com/the-flavour-conductor/>
- Orgue du Voyage – Jean Baptiste Monnot 1984 –
<https://www.jeanbaptistemonnot.com/lorgue-du-voyage/>
- Orgue Modulaire
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/orguesrivegauche35/posts/>
- Orgue Gulliver
<https://www.facebook.com/LOrgue-Gulliver-102266285286708/>

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Chester Cathedral Lunchtime Organ Recitals

Thursday 23 December 1:10pm Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)

A Christmas Rhapsody David Sanger (1947-2010)
Song of the Nuns of Chester (A Medieval Christmas) Alan Gibbs (b 1932)
The Holly and the Ivy Herbert Sumsion (1889-1995)
Vom Himmel hoch da komm' ich her (BWV 769) (Canonic Variations)
J S Bach (1685-1750)
Noël Noël Henri Mulet (1878-1967)
Vom Himmel hoch Garth Edmundson (1892-1971)

Thursday 30 December 1:10pm John Hosking (Runcorn)

Variations sur In dulci jubilo Denis Bédard (b. 1950)
Andante sostenuto (Symphonie Gothique) Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)
Christmas Fantasy Johan Wentink (b. 1970)
Variations sur un Noël Bourguignon André Fleury (1903-95)
Wie schön leuchtet der Morganstern (BWV 739) J S Bach (1685 - 1750)
Toccatà sur Il est né, le divin Enfant Denis Bédard (b. 1950)

January 2022 Recitals

Thursday 6 - Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
Thursday 13 - Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
Thursday 20 - Stewart Smith (Malpas)
Thursday 27 - Anthony Gritten (London)

MUSIC at WESLEY

December 2021 to January 2022

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

WESLEY CHURCH CENTRE, ST JOHN STREET, CHESTER

12.45 – 1.35 pm

TUESDAYS

Dec 14 th	: THE FORUM PIANO TRIO
Dec 21 st	: WILLIAM BRACKEN (Piano)
Jan 4 th	: ELIAS ACKERLEY (Piano)
Jan 11 th	: CHETHAM'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC PIANISTS
Jan 18 th	: ALISON LORAM (Violin), CHRIS SYMONS (Piano)
Jan 25 th	: JILL CROSSLAND (Piano)

SATURDAYS

Dec 18th : CHRISTMAS MUSIC by CLAIRE, JEREMY & BRIAN HEALD

Retiring Collection

The Wesley
Church Centre



Messiaen - La Nativité du Seigneur

At this time of year, it is wonderful to listen to Olivier Messiaen's set of nine meditations on the birth of Christ. There is a fine YouTube performance by Richard McVeigh played on the organ at York Minster; the recording was made in 2008, before the recently completed rebuild of the organ. The video includes the score of the meditations which are shown alongside Richard's great performance. Give it a try even if you are not a great fan of Messiaen's music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQhswO78VDo>



Thursday 13 January 2022 7:30pm Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Pipe Dreams

Eugene Gigout *Grand Choeur Dialogue for organ and orchestra*

Poulenc *Organ Concerto*

Lili Boulanger *D'un matin de printemps*

Lutosławski *Little Suite*

Shostakovich *Symphony No.9*

Marta Gardolińska *conductor* **Ian Tracey** *organ*

At the end of World War II, the Soviet authorities expected composers to write bombastic victory symphonies. What they didn't expect was Shostakovich's Ninth: 30



minutes of melody, irreverence and pitch-black satire. Still, with the dynamic young Polish conductor Marta Gardolińska on the podium, nothing is predictable. A haunting nocturne from neglected French genius Lili Boulanger? A flurry of (very Polish) fireworks from Witold Lutosławski? Or Ian Tracey, putting the newly refurbished Liverpool Philharmonic Hall organ through its paces in Poulenc's glittering concerto for organ, strings and timpani?

Warning: it gets loud.

This performance features the newly refurbished Rushworth and Dreaper Organ. The refurbishment of this magnificent instrument took place over 2020/21, with the support of the Rushworth Foundation and was carried out here in Liverpool by Henry Willis & Sons Ltd. All of the organ workings are hidden behind grilles on either side of the stage. More than 120,000 yards of insulated copper wire were used to connect the console with various sections of the organ. There are more than 17,000 switches and contacts in the organ, along with 2,847 electric magnets.

More details and bookings at

<https://www.liverpoolphil.com/whats-on/classical-music/pipe-dreams/4049>