

Forthcoming events

**RENAISSANCE KEYBOARD
MUSIC** (JOINTLY WITH WOA),
WEDNESDAY 11 APRIL, 7.00PM

**THIS EVENT HAS BEEN
CANCELLED BY WOA**

[Click](#) for its replacement.

**ROYAL BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE VISIT,**
WEDNESDAY 2 MAY, 7.00PM
200 Jennens Road, [B4 7XR](#),
with DANIEL MOULT, head of
organ studies
[Click](#) for details.

**SUMMER OUTING TO LUDLOW
& LEOMINSTER,**
SATURDAY 16 JUNE
with lunchtime recital at
St Laurence Church by
THOMAS TROTTER
[Click](#) for details.

BOA newsletter

volume 14 no 1

Spring 2018



Happy Easter to all BOA members



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Birmingham Organists' Association

affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists

www.BhamOrgan.org.uk

www.iao.org.uk

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Recital Guide

THSH Town Hall / Symphony Hall
Mondays 1pm **Thomas Trotter**
9 Apr **Daniel Moulton**; 4 Jun [Sym Hall]
23 Apr, 14 May, 18 Jun, 2 Jul [Town Hall]
www.thsh.co.uk

Holy Trinity, Wordsley, [DY8 5RU](#)
Sunday Afternoon Organ Music 3pm
Paul Carr 1 Apr, 6 May, 3 Jun, 1 Jul
<http://www.paulcarr.co.uk>

St Chad's Cathedral, [B4 6EU](#)
Thursday Live
1st Thursday of the month, 1.15pm
Paul Carr 5 Apr, 7 Jun
Peter Stevens 3 May
David Saint 5 Jul
<http://www.thursdaylive.org>

Emmanuel, Wylde Green
[B72 1YG](#) Fridays 1pm
6 Apr **Terrence Atkins**
4 May **George Gillow**
1 Jun **Josh Roebuck**
<http://www.organrecitals.com>

Broadway URC, Walsall, [WS5 3PH](#)
Saturdays 11.15am (coffee from 10.30)
9 Jun **Thomas Keogh**
14 Jul **Martyn Noble**
<http://music.broadway.urcwalsall.uk>

Renaissance keyboard music

IMPORTANT

Wednesday 11 April

This event at St Swithun's Worcester was to have been the first in a short series of events planned over the next two years jointly with **Worcestershire Organists' Association** aiming to review organ repertoire in historical order.

We have just heard that WOA has **CANCELLED** this event. We hope to clarify the situation with regard to future events in this series as soon as possible.

Meanwhile we have at very short notice been able to arrange a **social evening** with Beer & Skittles at the **Walsall Arms, Bank Street, [WS1 2EP](#)**, starting at 7.30pm, a venue we have enjoyed using on two previous occasions. A buffet will be available, for which we suggest a donation of £5 from those partaking.



ROYAL
BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE

RBC visit

Wednesday

2 May

7.00pm

Royal Birmingham
Conservatoire,
200 Jennens Road,
[B4 7XR](#)



BMus organ students standing in front of the famous Susi Jeans organ at RBC

This is our first opportunity to visit the new home of the Conservatoire, including its Organ Studio, by kind invitation of the

new Head of Organ Studies, **DANIEL MOULT**.

After a quick tour of the building, a presentation, and demonstration of the historic Susi Jeans organ, members will be able to play the organ themselves.



Festival (formerly Congress) 2018

This year's IAO's Music Festival is to take place in **Peterborough & Cambridge**, and will feature a brand new venture: an **organ-playing competition** for 18-25 year olds jointly promoted with the Royal College of Organists.

The distinguished list of artists includes **Professor Edward Higginbottom** (former Director of Music at New College, Oxford), **Martin Baker** (President of the RCO and Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral), **Richard Pinel** (Fellow and Director of Music at Jesus College, Cambridge) and **Steven Grahl** (IAO President and Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral).

For full details and booking arrangements, please visit

<http://festival.iao.org.uk>

Day & event tickets are now on sale as well as a Season Ticket covering five days of events. Book now to avoid disappointment!

Advertisement

Yamaha Electone E-45

This electronic organ dating from the 1980s is available *FREE* to anyone who is able to collect from its current location in Cradley. Described as "probably in need of a service".

Contact **Janice Baines**

janicebaines@btinternet.com



Summer outing

Saturday

16 June

10.30am

Ludlow & Leominster

full details will be circulated later



Our summer outing will feature a visit to Ludlow and the church of St Laurence, where on this day there will be a lunchtime (1pm) organ recital given by

THOMAS TROTTER on its famous instrument, originally by **Snetzler** (see above), with large screen video projector. For details of the recital, which is open to the public and costs £10, click [HERE](#).

Our day out will start at 10.30am with a visit to Leominster Priory to play its 3-manual **Nicholson** organ. We shall then move to Ludlow. After the recital, there will be a presentation by **SHAUN WARD**, director of music, after which members will be free to play.

Regional Organ Days 2018

Members of Birmingham Organists' Association are also associate members of the IAO and entitled to concessionary tickets at IAO Regional Organ Days.

Yorkshire Organ Day (York city centre): Saturday 21 April
www.iao.org.uk/yod

10.30am: Registration at St Olave's Church Hall, York
11.00am: Recital by **Daniel Cook** (organist & master of the choristers, Durham Cathedral)
12.15pm: The restoration of the York Minster organ: a presentation by **Robert Sharpe**
1.00pm: Buffet lunch in St Olave's Church Hall
(£4 extra, must be pre-ordered)

2.00pm: York organ-builders a presentation by **Max Elliott**, researcher at York University
3.00pm: "The Church Organists' Toolkit", a presentation by **Keith Wright**
4.00pm Refreshments
5.15pm Evensong at York Minister
Bargain price of just £8 (non-members £10)

A booking form is down-loadable from [HERE](#) or may be obtained by emailing secretary@ydoa.co.uk

Midlands Organ Day: Saturday 6 October

This will be based in and around Worcester Cathedral at a cost of £14 (non-members £18) with the option of attending an evening recital in the cathedral (at extra cost) by DAVID BRIGGS.

Put the date in your diary now!

More details in our next e-newsletter

Historic organ recordings

John Stormont



Michael Jones

Some sixteen members came along on a cold January evening to a warm and welcoming K E Five Ways School for a presentation by **Michael Jones** of historic recordings, mostly made by Malcolm McDonald,

but also including some from the Norman Dyson Collection. This was the third such event in recent years and covered a wide range of organ recordings from the oldest organ in the world (Sion 1390) to St Mary's, Swansea (1990).

Amongst this fascinating selection were recordings of local interest by three BOA Past Presidents: Ivor Keys, Norman Dyson & Andrew Fletcher, and also a past Hon Member, Sir George Thalben-Ball. In part of a 'Concert Happening' recorded in Geneva, Guy Bovet played his *Improvisation on Bach's Toccata in D Minor*: a truly quirky but masterful rendering, which left me wondering about the need to play all the right notes! Also included were extracts from recorded talks by famous musicians, including; Vaughan Williams, Howells, Widor, Dupré, and Tournemire's widow.

Malcolm's historic recordings, now numbering over 800, must surely represent an important archive of instruments, past and present, in Birmingham, plus many recordings of instruments throughout the country and abroad. It was also pleasing to note that Daniel Moulton, newly appointed Head of the Organ Department at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire came to join us for this event. Who knows what we may hear at any such similar future event!

An evening of Plainsong

David Griffiths

On Monday 12th February an encouraging number of members attended “Plainsong demystified – an evening of guided discovery” at St Hilda’s Church, Warley Woods. BOA members were joined by contingents from Worcestershire Organists’ Association, and from RSCM affiliated churches in the local area.



*Rosemary
Field*

We were extremely fortunate in having as our guide **Rosemary Field**, at one time Birmingham Diocesan Music Adviser, and now Deputy Director of the RSCM.

She began by putting us through some simple warm-up exercises so as to prepare us mentally and physically for singing chant. Such exercises are so important prior to any choir rehearsal or performance.

Using “The RSCM Guide to Plainchant” Rosemary talked to us about plainchant notation, and demonstrated the more complex groups of notes known as neums.

This led swiftly on to using our recently acquired knowledge to perform some fairly simple – and not so simple – pieces of plainchant. She sensitively catered for singers who already had experience of singing chant and for those for whom reading chant was a new experience. An important part of Rosemary’s rehearsing involved encouraging us to sing the chant in a sensitive and relaxed way, as opposed to the more robotic delivery to be heard in some places of worship.

After a refreshment break in which “The RSCM Guide to Plainchant” and other RSCM publications could be purchased, the evening concluded with a short act of worship using the music we had previously learned.

AGM & annual recital

Alan Taylor



*Francesca
Massey*

Although now serving as Sub-Organist of Durham Cathedral, **Francesca Massey** was born in Birmingham and is a former member of BOA. So it was particularly appropriate for us to be able to welcome her as recitalist on the Walker organ of St Chad’s Cathedral after our AGM on 10th March.

Francesca has studied with many famous names from the organ world including Jeremy Filsell, Kevin Bowyer & Andrew Fletcher, and when aged 19 she gained all the top prizes in the FRCO diploma. She has also been awarded a silver medal by the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

Francesca’s programme included just three works: *Et Resurrexit* by Kenneth Leighton, Bach’s fourth Trio Sonata and the monumental *Troisième Symphonie* of Louis Vierne. The virtuosity displayed, particularly in the latter piece was, to but it mildly, breath-taking! So the prolonged applause from both BOA members and others (the recital was open to guests and members of the public) was richly deserved.

Earlier, the business meeting was dispatched promptly with our President Mick Perrier in the chair. Secretary Paul Evans gave his annual report on the association’s affairs. After nearly twenty years of presenting the annual financial statement, I did so for the final time and then stood down as Treasurer, gratefully handing over the role to Paul Geoghegan. John Stormont was re-elected to serve for a further three years on BOA Council.

For those not able to attend the AGM, when membership cards for 2018-9 were given out, a printable copy of the card is included with the email to which this newsletter was originally attached.