

Summer  
2010



Birmingham Organists' Association

NEWSLETTER

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



LEONARD GIBBONS FUND  
SPONSORED STUDENT  
COMPETITION  
7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 23RD  
JUNE 2010  
AT  
ST. CHAD'S CATHEDRAL

This year BOA, in conjunction with Birmingham Conservatoire, are running a competition to appoint the Leonard Gibbons Fund Sponsored Conservatoire Student. The competition final is open to the public, but admission is free to Conservatoire Students and BOA members.

During this event the finalists will play their twenty minute programme on the magnificent 1993 40 stop, three-manual mechanical-action Walker organ.

The competition is open to Conservatoire undergraduate first study organ students in years 1-3. The preliminary round is by submitted recording and includes students performing a work by JS Bach plus a 19th/20th Century piece. This round is well underway and will be judged by Henry Fairs (Head of Organ Studies at the Conservatoire) and Paul Carr (BOA President), and moderated by Professor David Saint (Vice-Principal at the Conservatoire) in time for the three finalists to be notified of their success on June 15<sup>th</sup>. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at St Chad's, the three finalists will each present a balanced 20 minute programme. The judges for the Competition Final will be David Saint and James Parsons. Following the announcement of results, the winner will perform a piece to conclude the evening.



The winner of the Competition will hold the title *Leonard Gibbons Fund Sponsored Conservatoire Student* for one year from September 2010. The sponsorship is for £400.00. This will be given for the purchase of music scores and towards educational visits.

The award is not simply a prize. In addition, the Leonard Gibbons Fund Sponsored Conservatoire Student will be expected to:

- become a member of the Association (student rate is £2.50 per year, but is free for the first year);
- attend Council meetings as a co-opted member of Council;
- lead one BOA event, with the support of Council;
- attend at least four BOA events during the year;
- actively encourage other students to also attend events.

**This is an exciting new venture for both BOA and LGF, and is a public way of showing how BOA and Birmingham Conservatoire are working together to support the next generation of organists, so please do come and give your support to this event.**

*Parking is available in the Cathedral car park which is accessed from Shadwell Street. There is also limited on-street parking at the front of the Cathedral on Saint Chad's Queensway, Birmingham B4 6ET*

**Future date for your diary:**

Monday 27th September at 7.30pm.

The *Annual Service*, this year hosted by All Saints Church, West Bromwich.  
More details in our next Newsletter.

## REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS

### MAY ORGAN CRAWL

Last month a number of BOA members visited churches in and around the Wylde Green area for the opportunity to hear and play instruments by three well respected firms: Conacher, Nicholson & Willis.

The day started at Emmanuel, Wylde Green where, on a rather cold and damp May morning, Richard Mason greeted us with most welcome coffee and biscuits. He introduced us to what are really two instruments, even though playable from the same console. Not only the large West End organ by Henry Willis III (a particularly apt description here, since it was originally built for a church in London's Kensington) and for which Stephen Bicknell designed the elegant casework for its installation at



*Nick Fanthom in action on the Emmanuel Willis*

Emmanuel, but also the completely new (in 2002) Apse Organ of thirteen speaking stops, hidden behind the altar. Amongst other interesting pieces heard, Nick Fanthom and Alan Taylor played a duet by Thomas Tomkins, creating antiphonal effects from each end of the church by using both organs.

There followed a short break for lunch when, depending upon inclination, members visited a local restaurant or ale-house. Next stop was Chester Road Baptist Church, which houses a two-manual instrument built in 1912 by the Yorkshire firm of Peter Conacher & Co. Originally with just two pedal stops and no manual ranks above 4ft pitch, it was successfully enlarged and modernised by Lloyd & Haynes of Bilston in 1991.

Our final visit of the day was to the two-manual Nicholson at St Michael's, Boldmere, where BOA Past President Chris Stormont now plays, and where we were once more provided with refreshment. By this time, we had been joined by our current President, Paul Carr (fresh from his unexpectedly long, ash-driven stay in the USA), who played Variations on Greensleeves that were definitely not by Vaughan Williams (rather, David Briggs, I believe)!

Many thanks to the churches who hosted us, and to BOA Council Member Ron Close for making the arrangements.

Alan Taylor

## JOB SPOT

### **ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP AT ST THOMAS' CHURCH, STOURBRIDGE.**

An opportunity for a young organist to develop his/her organ playing as part of a thriving music department with an established choral tradition. Past organ scholars have gone on to organ scholarships in cathedrals and major choral foundations, and into successful music careers. A generous honorarium is paid, according to the candidate's experience. The scholarship is open to all students (at school, college or university) in full-time education.

To discuss these vacancies, or for further details, please contact Jon Payne, Director of Music on 07540 440122, or by email at: [mail@stthomaschurchmusic.com](mailto:mail@stthomaschurchmusic.com).

Further details are also available for download at: [www.stthomaschurchmusic.com](http://www.stthomaschurchmusic.com)

**St. Philip's Cathedral: Music for Lunch**

Fridays at 1.10pm: [www.birminghamcathedral.com](http://www.birminghamcathedral.com)  
 11th June: *Frank Stubb (Trumpet) & Darren Hogg (Organ)*  
 18th June: *Victoria green (Guitar) and Stuart Nicholson (Organ)*  
 also at 7.30pm:  
 17th June: *Mills & Reeve Charity Fundraising Musical Gala Evening*  
 19th June: *British Police Symphony Orchestra Concert*

**Town Hall/Symphony Hall:**

Mondays at 1.00pm: [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)  
 14th June: (TH) *Thomas Trotter, Summer Request Concert*  
 Recitals re-commence on 20th September

**Holy Trinity, Wordsley: Sunday Afternoon Organ Music**

Paul Carr: 1st Sunday in the month at 3.00pm: [www.paulcarr.co.uk](http://www.paulcarr.co.uk)  
 4th July: *'American Independence Day'*  
 1st August: *'Overture'*  
 5th September: *'For the Abbey'*

**St. Paul, Birmingham: Thursday Live**

1st Thursday in the month at 1.15pm: [www.saintpaulbrum.org](http://www.saintpaulbrum.org)  
 1st July: *Paul Carr*  
 5th August: *John Pryer (Birmingham Oratory)*  
 2nd September: *Anna Myeong (USA)*

**Emmanuel, Wylde Green:**

Andrew Fletcher: 1st Friday in the month at 1.00pm:  
[www.andrewfletcher.org.uk](http://www.andrewfletcher.org.uk)  
 Recitals begin again on 1st October 2010

**All Saints, West Bromwich:**

1st Saturday of the month at 11.00 am.  
 3rd July: *Patrick Schuldt (Cologne)*

Nick Fanthom ACertCM : Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, Occasional Services  
 0121 552 8774 or 07917 444077 e-mail: [Nick@nazard.com](mailto:Nick@nazard.com)

BIRMINGHAM ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION  
[www.bhamorgan.org.uk](http://www.bhamorgan.org.uk)

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists  
[www.iao.org.uk](http://www.iao.org.uk)



President: Paul Carr  
 Secretary: Paul Evans  
 Treasurer: Alan Taylor  
 Assistant Secretary & Newsletter Compiler: Nick Fanthom

07966 269860  
 07980 013368  
 01922 628810  
 07917 444077