

A final message from the outgoing President

Alfred Brendel, the famous pianist, is supposed to have said, after playing Beethoven's idiosyncratic piano sonata Op.31 No.1 - 'Any pianist who doesn't make the audience laugh by the end of that piece, should become an organist!' He was repeating the canard among musicians that organists don't have a sense of humour. I hope that the spoof poems I have contributed to the *Newsletter* and *Newsletter Extra* during 'Lockdown', and the items that have been sent out to members (most recently the *Corona Opera* aria and the *Corona Fantasia* for organ) will have helped to dispel that impression, and kept a smile on members' faces during this rather unusual and difficult year.

This is the last *Newsletter Extra* that will be issued during my Presidency and I cannot let it go without thanking Richard Tapp, the Editor, for all the extra work it has involved. Back in March at the beginning of 'lockdown' Richard decided that it would be good if NDOA members could continue to feel part of an active association of organ enthusiasts, despite not being able to play or even attend recitals. *Newsletter Extra* was the result, and it has come out every month since April. It is a tribute to Richard's energy and enterprise that he has been able to find material for every issue, with links to organ-related events all around the UK and beyond. I'm sure I speak for all members in thanking Richard for his work as Editor of the *NE*, as well as of the quarterly *Newsletter*.

And as of 7th November, Richard will also take on the role of President! In the Zoom AGM (which I hope many members will attend) I will be installing Richard as the president for 2020-21, 'handing over' the badge of office and making a few remarks. They will include my thanks to Richard for all his work and my best wishes for his success in what is likely to be another challenging year. I know members will give Richard as much support in his presidency as I have received in mine and I look forward to working with him and the Committee as Immediate Past President.

John Wilson



NDOA Annual General Meeting 7th November 3pm. As John notes, present restrictions preclude us from holding our AGM in person this year, but do join us by Zoom - Helen will circulate the log-in details to all members. As we celebrate the Association's Centenary throughout 2021, we take this opportunity to ask members, please, to encourage as many friends, colleagues and contacts as possible to join NDOA.

To thank current members for their loyalty, and to encourage new members to join, we are revising our membership fee structure. Subject to formal approval at the AGM, our individual membership fee for 2021 will be only £10 (reduced from £14); our family membership £15 (reduced from £21); student membership will be free (instead of £7) and we will introduce a new category of corporate membership organisations such as churches, PCCs, and businesses involved in the organ world in our district at £15. Membership includes online communications; if you prefer, you may also receive printed quarterly newsletters for an additional £6.

Plans for our centenary celebrations are well-advanced - we are producing a CD of a number of organs from Northampton and district, played by our members, a book of specially-commissioned organ compositions, and a short history of the Association. We will also offer five centenary scholarships of £100 each to student members. Our Programme of Events will, of course, have to reflect current restrictions but we have exciting plans - see overleaf for preliminary details. If you're reading this and you're not already a member - we'd love to have you on board to enjoy our centenary year with us - you'll find all the information you need at <http://www.northamptonorganists.org.uk/join/>.

NDOA Preliminary Programme of Events for 2021. We would usually issue a full preliminary programme at the AGM so members can reserve dates for our events for the full year. Although we have prepared such a programme, at the time of writing of course it is not currently possible for us to have events such as our CD afternoon, members' recital or organ crawls. We are anxious, though, that 2021 is a full and joyous celebration of our centenary, and you may like to reserve key dates from the Spring onwards:



- ◆ A visit to Harrington and Thorpe Underwood on Saturday 17th April, by kind permission of Benedict Cadbury
- ◆ The Young Organists' Day at SMSG Stony Stratford on Saturday 15th May with Jonathan Kingston
- ◆ A Centenary Garden Party at the home of John and Phylis Wilson on August Bank Holiday Monday
- ◆ The Midlands Organ Day based at St Matthew's Northampton, on Saturday 25th September

Dates for further events including a members' composite recital at All Saints' Earls Barton, the Castle Ashby organ crawl and the Centenary Celebrity Recital at St Mary Magdalene Castle Ashby will be confirmed as circumstances permit, and we aim to offer further Zoom meetings too.

Lee Dunleavy's choirs (Huntingdonshire Philharmonic, Northampton Bach Choir, Royal Leamington Spa Bach Choir, Wellingborough Singers) have been working on a joint project exploring the music of late C.17th Italy since the beginning of September - an Angel, a Nun, and a Priest. They are, respectively, Corelli (Arcangelo), Isabella Leonarda, and Antonio Vivaldi. In addition to the normal rehearsals, Lee has organised talks for the choirs from scholars in the field all over the world, and on **Friday 13th November at 4:00pm** welcomes **Prof. Kimberly Marshall** from her home in Arizona, to talk about her solo organ CD **Bach and the Italian Influence**.

Prof. Marshall studied organ in North America, France, and England, and in 1986 was awarded a Doctorate from the University of Oxford in the field of early organ music. She is a fascinating and engaging speaker, and her exploration of the links between Bach and Corelli/Frescobaldi/Vivaldi is not to be missed. If you'd like to join (on Zoom), please e-mail Lee on lee@leedunleavy.co.uk for the Zoom link. Here she is performing the opening of Widor's *Symphonie No. 6* on the Cavallé-Coll in St Sernin, Toulouse: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_6tYZnHXio.

Harrington Concerts are delighted to announce that there will be three concerts this year:

- ◆ Saturday, 31st October at 3.00pm **Eblana String Trio** in Harrington Church £15
- ◆ Saturday, 20th November at 6.00pm **Organ Recital by Richard Pinel** of Jesus College Cambridge at Thorpe Underwood House £12
- ◆ Sunday, 6th December **Christmas Concert** at Harrington Church details tbc

All tickets need to be booked in advance so that seats can be pre-allocated for social distancing. Tickets cannot be purchased on the door. Face masks must be worn. Interval refreshments, included in the ticket price, will be served at your seat. Hand sanitiser will be available. See www.harringtonconcerts.co.uk for details of the Eblana programme, the Eblana's new CD and Parker Ramsay's CD featuring his transcription for Harp of the Goldberg Variations. Tickets are available by post from Thorpe Underwood House, Thorpe Underwood, Northampton NN6 9PA, by email to musicharrington@gmail.com or telephone 01536 713944.

Forthcoming online recitals which may be of interest include:

- ◆ Sunday 1st November 3pm - **Paul Carr** from Holy Trinity Wordsley <https://www.paulcarr.co.uk/>
- ◆ Monday 2nd November 1.15pm - **Asher Oliver** from St Michael's Cornhill <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDz7PkYcE94&feature=youtu.be>
- ◆ Wednesday 4th November 1.10pm - **Laurence Caldecote** from Circencester Parish Church <https://www.facebook.com/SJBCirenMusic/>
- ◆ Friday 6th November 6.30pm - **Richard Brasier** (Bach Cycle) from St Laurence Upminster https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9k_dLSwy6Q

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