

St. Faith's Church Choir

NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 22ND MAY 2020

Welcome to another edition of ramblings from the organist! I hope you're continuing to keep well and I hope you're continuing to enjoy these newsletters. Comments, improvements, suggestions more than welcome.

Online singing opportunities



The usual brief reminders this week that William Saunders from Bury St. Edmunds is continuing his hymn practice sessions on Saturday mornings. The hymn selection for this week is very much geared towards the Ascension.

<http://william-saunders.info/2020/05/21/hymn-practice-congo-live-on-saturday-mornings/>

Richard McVeigh continues to offer organ music and hymns requested by people watching on his "Beauty in Sound" YouTube channel every Sunday evening from about 5pm.



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkdRXZZXDmLJM6XBnUpIooq>



The Royal School of Church Music

continue to upload a wealth of resources to use during lockdown:

<https://www.rscm.org.uk/online-resources/>

Since last week, the RSCM have released resources for their next Big Sing event, which is being scheduled for RSCM Music Sunday (14th June). Further details are here:



<https://www.rscm.org.uk/music-sunday/>

I really hope that these links to online singing opportunities are helpful to you and are helping you to keep up some singing!

Live streamed services

Here is my pick of online services that I've dipped into during the week. As previously, I'm going to focus on services and videos which contained music in them.



A late VE Day music choice from the choristers of Chichester Cathedral who sang for a virtual video of the In Paradisum from Faure's Requiem:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T60axUK7004>

On Tuesday, the Rudolfus Choir uploaded a special evensong on YouTube. I like to call this a celebrity evensong, as it features the Rev. Richard Coles who regularly appears on radio and television, plus contributions from Alexander Armstrong from Pointless and Stephen Fry from QI who enjoys himself reading the first lesson:

THE
RODOLFUS
FOUNDATION
inspiring tomorrow's singers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X8FYAb3JK0>



This weeks "choral classics" from St. Stephen's Church, Walbrook featured music and readings on the theme of love...

<https://www.facebook.com/161694014320553/videos/189906575473130/>

... and I'm continuing to enjoy the "Great Sacred Music" services from St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London. The latest one is titled "King of Glory, King of Peace":



<https://www.facebook.com/stmartininthefields/videos/287812462234354/>



You might remember that our special guest last week was Sachin Gunga from Portsmouth Cathedral. You might also remember that a few weeks back I encouraged you to have a look at a virtual video that Sachin put together of an Easter anthem by Stanford. Sachin has put together another one for ascension, another anthem by Stanford, called "Coelos ascendit hodie":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4GydpvDpZk>

Anthem of the week

The anthem for this Sunday would have been "Come down, O love divine" by Sir William Harris, who was born in 1883 and died in 1973. He was an English organist, choir trainer and composer; and was affectionately known as Doc H by his choristers!



William Harris was organist at St Augustine's Church, Edgbaston from 1911 to 1919 and concurrently assistant organist at Lichfield Cathedral. In 1919, Harris became organist at New College and then Christ Church, Oxford in 1929. In 1933 he was appointed organist at St George's Chapel, Windsor, where he stayed until his retirement in 1961. Upon retirement, William Harris and his wife went to live in Petersfield, so a nice local link for us!

I enjoyed this 2007 of the Girls and Men of Norwich Cathedral recording available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFmtpDQ1eyA>

Organist of the week!



I haven't managed to secure an interview for you this week, so instead I'm going to give you a biography on who would have been my special guest! Another Cathedral organist for you, this time I'm delighted to feature **Richard Moore** who is currently Sub Organist of Guildford Cathedral.

I first met Richard about 15 years ago when he was a student at King Edward VI school, Southampton through Martin Hall who was one of the academic Music teaching staff at the school as well as being director of Music at the church where I was the sole tenor in the choir at the time! Richard was often the guest organist for special evening services when Martin needed someone to play the organ while he conducted the choir.

After finishing at King Edward's, Richard read Music as Organ Scholar of St John's College, Oxford, after which he took up a place at the Royal College of Music, graduating from the MMus degree with distinction, and the Walford Davies prize in organ performance. Until August 2014, Richard was Organ Scholar at St Paul's Cathedral, where, in addition to playing for services and training choristers, he also played at a number of important occasions, including the funeral of Baroness Thatcher.

Upon leaving St Paul's, Richard spent a year as Acting Assistant Organist of St Martin-in-the-Fields. A highlight of his time at St Martin's was the service to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VJ Day, which took place in the presence of HM Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the royal family, and was broadcast on BBC television.

Richard was briefly the third Organist at Winchester Cathedral (and was succeeded by Claudia Grinnell who was a previous interviewee) and has now taken up the very busy post of Sub Organist at Guildford.

Richard is one half of the Illumina Duo with trumpet player Ellie Lovegrove and they specialise in playing music for trumpet and organ: www.illumina.london

In June 2019, Martin Hall (mentioned above) sadly passed away. I ended up being responsible for sorting the music for the funeral service and I was delighted to have a total of five of Martins friends taking it in turns to play the organ for the service. I played the final hymn which was "The day thou gavest" and then handed over the organ to Richard, who played Martin out superbly with Crown Imperial by William Walton. Although a sad occasion, it was good to have the chance to meet up with Richard again.

Although a lot of Church musicians are currently on furlough at the moment, Richard seems to be very busy still playing (from what I guess must be his home) for regular broadcasts offered by the team at Guildford Cathedral.

I especially enjoyed the Guildford Cathedral broadcast marking VE Day with lots of Music. Richard appropriately chose to play the Dam Busters March by Eric Coates, which I watched with a big smile on my face, knowing that Martin Hall would have loved it! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cRbpM_XSnk
(The Dam Busters starts about 47 minutes in)



That's all for this week! Stay safe and keep singing!

Graham