

Derby & District Organists' Association

Registered Charity No. 510567

Newsletter



A German Giant in Montréal - David Johnson

A working holiday in Montréal, a few years ago, gave me a chance to play several instruments, and the details of one may be of interest. After a phone call to M. Philippe Bélanger, the Organist of the Oratory of St Joseph, (RC) I was invited to sit in the loft for his 3.30 pm (usually improvised) recital (a weekly event), and then to "have a go" whilst he played for another mass in the crypt chapel. (His duties include playing for four services each day, and seven on Sundays, with extras on holy days.) He had recently won an international improvisation competition, and the year before that, the Royal Canadian College of Organists performance competition. When I met the thirty-two year-old, he asked if I wanted the bad news or the good news. I opted for both, in the order offered: Bad: the oratory had been hired out to the Italians for a mass at 3.30, and therefore his recital was cancelled; Good: that as soon as they had finished, the instrument was mine. I asked if my playing would interrupt the mass downstairs; he informed me that the crypt was seven floors below, and so, no. (This church is the only one I know with a permanently staffed

medical room, and public lifts and escalators between several of the floors – it's like doing religion in a 'Marks and Sparks'.)

The organ, built in 1960, was a five-manual 78 stop mechanical by Beckerath of Hamburg. 60 ft wide and weighing 42 tons, it took two years to build and seven months to install in the 120 ft wide west gallery. The instrument stands proud of the back wall by some ten feet and the main case houses five of the six divisions; the Positif is 10ft behind the organist, on the gallery edge. The two pedal towers (which have the 32 ft Montre on their fronts), flank the main structure which has, from the top of the console upwards: firstly the Echo; above that the Bombarde with 16', 8' 4' Spanish trumpets, en chamade, acting like an umbrella; above that the Grande; then the Récit, the top of its box standing 60ft above the gallery floor.

Personal impressions

Since the manuals are not as overhung as ours, I found it very uncomfortable to play the top manual because of the stretch, even though the keys had been altered to

DDOA Events 2017

13th February (Monday) 7.30pm

Mike Sole -Instrumentalist, Composer & Improvisor. Darley Abbey (see page 4)

Planned future meetings

Educational event in Matlock
Visit to organs in Doncaster Minster and Selby Abbey.
Annual Dinner
Manuals only seminar

AGM Elections

The following were elected at the recent AGM:

Officers:

Chairman:	John Maxwell-Jones
Vice Chairman:	Margaret Eades
Secretary:	Andrew Storer
Treasurer:	Chris Darrall
Newsletter Editor:	Laurence Rogers
Gift Aid Secretary:	Gillian Chatto

Committee:

David Shooter	Terry Bennett
Hugh Morris	Geoff Howell
Denis Littleton	

Concerts & Recitals

Friday 3rd February, 7.30pm

Derby Cathedral
Bach's *Magnificat* sung by The Sixteen
(Conductor - Harry Christophers)
Tickets £15-£28 Call 01332 255800 / www.derbylive.co.uk

Saturday 11th February at 12 noon

St Andrew's Church, Swanwick
Luncheon Organ Recital by Martyn Noble
(HM Chapel Royal, St James' Palace)
Tickets £5 including light buffet lunch
Call 01773 605291 or 541458.

Saturday 25th February 10am-5pm

Strutts Centre, Belper, DE56 1UU.
Come and Sing *The Armed Man* by Karl Jenkins. Conductor - Malcolm Goldring.
Andrew's Church, Swanwick
Tickets £18 sitwellsingers.org.uk/tickets/

Photo:
Oratory of St Joseph, Montréal.
Organ by Beckerath 1960

Oratory of St Joseph, Montréal - Basilica Organ Specification

I. Positif	II. Grand-Orgue	III. Bombarde	IV. Récit	V. Echo	Pédale
Montre 8	Montre 16	Bourdon 16	Quintaton 16	Bourdon 8	Montre 32
Bourdon 8	Montre 8	Flûte en montre 8	Principal 8	Quintaton 8	Montre 16
Prestant 4	Flûte conique 8	Prestant 4	Flûte à fuseau 8	Principal en bois 4	Flûte 16
Flûte conique 4	Flûte à cheminée 8	Gros nazard 5 1/3	Gemshorn 8	Flûte sylvestre 2	Soubasse 16
Nazard 2 2/3	Prestant 4	Grosse Tierce 3 1/5	Gemshorn céleste 8	Larigot 1 1/3	Montre 8
Doublette 2	Cor de nuit 4	Nazard 2 2/3	Prestant 4	Sesquialtera 2 2/3' II	Flûte creuse 8
Gemshorn 2	Quinte 2 2/3	Quarte de Nazard 2	Flûte à bec 4	Plein Jeu 2/3' IV	Prestant 4
Tierce 1 3/5	Doublette 2	Tierce 1 3/5	Nazard 2 2/3	Ranquette 16	Flûte à fuseau 4
Larigot 1 1/3	Fourniture 2' VI	Fourniture 2.2/3' VI	Cor de nuit 2	Régale 8	Cor de nuit 2
Plein Jeu 1' V	Cymbale 2/3' IV	*Bombarde 16	Piccolo 1		Fourniture 5 1/3 IV
Saqueboute 16	Trombone 16	*Trompette 8	Plein Jeu 1 1/3' V		Plein Jeu 2 2/3 VI
Cromorne 8	Trompette 8	*Clairon 4	Cymbale 1/4' III		Bombarde 32
Chalumeau 4		<i>Tremblant</i>	Cornet 8' VI		Basson 16
<i>Tremblant</i>			Cor anglais 16		Trompette 8
		*En chamade	Hautbois 4		Clairon 4
Manual compass 56 notes			Musette 4		
Pedal compass 32 notes			<i>Tremblant</i>		
Couplers POS/GO, BB/GO, REC/GO, GO/PED, BB/PED					
Electronic combinations, sequencer					

[Full description of organ](#)

be slightly inclined. With no coupler to bring it down to a lower manual, I nearly fell off the bench several times whilst playing it and the pedals. When the manuals were coupled, for someone who is not a Russian weight-lifter, you very soon notice the heaviness of the touch.

Is it fit for purpose? The workmanship throughout is of the highest order, and there are many intriguing stops and combinations, but I missed the more romantic melting-away sounds that we are used to over here. The thrilling tutti rattled around the building, the reverberation period of which is cut down from seven seconds to four when the building is full (3500+) which happens quite often.



Oratory of St Joseph

Conclusion

It was a great privilege to play it. Marvellous for playing certain repertoire (for example, there are five cornets), but awkward to tame in the two hours available to me.

David Johnson



The console with the present-day Organist, Vincent Boucher

Recent Events

Ten Organ Pieces

Following the annual general meeting of the Association on the 16th November there followed a short presentation put together by our Newsletter editor Laurence Rogers.

The idea was to present a list of ten pieces for pipe organ which on first hearing would grab the attention of youngsters and hopefully stimulate their interest into further investigating the organ's potential, possibly leading to tuition and playing the instrument for themselves. The pieces chosen reflected the many styles and moods which are available, embracing criteria such as Tuneful - Cheerful - Wistful or Sad - Majestic - Con Brio.etc etc.

Laurence had arranged for five presenters - James Muckle, Margaret Eades, John Forster, John Maxwell-Jones and himself to outline the virtues of each item selected and during the course of the spirited presentations there was healthy audience participation as to the merits of each choice, with not, I might add, a little good natured humour. The pieces chosen were wide ranging including some of the usual "suspects". Music from the 18th cent through French/German 19th cent, English "lush" romantic and the more thought provoking wonderful work of Messiaen - sadly however not all selected recordings were being played on characteristic instruments! The list of music was certainly enjoyed by all and should stimulate youngsters to take a further look at the mysteries of the organ console. The

discussions were a lot of fun and could have continued well beyond the allocated time schedule.

We are most grateful to David Shooter for providing the equipment which made the evening a success.

Terry Bennett

Members' News

Bishop's Badge award

Congratulations to our Chairman, John Maxwell-Jones, who was a recent recipient of the Bishop of Derby's Badge in recognition of his many years service in the parish of Holbrook as Organist & Choirmaster, Churchwarden and PCC Secretary.

Members' News

David Bott 1934 - 2016

Many of you will have heard of the sudden death of David Bott who was a long standing member of the Association, a past Chairman and committee member. He was also local secretary of the Royal School of Church Music for many years.

David was born and lived in the Derby area all his life. He spent time in Africa where he served as a photographer in the RAF. He was organist at Ismalia, situated on the west bank of the Suez Canal. During his time abroad he also became a member of Nairobi Cathedral Choir.

Over the years that followed, David was organist and choirmaster at several Derbyshire churches: St. Michael's Willington, St. Peter's Littleover, St. Alkmund's Duffield, All Saints' Mackworth and St. Edmund's Allestree. He remained at St. Edmund's and officially retired after 33 years in 2001 but returned to sing in the choir and play the organ when needed. During his time at St. Edmund's he built a choir which gained a fine



reputation, singing in many cathedrals including Ely, Lincoln, Hereford, Norwich, Winchester, Canterbury, St. Edmundsbury and Derby.

David spent his life striving for perfection in the singing of church music and he will be sadly missed.

Mary Pollett

Recent Events

Ilkeston remembers musician

On 24th November Ilkeston & District Local History society unveiled a plaque at Ogden's Butchers shop in South Street commemorating the birthplace of local musician Harry Stanley Hawley (1867-1916). Son of a butcher at these premises, Stanley was known internationally as a pianist and composer and once famously played Grieg's piano concerto "better than the composer himself" (Grieg's own words). The unveiling event was hosted by Stephen Flinders, Chairman of the Society, who described Stanley Hawley as "Ilkeston's forgotten most-famous

musician". Two of Stanley's great nieces, Anne Bailey and Patricia McHale were in attendance, and, in a short speech, Anne recalled how revered 'Uncle Harry' was in her family by her grandmother's generation. She also recited a poem 'The Birth of the Opal' which Stanley had set to music and showed us Stanley's personal copy of the piece.

If you Google 'Stanley Hawley' you may be surprised by the number of his compositions still available electronically and for purchase. James Muckle drew attention to this once famous local musician in his *Newsletter* article of January 2015.

Laurence Rogers



Anne Bailey and Patricia McHale

Members' News

Dr Tom Corfield

Derby Cathedral has for many years been blessed with the skills and dedication of its Assistant Organist, Dr Tom Corfield, but sadly this has suddenly come to an end. Many of us who have attended services or concerts accompanied by Tom will have marvelled at his sensitive and inspiring support of choral singing. Those of us who have rehearsed with him, as singers or conductors, will know the confidence that he generates; always a 'safe pair of hands', utterly reliable in his choice and control of organ tone, and absolutely alert to the

conductor's direction. His interpretation of scores, his flawless technique, his amazing imagination as an improviser are all of the highest calibre. In many ways, for those of us who strive to be a skilled accompanist, improviser or recitalist, we have in Tom an example to which we can all aspire. His is a benchmark for musical excellence.

Tom is one of the unsung heroes of church music. Self-effacing to a fault, it is in Tom's nature to be unsung, but those of us who have had the privilege of knowing him have recognized his wit, deep knowledge and passion for the music he loves.

On 13th December the Cathedral Chapter issued a statement that, 'due to a serious breach of safeguarding procedures Dr Tom Corfield has been dismissed from his role as Assistant Organist'. Harsh language indeed. It is hard to understand how such a distinguished period of service exceeding 30 years can be overturned by a 'procedural error' which, I believe, was unconnected with Cathedral duties.

Now there exists a challenge to the whole musical community of Derby, that Tom has served with such distinction and generosity, to find a way of honouring this great musician in a measure worthy of the quality that he has brought to our musical and spiritual lives.

Laurence Rogers, Editor

The Miller-Scott Organ, St Thomas Church, New York - David Rogers

Our correspondent from Somerset has commended this website as a mine of fascinating information and providing a feast of organ-construction imagery. It is the ideal antidote for organists who have become weary of Christmas TV! David writes:

I think you will appreciate this website from the St Thomas Church, NY. Needless to say the pending new chancel organ, costing \$9 million, is growing in the Dobson workshop. It makes informative viewing. Click on:

www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/neworgan

There are various short video films.

One learns something every day. I hadn't realised that wood carving was such a sophisticated and highly-developed art form in America. Be sure to click the red coloured titles on the right hand side. For example:

- Summer carving work
- Cresting on the Positive case

What marvellous pipe shades (compared with awful modern ones we sometimes encounter)!



Artistic rendering of the new South case.



You will see portraits of Gerre Hancock, John Scott, Andrew Mead etc all finished and ready to be put in place in the case in the course of the next 22 months, though whether many people will ever be able to see them is another matter.

The Decommissioning film of the old organ using a time-lapse camera shows the work speeded up. What a crazy situation that someone has asked: "Where shall we put the Hauptwerk instrument?"

David Rogers

Forthcoming DDOA Meeting

13th February 7.30 pm
at St Matthew's Church, Darley Abbey.

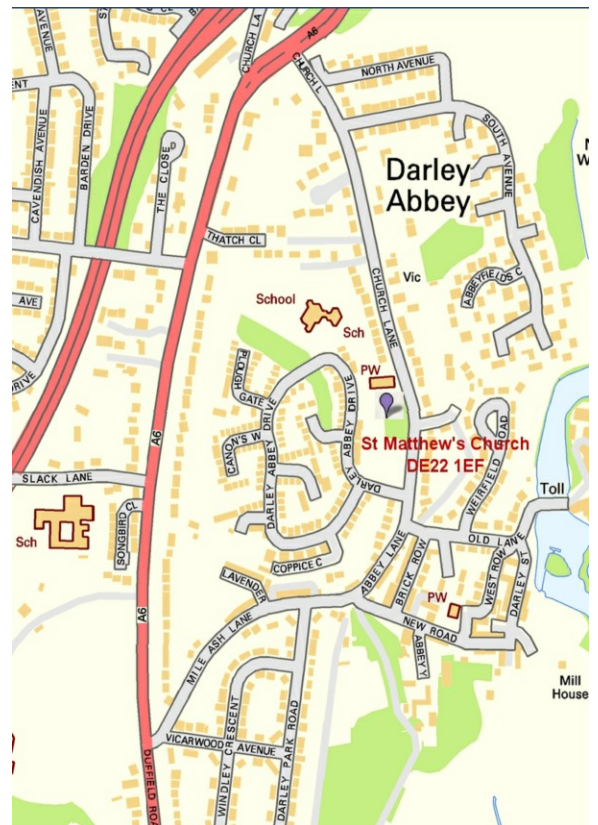
Mike Sole
Instrumentalist, Composer & Improvisor

We met Mike last year on our visit to Leicester when he gave an organ recital at St Margaret's Church and then hosted our visit to his own church, Stoneygate Baptist. By profession Mike is a jazz pianist and is well known in the Leicester area for his homegrown bands: The Illusive Trio/Quartet, Accortumn and The Elastic Band. The STATUS trio is Mike's piano trio - piano, bass and drums - specialising in entirely improvised performances.

Mike's roots are in church music, and as a chorister he achieved the Bishop's Award of the RSCM. As an Organist Mike has held posts at All Saints Wigston Leicester, St Martins - Bull Ring Birmingham, Church of the Martyrs Leicester, and is currently Assistant Organist at Stoneygate Baptist Leicester.

We are pleased indeed to welcome Mike to Derby. As a 'crossover artist' he is sure to entertain and inspire us, not only with his musical insights but with live performances.

North of the City of Derby, St Matthew's Church may be approached from the A6 via Mile Ash Lane or from the Duffield Road junction on the A38 and Church Lane. There is a car park adjacent to the church in Darley Abbey Drive.



Items of news or articles for the March/April edition of the *Newsletter* should reach the Editor by **Monday 13th February**, either via e-mail: DDOAnews@gmail.com or by post: Dr Laurence Rogers, 24 St.David's Crescent, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 4SS. The Secretary, Stephen Johns, may be reached via mail@derbyorganists.co.uk Please visit the DDOA Website www.derbyorganists.co.uk for information about Association activities, past editions of the newsletter, photo gallery and many special features of local interest.