NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER EXTRA

MAY 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT. I hope all NDOA members are managing to make good use of the enforced time at home, even if they don't have a house organ to practise on. I have a rather unusual one, as you might see if the Garden Party at our house on 31 August still happens. My wife Phylis and I are preparing the garden for it anyway, and I can relate to the lines written by Andrew Marvell in the 17th-century to his garden:

"Fair quiet, have I found thee here, And Innocence thy sister dear! ... Society is all but rude, To this delicious solitude."

But the society of OA members would be nice, when we can resume it! Keep safe and sane - let organ and choral and other kinds of music maintain your equilibrium. *John Wilson*

ORGAN AND CHORAL MUSIC. A huge variety of organ-related material is online - and live recitals are still possible through digital and Hauptwerk media where our pipe instruments remain inaccessible. In many cases, books, music, CDs and DVDs are still available too. Just click on the links below to access some suggestions:

- Richard McVeigh continues to perform live recitals, and excellent live hymn sessions where he plays requests on his *Beauty in Sound* YouTube <u>channel</u>, using the Hauptwerk set of the organ of Sint-Laurenskerk, Rotterdam. The channel also includes choral music from Consort SW1. Exemplary.
- Gert van Hoef is also performing live informal organ recitals on his YouTube <u>channel</u>, in his case weekly on Thursday evenings at 7pm. Again, he is using a digital instrument with Hauptwerk sets ranging from the Rotterdam set which Richard McVeigh uses, to the Dudelange (Luxembourg) set.
- Our member Callum Alger has uploaded some more music to his YouTube <u>channel</u>, this time the sublime Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr (BWV 662).
- Our member Ivan Linford is posting some excellent Breezy Bach and more on the UK Organists and Choirmaster's group.
- Did you enjoy Martin Setchell's splendid <u>recital</u> last year re-opening the superb Rieger instrument in Christchurch Town Hall, New Zealand after the earthquake? You can buy the CD or the downloads of the recital direct from Martin's site at <u>Resounding Aftershocks</u>.
- Truro Cathedral has some lovely recordings of the choir, including two short <u>recitals</u> from their Head Choristers, recorded just before the lockdown.
- Washington National Cathedral's Easter Day <u>Recital</u> including Gigout's Grand Choeur Dialogue.
- Harrison and Harrison has a number of <u>videos</u> showing work in progress on projects at York Minster, Canterbury and St Peter's Cathedral Adelaide, among others fascinating viewing.
- St Paul's Cathedral is running a 'Choir of the Nations' hymn flash <u>mob</u>, allowing everyone to sing along to three hymns each Sunday. You can record your singing to form part of the virtual choir.
- There is some more delightful Easter <u>music</u> on YouTube from Adrian Boynton at Cornerstone, Milton Keynes, including *The Strife is O'er* to Vulpius, and an exquisite performance for piano of the *Easter Hymn* from *Cavalleria Rusticana*.
- Our member Colin Ashworth kindly makes his compositions available for <u>download</u>, including his splendid *Earls Barton Fanfare* which he played at our Members' Recital at Kimbolton.
- Concerts at St. Mary's, Wellingborough, will tell us as soon as their excellent <u>concert</u> series resumes; in the meantime do have a look at John Betjeman's short 1950's Shell <u>film</u> on St. Mary's.
- Listen to the choir of <u>St Matthew's, Northampton</u>, including the exquisite <u>Soul of my Saviour</u> sung jointly with the choir of Trinity Church, Princeton, directed and played by our members Dr John Bertalot and Justin Miller. Check out John's brilliant choir training books to prepare for our return!
- The Choirs of All Saints' Church, Northampton have produced a number of CD recordings over the years, which are still available for purchase through their <u>website</u>.







ORGAN RESOURCES. Several members have said they have enjoyed the RSCM and RCO resources which we highlighted in the last issue - do have a look at them at <u>RSCM</u> (including their hymn for the day and Sunday Self Service) and <u>RCO</u>. The IAO is also now publishing a quarterly Newsletter, the first issue of which Helen, our Secretary, has distributed to members. The IAO is also offering the forthcoming June issue of *Organists' Review* just for the cost of postage - £1.50. Enter the code iao-news at <u>checkout</u>.

10% off sheet music from Church Organ World. There is a new discount scheme for members of

IAO Affiliated Associations to receive 10% off the price of most music (excluding p&p) from the online sheet music <u>shop</u>. There are more than 1500 items in stock, The offer is available to current members - you will need the offer code from the IAO quarterly newsletter - ask Helen or the Editor if you've mislaid your copy. As well as stocking music from all the major publishers, COW itself now publishes quite a number of exclusive scores, including five volumes of most attractive transcriptions arranged by lan Tracey in its <u>Organ Encores</u> series - volume 5 is newly published.



- Jonathan Kingston, a member of NDOA's Committee, produces insightful and accessible online
 organ performance tutorials for Viscount Organs Jonathan's most recent tutorial is on the
 Walford Davies <u>Solemn Melody</u>. It's also worth keeping an eye on the site for any current
 competitions the most recent one offered a pair of VHD-1000 headphones worth £89.95.
- Handel's organ music is featured on Donald Macleod's Radio 3 Composer of the Week slot at 12 noon every day from 27 April to 1 May. Episodes are also available online after broadcast, and as a summarised weekly podcast, from the Composer of the Week <u>website</u>.
- You may know that honorary NDOA member, Canon Hilary Davidson has written two scholarly works, which are still available from Positif Press 139 Southfield Road, Oxford OX4 1PA. Choirs, Bands and Organs – A History of Church Music in Northamptonshire and Rutland ISBN 090 6894 32 8 is a comprehensive study from 2003, and Between the Nene and the Welland – Some East-Midlands hymn tunes from the west-gallery period ISBN 978 0 906894 50 7, with full musical examples, 2009.





WORSHIP ON THE WEB. <u>Washington National Cathedral</u> is now able to livestream services, complete with organ prelude and hymns played by the music team on the superb 4-manual Skinner <u>organ</u>. Helen also kindly reminds us that are also plenty of excellent online resources available for NDOA Catholic members including:

- Sunday and Daily Mass is accessible from <u>Leeds Cathedral</u> (with singing clergy they even managed the Easter Sequence *Victimae pascali laudes* not only on Easter Sunday, but every day of Easter week as well, also singing *Missa de Angelis*!).
- <u>St Chad's</u> at Birmingham also offers singing clergy.
- <u>Liverpool Metropolitan</u> would also be well worth a try.
- At <u>Westminster Cathedral</u> they also have Solemn Vespers and Benediction in the afternoon.
- Closer to home, don't forget the daily mass at Northampton Cathedral
- Remember too that the <u>Diocese of Leeds Music Department</u> leads the biggest music programme in the UK, and they have lots of inspiring suggestions about music development and training online.

AND FINALLY... the last date for contributions to the next full quarterly NDOA Newsletter is 1 June - could you use the lockdown to write a short article, ideally with some photos, about the organ you play?

Newsletter Extra is published by the Northampton and District Organists Association, registered charity no. 274679. We hope you found it interesting. Please send any new ideas to editor@northamptonorganists.org.uk. Find us at http://northamptonorganists.org.uk/ and on Facebook