

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, July 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 26 July. 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 6 July, 2.30pm-5pm: *Repertoire Session with Richard Pilliner* at St John's, East Dulwich, SE22 9AT.

Open to all. Hopefully those of you who are coming have let us know that you are joining us and told us what music you will be bringing to play to Richard. If you wish to attend, please let [Andrew Chadney](mailto:Andrew.Chadney@sslso.org.uk) know asap!

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

Come along for a relaxed chat with other organists. A pay bar will be open all afternoon.

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.

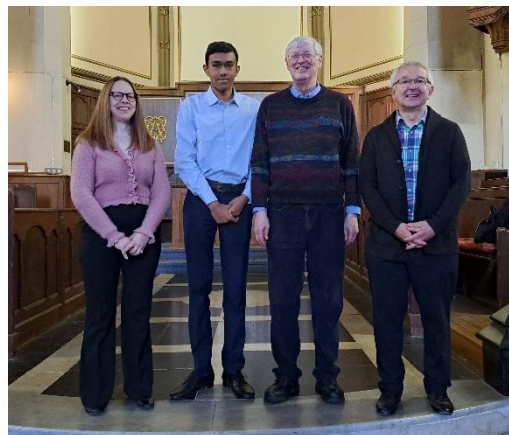
Our guest speaker this year is Dr Barry Rose, on his time at St Paul's, and Guildford, being music adviser to the head of religious broadcasting at the BBC, and more. Please do reserve your place/places now. Email southwarksouthlondon@gmail.com

Saturday 9 November: Visits to the Most Precious Blood, Borough, (11.15am) and St Peter's, Vauxhall (2.30pm).

Recent SSLSO events

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

Four SSLSO members — Alan Langridge, Bridget West, Malcolm Aldridge and Mark Baker — performed a programme of Böhm, Bach, Mendelssohn, Vierne, Thalben-Ball, Philip Moore, Christopher Maxim and John Philip Sousa. The recital brought in a good crowd on a rainy day, and raised a record £365 for the organ fund. Comments from the audience included: “I’ve never heard the organ sound so beautiful.” “I particularly enjoyed the choice of stops.” “Such amazing talent in the local area.” “It was an excellent concert; such high standards.” Thank you to them all and everyone who came to listen. What will we be able to achieve next year?



From left: Bridget, Mark, Malcolm and Alan

Members of SSLSO and BCOA gave one of three two-hour recitals on “Henry” at London Bridge Station on **Friday 21 June** as part of Make Music Day UK. The six organists — Bridget West, Norman Harper, Simon Gregory, Brian Newman, Marilyn Harper and Andrew Baars — presented a varied programme, including works by Clérambault, Bach, Mendelssohn, Cecilia McDowell, Goss-Custard and Eric Coates, and well-known numbers such as “A Whiter Shade of Pale”, “By the Sleepy Lagoon” (the theme music for *Desert Island Discs*), “Gabriel’s Oboe” and the main title of *Chariots of Fire*. It was much appreciated by all who came by, and conversations were had with many members of the public of all ages about organs, music, Brian’s most musical socks, and much more. Huge thanks to George Allan, from the Pipe Up Trust, for being on hand for the duration.



Above, from left: Andrew, Simon, Marilyn, Bridget, George and Brian.

Right: Norman



RCO Events

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

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.

Recitals and concerts over the next two months

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

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

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

Saturday 6 July, at 7.30pm, at St Mary's, Ewell, KT17 2AY: Organ duets, organ and piano duets (donations for the organ fund).

Sunday 7 July, at 3pm, at St Mary's, Battersea, SW11 3NA: Robert Patterson (St Etheldreda's, Ely Place), part of the Complete J S Bach organ work series.

Sunday 7 July, at 4pm, at St Peter's, Streatham, Leigham Court Road, SW16 2SD: Choir concert including music by Gibbons, Monteverdi, S. S. Wesley, Stanford and Bob Chilcott, directed by David Chapman, and organist Richard Pilliner. Admission free, refreshments served.

Sunday 7 July, at 4.30pm, at St Paul's Cathedral: illustrated guide to the organ, with Jeremiah Stephenson.

Tuesday 9 July, at 1.05pm, at St Mary's, Ewell, KT17 2AY: Jonathan Holmes and friends play Bach.

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: Sarah Best, Callum Orr and Mark Baker (*see attached flyer*).

Sunday 14 July, at 4.30pm, at St Paul's Cathedral: Bruce Barber.

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

Saturday 20 July, at 7.30pm, at All Saints', Bark Hart Road, Orpington BR6 0QD: All Saints' Festival Choir sings Mozart, Stanford, S. S. Wesley, and more (paid-ticket event) (*see attached flyer*).

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).

Thursday 1 August, at 6.30pm, at St Paul's Cathedral. Martin Baker improvises to the 1925 classic silent film *The Phantom of the Opera*, shown on a big screen (paid-ticket event).

Sunday 4 August, at 4.30pm, at St Paul's Cathedral: Charles Francis (Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York).

Thursday 22 August, at 7.30pm, at St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood, SE19 2RX: Florence Rousseau (Kergonan Abbey, France).

Monday 26 August, at 11.30am, at Bromley Parish Church, BR2 0EG: Francesca Massey.

Tuesday 27 August, at 1.05pm, at St Mary's, Ewell, KT17 2AY: Jonathan Holmes and friends play Bach.

Opportunities

Choral Scholarships at St George's, Beckenham

EXTRA! A soprano scholarship is now also available. The deadline is now Friday 5 July. Do pass this on now!

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. Auditions will comprise a solo piece of the candidate's choice, and range, sight-reading and musicianship tests. (*A flyer with full details was sent with the June newsletter.*)

Harold Smart Memorial Composition Competition 2024

This is an opportunity for composers aged 25 and under (at 1 July) to write a short (less than five minutes) two-part anthem, to a text by Canon Gordon Giles, to “inspire and uplift”, and suitable for use in a service. The winning prize is £300 cash, composition tuition (with an agreed tutor) of £200, and the possibility of publication by the RSCM. The deadline is 31 October. Full information can be found at rscm.org.uk/whats-on/harold-smart/

The latest RSCM Director's Notes is also attached.

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

With best wishes to you all,

The SSLSO committee