

Southwark & South London Society of Organists

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists ~ Registered Charity No. 279537

President: Dr Harry Brama

Chair: Irene Wolstenholme



Newsletter, June 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 28 June. 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 15 June, 1pm: *Member's Recital* at Penge Congregational Church, SE20 7QG, part of the Penge Festival.

Five SSLSO members – Bridget West, Mark Baker, Malcolm Aldridge, Mike Cooke and Alan Langridge – will be performing for the annual Penge Festival organ recital. Music by Böhm, Bach, Mendelssohn, Sibelius, Vierne, Thalben-Ball, Philip Moore and Christopher Maxim. Refreshments served from 12.30pm and again afterwards. Admission free, donations invited towards the organ fund. Please come and support our members!

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

Bring any music you would like to play.

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

Saturday 18 May: Visits to St James's Bermondsey, and St Anne's, Limehouse.

Eleven members met to get to know the historic organs at St James's, Bermondsey, and St Anne's, Limehouse. At Bermondsey, we were met by Takuya Yorita, until recently the organist there; he has moved to the Netherlands for his work, but kindly came back for the weekend to show us the organ. Members quickly discovered that the pedalboard of this organ goes down only to G, and also that there is a separate keyboard next to the organ on which an assistant can play the pedal part if needed! Tack however demonstrated how the pedal parts

could be altered to be played on that organ. It was a very interesting visit, even if many of us were glad we didn't have to play there regularly!

After a journey through the Rotherhithe tunnel and a quick lunch at a local “caff”, we turned to the William Drake at St Anne’s, which was much less of a physical challenge, though still mainly appropriate for Baroque (and earlier) music. We all had time to explore the colours of the organ (which sounds very good from the nave).

Overall, a good day, though the traffic getting home may have taken the shine off it for some.

Other events coming up

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

Friday 21 June SLSO members will be playing “Henry” at London Bridge Station between 12pm and 2pm as part of an event promoting businesses in the London Borough of Southwark. If you are passing, do pop by.

RCO Events

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

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

Tuesday 25 June, online *Building an Organ Teaching Practice* with Robin Harrison and David Barnard.

Saturday 6 July, 10.30am-3.30pm, at St Botolph without Aldgate and St George’s German Lutheran Church *Adapting to Historic Instruments* with Richard Brasier.

Monday 29 July – Saturday 3 August, Summer Course for Organists.

ChiffChat Podcast

Ben Bloor, Organist of Brompton Oratory, has been streaming his own podcast, “ChiffChat — The Organ Podcast”. In each hour-long episode, he has a light-hearted conversation with an organist on a range of topics, and there is always an entertaining quick-fire quiz. Guests are Richard McVeigh, Tom Bell, Daniel Moulton, Martin Baker, Richard Pinel, and Steven Grahl. All episodes can be found at <https://rss.com/podcasts/chiffchat/>

Recitals and concerts over the next two months

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

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

Sundays at 5pm, at Westminster Abbey, free 30-minute organ recital.

Thursday 6 June, at 5.30pm, at St Paul’s Cathedral: William Fox’s final recital after six years at St Paul’s Cathedral (he moves to be Director of Music at St Albans Cathedral) (paid-ticket event.)

Friday 7 June, at 7.30pm, at Ripley Arts Centre, Bromley BR1 2PX: harpsichord recital by Gilbert Rowland. (Tickets £12.)

Saturday 8 June, at 11am, at St John’s, East Dulwich SE22 9AT: piano recital by Calum Ward.

Saturday 8 June, at 6pm, at St Matthew's, Westminster SW1P 2BU: Hammig String Quartet.

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

Friday 14 June, at 7.30pm, at St John's, Sidcup: Herman Jordaan.

Saturday 15 June, at 7.30pm, at St Mary's, Ewell: Jonathan Holmes, 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).

Wednesday 19 June, at 1.10pm, at St Michael and All Angels with St James, Poplar Walk, Croydon CR0 1UA: George Inscoe (Croydon Minster).

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

Sunday 23 June, at 7pm, at St Mary's, Chislehurst: organ recital, with big screen. (Tickets £15+booking fee.)

Friday 28 June at 1.10pm, at Croydon Minster: lunchtime recital.

Friday 28 June, at 6pm, at the Royal Festival Hall: Organ at 70: Ourania Gassiou and Eleni Keventsidou. (Tickets from £20.)

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

Thursday 4 July, at 6.30pm, at St Paul's Cathedral: Martin Ford (paid-ticket event).

Wednesday 10 July, at 1.10pm, at St Michael and All Angels with St James, Poplar Walk, Croydon CR0 1UA: Eleni Keventsidou (London Performing Arts Academy).

Saturday 13 July, at 11am, at St John's, East Dulwich SE22 9AT: Composite recital.

Thursday 18 July, at 7.30pm, at St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood, SE19 2RX: Richard Pinel (St Mary's, Bourne Street)

Wednesday 24 July, at 1.10pm, at St Michael and All Angels with St James, Poplar Walk, Croydon CR0 1UA: Nicholas Tall (St Michael's, Croydon).

Saturday 27 July, at 7.30pm, at St John the Evangelist, Duncan Terrace, N1: Charles Francis (Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York).

Opportunities

Choral Scholarships at St George's, Beckenham

Two scholarships – one alto, one tenor – are available for student singers aged 16 or above at any stage of education, from September 2024. CVs to be sent to Charlie Warren at office@stgeorgesbeckenham.co.uk by Friday 28 June. Auditions will comprise a solo piece of the candidate's choice, and range, sight-reading and musicianship tests. See the attached flyer for more details.

Charlie is also recruiting adults to the choir at St George's, Beckenham. More information at <https://stgeorgesbeckenham.co.uk/music/>

Choral music for sale

Pamela Hunt has sets of anthems for sale, following her husband's retirement as organist at their local church, and wondered if members would be interested in purchasing any of them. Attached is an up-to-date list of what is available. The copies are in good order. If you wish to purchase, please contact Pamela at pamela.hunt@zen.co.uk.

Dominic Gwynn RIP

From the British Institute of Organ Studies:

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Dominic Gwynn, on Friday 24 May 2024, after having cancer for a year and a half. He died peacefully, surrounded by his family.

Dominic was a pioneer, author, historian, a doting father, grandfather and husband, an organ builder, and conservator. His work in the field of historic restoration and reconstruction, along with his research into the pre-Victorian English organ, made him a leading light in the organ building and early music worlds.

We have truly reached the end of an era.

The team at Goetze and Gwynn will keep the extraordinary legacy left to us by Dominic alive.

There are many organ builders around the world now who have passed through the workshops of Martin Goetze and Dominic Gwynn Ltd., who have gone into the world having been taught great respect and craftsmanship. We will continue this work to the best of our ability, restoring, reconstructing and teaching, dedicated to the memory of Dominic and Martin.

To Dominic's family and many friends around the world, we offer our sincere condolences.

His funeral will be on Friday 14 June at 1pm, at St Cuthbert's, Wells BA5 2AW. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

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

With best wishes to you all,

The SLSO committee