



Newsletter, May 2024

Dear Members,

Welcome to this month's newsletter, in which you will find details of our upcoming events – including some new ones – recitals, and more. If you have items to be included in the next newsletter, please email them to southwarksouthlondon@gmail.com by Friday 31 May. We aim to send out the newsletter on the first Friday of the month.

Future SSLSO events

For full details of these and other upcoming SSLSO events, please visit our website: www.sslso.org.uk

Saturday 18 May: Visits to St James's Bermondsey, Thurland Road, London SE16 4AA, from 10am, and to St Anne's, Limehouse, Three Colt Street, E14 8HH, from 2pm.

We will be visiting two very interesting churches with historic organs. St James's, Bermondsey, has a 3-manual [Bishop organ](#) dating from 1829, and most lately restored by Goetze & Gwynn. It has a very unusual pedal board. St Anne's has a 3-manual [Gray & Davison organ](#) (1851) restored by William Drake. St James's is near Bermondsey station (Jubilee line), and we will travel to St Anne's either via Canary Wharf station or by car. Both churches have fascinating histories.

Saturday 15 June, 1pm: *Member's Recital* at Penge Congregational Church, SE20 7QG, part of the Penge Festival.

Alan Langridge writes: "Over the years it's become a tradition that SSLSO members play for the Penge Festival organ recital. This is always a well-attended event, is greatly appreciated by the Penge community, and is another opportunity for us to showcase our talent. And of course you get a chance to play the wonderful Penge Lewis organ! The recital lasts about an hour so, unfortunately, we won't be able to accommodate as many players as we had in February at our composite recital. Six players each playing for ten minutes each is probably our maximum, but if you'd like to play for less, that's fine too. If you would like to play, please let me know by **Friday 10 May**. I am particularly keen to hear from our bursary students. A practice session for each player will be arranged, either on the day or in the week before. If you are interested, please let me know which piece(s) you wish to play (up to 10 minutes) and the duration of each piece." Please contact Alan via our [contact form](#).

Saturday 6 July, 2.30pm-5pm: *Repertoire Session with Richard Pilliner* at St John's, East Dulwich, SE22 9AT.

Sunday 11 August, 2.30pm-5pm: *Summer Social* at St Giles's, Camberwell, SE5 8RB.

Saturday 28 September, morning: *Conducting workshop with Ashley Valentine* at St Giles's, Camberwell, SE5 8RB.

We are looking for singers to form a choir as well as those wishing to take part. Please contact us at southwarksouthlondon@gmail.com if you can sing/provide singers.

Saturday 5 October, 7pm: *SSLSO Annual Dinner* at Brasserie Blanc, Chancery Lane, WC2A 1PP.

Our guest speaker this year is Dr Barry Rose, on his time at St Paul's, and Guildford, being music adviser to the head of religious broadcasting at the BBC, and more. Please do reserve your place/places now. Email southwarksouthlondon@gmail.com

Recent SSLSO events

Workshop on "learning" with Marilyn Harper at Christ's Chapel, Dulwich

Eight members joined Marilyn for a workshop on "how to learn and how to remember what is learnt" on Thursday 18 April. Marilyn patiently helped people to think about how to approach a variety of different pieces. Some people brought music they hadn't started learning, and others brought something they were struggling with. Everyone went away with some really helpful ways to approach their music and improve their learning.

Education day

On Saturday 20 April, 35 people were at St George's, Bickley, for the joint education event with the Bromley and Croydon Organists' Association. Unfortunately, David Pipe, who was due to lead the day, was unable to attend after an accident, and the day was saved by Norman and Marilyn Harper and Jonathan Holmes. After a short demonstration of the organ, several of the BCOA organ-scholarship recipients played a piece each, which Marilyn commented on. Some of the SSLSO bursary recipients were there as observers; we hope to hear from them next time!

Other events coming up

Saturday 11 May, 3-4.30pm, at Christ's Chapel: *Explore the Organ* with Marilyn Harper (part of the Dulwich Festival, free, all welcome)

Sunday 16 June, at Southwark Cathedral: Southwark Diocesan Outreach Festival Evensong. Rehearsal 2pm, Evensong at 3pm. Bring yourselves and choirs. Book with Ian Keatley: ian.keatley@southwark.anglican.org

News from the IAO

The latest newsletter from the IAO (which members should have received directly) is attached.

RCO Events

The RCO has a full programme of events at rco.org.uk. Those upcoming in London include the following; booking required.

Monday 6 May, 11am-2pm, at St Giles Cripplegate, EC2Y 8DA: *Hymn playing – beyond the basics* with Anne Marsden-Thomas.

Saturday 25 May, 11am-2pm, at St Giles Cripplegate, EC2Y 8DA: *Composing for Organ* with Frederick Stocken.

Saturday 1 June, 10am-5.30pm, at The Musical Museum, Brentford, TW8 ODU *The Musical Museum Theatre Organ Day* with Simon Gledhill, Richard Hills, and Donald MacKenzie, and the 12-rank Wurlitzer.

Saturday 15 June, 11am-2pm, at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, WC2H 8EP *Playing piano accompaniments on the organ* with Roger Carter.

RCO Podcast

Don't miss this fortnightly offering from the RCO. Search for "The Organ Podcast" wherever you get your podcasts, or visit rco.org.uk/podcast. There are already seven episodes, hosted by organist and award-winning former BBC radio and TV producer Mark O'Brien. Featured so far are the Cavallé-Coll at Manchester Town Hall; Liverpool Cathedral's new echo organ; Anne Marsden Thomas and Ghislaine Reece-Trapp on the *Oxford Book of Organ Music by Women Composers*; Darius Battiwalla on improvising at the movies; Andy Scott of Harrison's on voicing the Guards' Chapel organ; Thomas Trotter on being organist of Birmingham Town Hall for 40 years; Tom Daggett on rebuilding the choir at Sheffield Cathedral; Andrew Parmley on being chief executive of the RCO; Andrew Macintosh on the NPOR; interviews with Margaret Phillips, Martin Baker, Richard Gowers, David Aprahamian Liddle, and MUCH more!

Recitals and concerts over the next two months

Mondays at 1.20pm, at Southwark Cathedral: free lunchtime organ recital

Sundays at 4pm, at Westminster Abbey, free 30-minute organ recital

Sundays in June at 4.30pm, at St Paul's Cathedral: free 30-minute organ recital

Sunday 5 May, 5.30pm, at St Paul's Cathedral: Matthew Jorysz plays Messiaen's *L'Ascension*

Monday 6 May, 11.30am, at Bromley Parish Church: Daniel Moulton (Birmingham)

Saturday 11 May, 11am, at St John's, East Dulwich SE22 9AT: James Carpenter (Beckenham Baptist Church)

Sunday 12 May, 7.45pm, at Christ's Chapel, 14 Gallery Road, Dulwich, SE21 7AD: Francesca Massey (paid-ticket event, part of the Dulwich Festival)

Tuesday 14 May, 1.05pm, at St Mary's, Ewell, Bach organ recital plus musicians from local schools

Thursday 16 May, 7.30pm, at St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood, SE19 2RX: George Herbert (Assistant Director of Music of HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court; to be Assistant Organist of New College, Oxford)

Saturday 18 May, 7.30pm, at St Mary's, Ewell: Jonathan Holmes plays Widor and Dupré

Sunday 19 May, 5.30pm, at St Paul's Cathedral: Jonathan Allsopp plays Messiaen's *Messe de la Pentecôte*

Sunday 19 May, 6pm, at St John's, East Dulwich SE22 9AT: the choir of St John's sings Fauré's "Cantique de Jean Racine" in a concert with the Southwark Sinfonietta. Other works by Handel, Busoni, and Mozart. (paid-ticket event, part of the Dulwich Festival)

Saturday 25 May, 7.30pm, at St John the Evangelist, Duncan Terrace, N1: Damin Spritzer (Professor of Organ, Oklahoma University)

Monday 27 May, 11.30am, at Bromley Parish Church: Ian Shaw (London)

Saturday 1 June, 12.30pm, at the Church of the Most Precious Blood, O'Meara Street, London SE1 1TD: Marilyn and Norman Harper

Thursday 6 June, 6.30pm, at St Paul's Cathedral: William Fox (Assistant Director of Music of St Paul's Cathedral; to be Director of Music of St Albans Cathedral) (paid-ticket event)

Tuesday 11 June, 1.05pm, at St Mary's, Ewell, Bach organ recital plus students from local schools

Saturday 15 June, at 7.30pm, at St Mary's, Ewell: Jonathan Homes, Scandinavian organ music.

Sunday 16 June, at 7.45pm, at Christ's Chapel, 14 Gallery Road, Dulwich, SE21 7AD: Claire Hobbs (formerly Holy Trinity, Geneva, Bristol and Clifton Cathedrals)

Thursday 20 June, at 7.30pm, at St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood, SE19 2RX: James Gough (Assistant Organist of Southwark Cathedral)

Saturday 29 June, at 7.30pm, at St John the Evangelist, Duncan Terrace, N1: Joshua Simoes (Royal Academy of Music)

Opportunities

Organ Scholarship: Beckenham Baptist Church

"This is an excellent opportunity for a student of Grade 6 standard (or thereabouts) to develop their skills in the context of a welcoming church community. From time to time there is the opportunity to assist with leading small instrumental and choral groups, and participate in cathedral visits."

More details on the attached flyer, or email music@beckenhambaptist.org.uk

'Open Monday' at Penge Congregational Church

Alan Langridge writes: "At Penge Music, based at Penge Congregational Church, a team of four, including myself run an 'Open Monday' event every 3rd Monday of the month, starting at 7.30pm. It provides an opportunity for musicians (all instruments and voices) to play in public in a non-service setting to a very supportive and appreciative audience. It's very relaxed and informal – we arrange seating around tables and encourage people to bring their own drinks and snacks (alcohol permitted).

“The wonderful Penge Lewis organ is always played and is very popular with the audience. It’s available to anyone of any standard to play for one of our events. If you’ve got a party piece you wouldn’t usually dare play in a service, here’s your chance!

“Tickets are £5 for performers and audience, cash or card accepted. Under 16s are free.

“If you're interested in taking part, please contact me. You’ll be offered a practice session and any help you need.

“Do come along anyway to support our work and for a convivial evening with other enthusiastic musicians.

“Of course you can offer any other instrument you play. We have a lovely Blüthner grand piano and a gorgeous acoustic.”

For more details, please contact Alan via our [contact form](#).

Organ Appeal: St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood

Adrian Adams and Lionel Bourne write: “Anybody who knows St John’s will know that our pipe organ is a remarkable instrument, one of the finest in any parish church in London and the south of England. Our organ has nearly 2000 glorious pipes, which make a heavenly sound, but as with any trinket at home which gathers dust, 2000 pipes gather a lot of dust and muck! Therefore, from time to time the organ has to be taken apart pipe by pipe and cleaned, repaired and put back together again. All of this happens at high level and so requires a lot of scaffolding and care to ensure not only the safety of the working technicians, but also of the metal and woodwork to make sure that things aren't accidentally damaged. In September this year, Harrison & Harrison will move in and not only clean and repair the organ, but also take the once in a generation opportunity to add the great 32ft pedal flue and finish the organ as originally envisaged.

“Please support our campaign to keep our Organ going for another 50 years. Become a donor to our Organ Fund and we will together blow away the cobwebs and hear the music play.”

More details at www.sjun.org.uk

We hope to see you at some of the above events.

With best wishes to you all,

The SSLSO committee