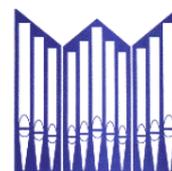


Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

Newsletter – January 2020

Online at www.cnewoca.org.uk

Facebook - www.facebook.com/groups/CNEWOCA

This month: Masterclass with Graham Eccles

On the afternoon of **Saturday 25th January, starting at 1:30pm**, we are very fortunate that **Graham Eccles** (formerly in charge of music at Chester, St Asaph and Bangor Cathedrals) has very kindly agreed to host a Masterclass at **Christ Church, Newtown, Chester CH1 3JD** (about five minutes walk from the railway station).

If you would like to play a piece of up to 5 minutes long, Graham is offering to give guidance on how you might be able to improve your performance. If you want help with hymns or accompaniment on the organ, Graham is happy to help with that too. Surely the chance to play such a high-quality organ with expert guidance is sufficient to attract a good number of you to take part and for others to come along to listen. ***If you would like to take part, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can allocate you a space.***

John Evans

Email: angiejohnevans@uwclub.net or
07939 645688



The organ in Christ Church is a fine example of the work of Brindley & Foster (Sheffield) and details may be found at <https://www.npor.org.uk/NPORView.html?RI=N04295>

Next Month: St Peter's Rock Ferry

We are to visit St Peter's Rock Ferry on **Monday 24th February starting at 7:30pm**. The organ, by Nicholson & Lord (Walsall), was transferred to St Peter's in the 1950s to replace the Willis organ which was damaged by WW2 bombing. The specification of the three manual and pedal organ may be found at <https://www.npor.org.uk/NPORView.html?RI=N04407>

Two organists will demonstrate the instrument for us. Chris Whitfield will play in classical/church style and David Nichols will entertain us in the theatre/cinema style. The organ will then be available for members to try out in *their* style! This should be a very enjoyable evening. The post code for the church is **CH42 1PY**.

Your Association

As we start the New Year, and with the additional workload of the Advent and Christmas seasons behind us, can we take some time to think about our involvement in CNEWOCA?

- Can I come to more of the meetings?
- Can I offer to help run a meeting or host at meeting at my church?
- Can I write a short article for the newsletter?
- What do I want the Association to provide for me?

Your committee would love to hear your views on these and any other matters. Please send you comments and suggestions to Katriona, our General Secretary. Contact details are included in this newsletter.

Rachel Laurin (part II)

Jim Treloar writes:

In the October 2018 Newsletter I wrote about the Canadian composer Rachel Laurin (pronounced Rash-elle, since she is French Canadian), and how I found out about her music after Rachel Mahon played some works by her at Chester Cathedral before she left. Since then I

have corresponded with her on a number of occasions, mainly informing her when her works have been performed here. In that original note I mentioned that Thomas Trotter was due to play her Etude Héroïque at Birmingham Town Hall in November and a group of us went to Birmingham for that recital. The performance was so well received that he repeated it during a recital in February, and again a group of us went to Birmingham for that.

Rachel informed me that Thomas Trotter had commissioned her to compose a piece for his 800th recital as Birmingham City Organist in February 2020, and in fact she completed it at the end of October; it is a set of ten variations on the theme of Sweelinck's Ballo del Granduca, and I understand that it will test Mr. Trotter's virtuosity to the full. The date of this recital is February 10th, I shall be going and I would recommend that, should any members be free, they also attend; it will be quite an occasion.



Rachel Laurin

Rachel Mahon continues to play her works and earlier this year a few of us went to Coventry Cathedral when she played the complete Symphony, which I had got to enjoy following the CD by Isabelle Demers which I mentioned in the last note. We also made a trip to Halifax Minster when Rachel played the Toccata from the Symphony, and more recently, to Birmingham Cathedral when she played the Symphony's Scherzo. Earlier this year Rachel recorded a CD at Coventry Cathedral of Canadian music for the Delphian label which will include the

complete Symphony and she expects it to be released in February. Also in February, she will be playing the Symphony at St Chad's RC Cathedral in Birmingham, obviously to coincide with the release of the CD.

We travel by rail from Chester to Birmingham and the timing of the trains fit very conveniently with the recital times. Using off-peak tickets, and rail cards where appropriate, means that our journeys are quite inexpensive. Please contact me if you are interested in joining us for future concert trips.

Rachel Laurin's web site may be found at <https://www.rachellaurin.com/home>

Organ Recital at Grand Lodge, London

Robin Newby reports:

On Wednesday 13th November I made my way to the Grand Lodge of England, the Freemasons' Hall, just off Dury Lane, for an organ concert on the Grand organ. This was one of their biannual organ concerts which are given by world-class recitalists.

The organ was built by Henry Willis & Sons in 1933, with the original pipework divided in two chambers on either side of the auditorium. The work by Harrison and Harrison in 2014-15 included restoration of the Pitman chests and electro-pneumatic actions and, to give the organ greater projection into the auditorium, the Grand Organ Chorus and Tuba were added within a third case, placed centrally and designed to match the original pair. (For details see <http://www.harrisonorgans.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/London-Grand-Temple-Freemasons-Hall-1.pdf>)

Whilst waiting for the recitalist, a set of



gold painted ladders had been placed for the organ tuners to access the Central Grand Organ to touch-up the tuning as the temperature and humidity had changed dramatically

since the tuning on Monday (so we were told).

The audience included a number of leading persons from the organ world, a number of eminent people, and representatives of the RCO, who sponsored the concert. We had all gathered to see and hear the Grand Organ played by the recitalist, **Simon Gledhill**. Simon played, without music, for around two hours in the 'theatre style'. His most enjoyable programme consisted of mainly works by London based composers

and organists and included The Boulevardier (Hayden Woods), Serenade for my Lady (Reginald King), Rotten Row (Walter (Wally) Stott)) and Edward Elgar's 1899 'perfect little aubade' Chanson de Matin.

Newsletter contributions

You are invited to send your contributions or details of concerts and recitals for listing for the February *Newsletter* by January 27th. Please send them by email or post to the General Secretary, Katriona Moulton.

A Legend Reborn: The Voice of King's

As delivery of the DVD boxed sets for the **English Organ** project are being made, Fugue State Films are inviting people to pre-buy the DVDs of their next project (and so support the production costs), **A Legend Reborn: The Voice of King's**. This is a documentary made during the recent major rebuilding of the organ by Harrison and Harrison and includes filmed performances by at least seven of the present and former organ scholars. There is a trailer available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiQ6aniDqoY&feature=youtu.be>

Take a look and judge for yourself if this is for you. You can contact Fugue State Films at <https://fuguestatefilms.co.uk/>

CNEWOCA Officers

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Membership Secretary: Mike Edwards
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What's on?

Organ Recitals Nationwide
Details at www.organrecitals.com

St George's Hall, Liverpool

Tue Jan 14th 12:45 – 1:30pm
Ian Tracey - Liverpool Cathedral
Tue Feb 4th 12:45 – 1:30pm
Ian Tracey - Liverpool Cathedral
Admission £5.50

Liverpool Blue Coat School

Wed Jan 29th 7:30pm
Opening recital on the refurbished Father Willis Organ
Ian Tracey - Liverpool Cathedral
Contact: office@bluecoatschool.org.uk
0151 733 1407

Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm

January

2nd John Hosking - Runcorn
9th Alexander Palotai (Chester Cathedral)
16th Lee Ward (Liverpool Cathedral)
23rd Andrew Wyatt (Chester Cathedral)
30th Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)

February

6th Benjamin Newlove
(St Michael's Cornhill)
13th Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
20th Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
27th Daniel Clark (Berlin, Germany)
Admission £5.45, Concessions £4.50

Shrewsbury, The Buttermarket

Sun 19th Jan 2:30pm Phil Kelsall
(Blackpool Tower Ballroom) –
Sun 16th Feb 2:30pm Len Rawle
(Chorley Wood)
Admission £7

Shrewsbury Abbey

Sat 1st Feb Noon Catherine Ennis
(St Lawrence Jewry)
Sat 7th March 12:40pm Thomas Trotter
(Birmingham City Organist)
Free. Retiring Collection

St Chad's Shrewsbury

Fri 21st Feb 12:40pm Richard Walker
(St Chad's Shrewsbury)
Free. Retiring Collection

Blackburn Cathedral

Wednesdays 1:00pm – 1:40pm
January
15th Simon Hogan (Chelmsford)
22nd Christopher Jones
(Blackburn Cathedral)
February
5th Gordon Stewart
(Kirklees Borough Organist)
12th David Goodenough
(Fettes College, Edinburgh)
Admission free; suggested donation £4

Music at Wesley

Wesley Church Centre, St. John Street, Chester
Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts
7th Jan Elias Ackerley (Piano)
14th Jan Chetham's School of Music
Pianists
21st Jan Catherine Landen (Violin),
Leanne Cody (Piano)
28th Jan Sylvie Reverdy (Cello),
Chris Symons (Piano)
4th Feb Chetham's School of Music
Instrumentalists
11th Feb Matthew Lau (Piano)
Admission free. Retiring Collection