

Volume 7 Issue 1

January
2011



Birmingham Organists Association

NEWSLETTER

WE WISH ALL OUR READERS
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

NOTICE OF AGM

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Birmingham Organists Association will be held at St Michael's Church Boldmere Sutton Coldfield on Saturday 26 March 2011 commencing at 11.30 a.m. The business of the meeting is to receive reports and accounts for 2010 and to elect officers and members of council. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary, Paul Evans, 36 Holmcroft Road, Stafford, ST16 1JF to arrive not later than 11 March 2011.

Money Matters!

It's that time of year when your annual subscription becomes due. Fortunately, for over half of you, your subscription has already been collected by Standing Order. Many thanks if that applies to you: it makes life simpler for us all!

For those of you that have yet to complete a Standing Order, an application form has been enclosed with this newsletter. Also, if the Association has no record of you authorising your subscriptions and any donations as Gift-Aid, you may find a (smaller) form for that. In either case, please return the forms to the Treasurer, Alan Taylor, as soon as possible. Gift-Aid regulations currently enable the Association to obtain a tax rebate of 25% on subscriptions and donations, so this is really important to us.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE ORGAN AS AN ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENT

**KING EDWARD VI FIVE WAYS SCHOOL,
BARTLEY GREEN
MONDAY 31ST JANUARY 2011 AT 7.30PM**

Not many of us perhaps have had many opportunities to take part as organists in many of the orchestral works from the Baroque period onwards, but particularly from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, whose scores require an organ part (sometimes optional). What **developments in music** generally created the opportunities for organ and orchestra combined? What **qualities** does the organ have to contribute to an orchestral work? What is the **repertoire** for

organ and orchestra, apart from organ concertos and choral works with orchestral accompaniment?

Answers to these questions, illustrated with copious representative sound recordings, form the meeting entitled *The Organ as an Orchestral Instrument*, to be led by David Griffiths at KE VI Five Ways School on Monday January 31st at 7.30pm. Includes cheese, wine, pâté and other delights to tempt you afterwards.

To get to King Edward VI Five Ways School, Scotland Lane, Bartley Green B32 4BT...

By bus: Take the no.22 from the city centre (via Harborne) and alight (one stop before the Kitwell terminus) at the junction of Scotland Lane and Balmoral Road.

By car (there is ample on-site parking): From the city centre, follow signs to Harborne and then Bartley Green. From Genners Lane (the road running past Bartley Reservoir to Adams Hill) turn into Field Lane and then left at the roundabout into Scotland Lane. Please note that entering the postcode (B32 4BT) into most sat navs will direct you (incorrectly) from Field Lane into Brett Drive, which is a cul-de-sac!

LGF SPONSORED STUDENT EVENT

ST. CHAD'S METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL

MONDAY 7TH MARCH 2011 AT 7.30PM. N.B. DOORS LOCKED AT 7.35PM.

This year Jehan Alain's 100th birthday falls on February 24th and it's definitely one worth celebrating! To commemorate this special occasion, the organ students of Birmingham Conservatoire will be performing a small selection of his works at St Chad's Cathedral INCLUDING works by other composers who have dedicated works to Alain.

An enjoyable, relaxed evening is guaranteed as well as music performed to a very high standard, so do come along! Free to members, otherwise £5.00 at the door. Contact for the night (should you be delayed) is Paul Carr on **07966 269860**.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & RECITAL

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, BOLDMERE, SUTTON COLDFIELD

SATURDAY 26TH MARCH 2011 FROM 11.00AM

As in previous years tea and coffee will be available from 11.00 a.m. and we will start the meeting at 11.30 a.m. After the meeting lunch will be available, and we will conclude with a recital by former President Chris Stormont. The formal business of the AGM is usually quite short but this is an important meeting as it is the opportunity for members to set the direction of the Association for the next year. The church is located in Church Road, Boldmere B73 5RX. The nearest railway station is Wylde Green. The 66A bus (from Priory Queensway stand PA) runs nearby, stopping by the junction of Chester Road and Church Road.

To help us with catering, if you wish to book lunch, please complete the enclosed form.

REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS

A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE WASHINGTON DC AGO 2010 PROGRAMME

On a dark, cold November evening in 2010 members of the BOA were transported to the very hot, humid summer of Washington DC, where the American Guild of Organists were holding their National Convention.

Mike Irving, and his wife, from the Gloucestershire Association who had attended the Washington Conference as delegates, had kindly arranged a slide show/talk/presentation/recordings for the BOA, which took place at Broadway URC in Walsall. We were treated to a visual and aural spectacular as Mike told us about his experiences at the Congress.

Those of us who have been fortunate enough to visit Washington know that our American friends do nothing by halves, including the building of organs! Huge stop lists and multiple consoles abound, along with the obligatory gallery sections, complete with tubas, chamades, festival trumpets and pedal departments in some cases including 64ft stops! We were treated to some amazing playing on these large organs so impressive was the technique that one did wonder if only one organist was playing?

The Congress lasted five and a half days and was packed with concerts, recitals, workshops and visits. An early start each day was necessary with typical American hospitality breakfasts at 7.00a.m., allowing the visits and concerts to begin by 8.30 a.m., which continued at many venues till after 10 p.m. each evening. Obviously personal choices had to be made to take part in the varied events, which included a day visit to Annapolis.

The opening Concert was given at the National Cathedral and many organ recitals followed. The photographs of the console at the Navy Academy Chapel was awesome!!!, (American expression!) although Mike did say he had learnt from a conversation with the curator of the organ that a good many ranks were digital. Before the concert here could begin, attention had to be given to the organ as the computer system controlling the various sections had malfunctioned. Not all the organs were so large, there were a few more classical instruments featured, some even had mechanical action!

The Convention concluded with a concert at the National Shrine. This concert featured an improvised symphony performed by David Briggs and compositions by James MacMillan and David Hurd. The David Hurd composition was '3 Psalms for Choir and 2 organs' and one of the organs was played by David Briggs. Other participants in the concluding concert included Olivier Latry and Renee Anne Louprette. Readers who are interested can go to the website of the AGO 2010 where more details of the instruments are listed.

Many thanks indeed to Mike for not only giving the talk on his visit but also bringing all his visual and audio equipment.

Eddie Guard.

CONCERT GUIDE

St. Philip's Cathedral: Music for Lunch

Fridays at 1.10pm: www.birminghamcathedral.com

THSH Town Hall/Symphony Hall:

Mondays at 1.00pm: www.thsh.co.uk

Holy Trinity, Wordsley: Sunday Afternoon Organ Music

Paul Carr: 1st Sunday of the month at 3.00pm: www.paulcarr.co.uk

St. Paul, Birmingham: Thursday *Live*

1st Thursday of the month at 1.15pm: www.saintpaulbrum.org

Emmanuel, Wylde Green: "Anniversaries & Celebrations"

Andrew Fletcher: 1st Friday of the month at 1.00pm:

www.andrewfletcher.org.uk

TUESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY
SOLIHULL SCHOOL
CHAPEL

Organ Duets by Robin Jackson
and Maureen McAllister.

Concert begins at 7.30PM

SATURDAY 19TH MARCH 7.30PM
ST. MARY, HOBBS MOAT
SOLIHULL, B92 8PN

Organ Recital by Andrew Fletcher

Tickets £8.50 inc. light refreshments

(Contact: Juanita Watson, on 0121 706 3819)

Birmingham Conservatoire/Royal College of Organists events:

Thursday 20th January - Improvisation Day with Alex Mason & Ronny Krippner. 10-12 Recital Hall; 1.30-3.30 St Chad's Cathedral. Free admission.

Monday 24th January - Liszt and Reubke with student readings - Henry Fairs. 7.30pm, St Chad's Cathedral. Tickets at the door.

Saturday 5th March *London Organ Day*
Including Masterclass with Conservatoire students.

Monday 4th April (*to be confirmed*)
Improvisation rehearsal and Concert - St Chad's Cathedral.

Nick Fanthom: Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, Occasional Services
0121 552 8774 or 07917 444077 e-mail: Nick@nazard.com

BIRMINGHAM ORGANISTS ASSOCIATION

www.bhamorgan.org.uk



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