



NEWSLETTER EXTRA

February 2026

Members' CD and Video Afternoon

Refreshments included



Our President Helen Murphy invites you to the second NPOA event of the New Year which will take place on:

❤ Valentine's Day ❤

Saturday 14th February 2026 at 2.00 pm

when past president Alan Cufaude will host a Members' CD and Video Afternoon in his home:

[Alan's address in St. Crispin's Northampton and directions will be circulated to members and friends by email]

Members will have an opportunity to share their favourite Romantic organ, choral or other music, and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and friendship.

Please put the date in your diary and think about what Romantic music you will share.

Your choice may be brought on any of the following:



CD, DVD, LP, or YouTube video or other audio or video recording on USB stick.



There will be refreshments - tea, coffee, cake and more!

It will be useful for the catering and seating if you can let Alan know on : alannorthampton@hotmail.co.uk if you plan to attend.

All are welcome.

If you are not a member and would like to attend, or have any queries please contact us by email at helen.e.murphy@outlook.com

NPOA and PDOA. NPOA is honoured to have received a substantial donation from the Trustees of the former Peterborough & District Organists' Association following PDOA's recent closure. We are delighted to welcome Peterborough members old and new to NPOA and look forward to continuing to serve organists and friends from Peterborough, Northamptonshire and beyond. Why not join us now at www.northamptonorganists.org.uk/join/? Only £10 for individuals, £15 for families/corporates and free for students.

NPOA Supports 2026 Creative Oundle for Organists. For the third year running, NPOA is very pleased to support the Residential Course for Young Organists | Creative Oundle for Organists, helping to fund bursaries for outstanding students.





Chris Strange performs Holst: The Planets

Peterborough Cathedral Saturday 28th February at 7.30pm. Peterborough's DoM - and NPOA's President-elect - Chris Strange performs his own organ transcription of Holst's *The Planets* as part of the cathedral's presentation of Luke Jerram's art installation, *Helios*. Chris's last performance of *The Planets* in 2024 attracted over 400 attendees - it will be a fabulous experience and not to be missed. Do come and support Chris. Tickets £25 Quire/£15 Nave plus booking fee at [Holst: The Planets event tickets from TicketSource](#).



Northampton Chamber Choir Spring Concert - Honouring Stephen Meakins. Christchurch, Northampton NN1

5LL - Saturday 14th March at 7pm. Castle Ashby's Stephen Meakins, who passed away last year, founded the Laurence Lloyd Singers in Northampton in 1959 when he was only 19. He led the choir for the next 42 years, during which time it sang at many churches and cathedrals around the country, and concerts in Northampton and beyond. Now known as Northampton Chamber Choir, it has continued to flourish and evolve under many notable conductors, including Stephen Moore and Justin Miller, both DoM at St Matthew's, Northampton, where Stephen's love of music was formed as a chorister. In honour of Stephen's outstanding contribution to the musical life of the county and his service to the Choir, the Choir's Spring Concert will pay tribute to Stephen. It will include several movements from the Requiem which he himself wrote in 2010, together with other (mainly sacred) music which would have been sung under Stephen's direction. Everyone is welcome. Tickets £15 from the choir's website or on the door. www.northamptonchamberchoir.org.uk.

Lunchtime Live! All Saints' Northampton. On Thursday 5th February at 1.10pm there is a piano duet recital by **Jem Lowther** and **Simon Toyne**. Then in March, **Adam Heron** - NPOA member, former Organ Scholar at Peterborough, now studying at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and Organ Scholar at Coventry - will perform music by Leighton, Howells, Bach and Langlais on Thursday 5th March at 1.10pm. [All Saints' Church, Northampton - Music : Lunchtime Live](#).

St Paul's, Bedford hosts a monthly organ recital at 12 noon for 45 minutes on the second Saturday of each month. **Laurence Caldecote** plays on 14th February. Details at [Organ Recitals](#).

BIOS Bernard Edmonds Research Conference 2026 - Saturday 21st February, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. This British Institute of Organ Studies Conference will include papers on the work of the Revd. Andrew Freeman, and on the Roger Yates' organ at Kegworth presented by Alastair Johnston. Alastair recently spoke about at Bozeat about the Yates organ there, where Andrew Freeman designed the case. Tickets £30 from [Bernard Edmonds Research Conference 2026 – BIOS](#).

IAO London Organ Day. The next London Organ Day on 14th March is held at The Royal Military Chapel ('The Guard's Chapel'), Birdcage Walk, which houses a brand new organ by Harrison & Harrison. Details are available now via <https://iao.org.uk/london-organ-day/> including a talk about the new organ involving Andrew Scott (H&H) and Dr William McVicker (project consultant), with recitals by Tom Bell and Erwan le Prado.

Bedford Music Club Bach: Life and Death 8th-18th April. Based on the Orgelbüchlein and The Orgelbüchlein Project, Bedford Music Club's Bedford Festival Bach: Life and Death includes organ and choral concerts, readings, film and much more. Details and tickets [Bach and Mortality - Bach and Mortality - Product brochure - Page 1](#).

IAO Organ Festival 2026. The provisional programme for the IAO's five day festival in Bristol, from Sunday 26th to Thursday 30th July, is available now at <https://iao.org.uk/Festival26/>.

ECHO Organ Competition 'Jehan Crinon' Leuven, Belgium. From 8th to 11th July 2026, Leuven will host the ECHO 'Jehan Crinon' Organ Competition. Open to organists born after 30th June 1996. [Competition - Leuven Orgelstad](#).

Pipe Up for Pipe Organs. You can find PUPO's latest Newsletter at [Pipe Up Newsletter version 3](#). NPOA supports PUPO and in October we featured an online presentation from PUPO founding trustee Martin Renshaw and our member Gary Sieling.

Andrew Reid appointed to Hereford. We send sincere congratulations to our Honorary Member Andrew Reid - former DoM at Peterborough, DoM of the Northampton Bach Choir, Director of the RSCM and MD at Harrisons - on appointment as DoM at Hereford Cathedral. [New Director of Music Announced | Hereford Cathedral](#).

Nigel Ogden RIP. We are very sorry to learn of the passing of Nigel Ogden, formerly of the BBC's *The Organist Entertains*, on 27th January. His skill as performer, broadcaster, composer and passionate advocate of the organ will be much missed. You may enjoy this YouTube video in his memory [Nigel Ogden - The Organist Entertains](#). There is a Daily Telegraph obituary [here](#).

BBC Desert Island Discs: George Thalben Ball. Did you know that BBC Sounds offers thousands of archived editions of *Desert Island Discs*? The 130th anniversary of Sir George Thalben Ball's birth falls this year, and he features in this 1959 recording <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p009y7j7>. He was Organist of the Temple Church for over 60 years and composer of the iconic *Elegy*, played on this link by the composer himself at the Rushworth & Dreaper organ of St Mark's, Audley Street.