

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, September 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 27 September. 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 28 September, 2.30pm-5pm: *Taking a rehearsal and conducting a choir: Conducting workshop with Ashley Valentine* at St Giles's, Camberwell, SE5 8RB.

If you're new to working with choirs or if you fancy refreshing your skills or sharing top tips, come and join this workshop with Ashley Valentine in St Giles's, Camberwell.

Ashley will be rehearsing parts of John Rutter's *Requiem* and some other choral classics with a group of enthusiastic singers of all abilities from a local community choir. There will be a chance for you to take part in the rehearsal by singing, playing or conducting; or feel free to observe. After the rehearsal, there'll be some light refreshments before having a chat about how the rehearsal went and going through any conducting basics attendees would like to try out.

2pm introduction; **2.30pm** rehearsal with singers; **4pm** refreshments; **4.20pm** chat, conducting basics; **5.30pm** end.

Taking a rehearsal or conducting can feel quite scary sometimes, especially if you're new to leading a choir or preparing for an important performance. This workshop will hopefully be as relaxed, informative, and as friendly as possible. It should be fun!

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).

Opportunities

SSLSO Education Project

The 2024-25 bursary scheme is now open. This scheme is to promote organ playing and help to nurture a future generation of organists. Those of all ages who have some keyboard experience (the equivalent of Grade 5 or above) and would like to learn the organ are encouraged to apply.

The award covers the cost of five organ lessons with an SSLSO-approved teacher, and some money towards sheet music. Successful applicants will be given a year's membership of the SSLSO, have the opportunity to play at events and masterclasses and attend an award ceremony in the following academic year. Please share with anyone who you think may be interested. Visit sslsso.org.uk for more details

Recent SSLSO events

Sunday 11 August: Summer Social
at St Giles's, Camberwell.

We had a great turn-out this year. And the sun made an appearance all day. Thank you to Martin for organising, Ashley, Fr Nick, and the team St Giles's. See you all at the dinner in October!



Recitals and concerts over the next two months

Sundays in September and 6 and 13 October, at 4.30pm, at St Paul's Cathedral, free 30-min organ recital.

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

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

Wednesdays in September, at 7.30pm, at Westminster Cathedral: Grand Organ Festival 2024: Thomas Ospital, Peter Stevens, Peter Holder, Simon Johnson (paid-ticket events).

*** SSLSO members are offered tickets at just £10 (full price £15).

Please take the accompanying email with you when you arrive at the door. ***

Fridays at 12.30pm, at St George's, Beckenham BR3 1AX: weekly recital series — singers, pianists, string players and more. The recital on **Friday 6 September** will be an organ recital, given by Charlie Warren. Free entry, retiring collection for music at St George's.

Saturdays at 11am, at St George's, Beckenham BR3 1AX: weekly recital series – students from Trinity School and more. N.B. No recital on Saturday 28 September, owing to a bellringing competition. Free entry, retiring collection for music at St George's.

Thursday 5 September, at 6.30pm, at St Paul's Cathedral. Chelsea Chen plays traditional organ repertoire and transcriptions, including a medley from John Williams's *Star Wars* soundtrack (paid-ticket event).

Thursday 5 September, at 7.30pm, at the Guards' Chapel, Birdcage Walk, SW1E 6HQ: inaugural recital by Martin Ford (the Guards' Chapel and St Paul's Cathedral), Ben Giddens (the Guards' Chapel), William Fox (St Albans Cathedral), and Peter Holder (Westminster Abbey). **Pre-concert talk at 6.30pm**, including contributions by Andrew Scott, MD of Harrisons & Harrisons.

Saturday 7 September, at 7.30pm, at St Mary's, Ewell, KT17 2AY: Patronal Festival Organ Recital by Jonathan Holmes (Vierne, Gospel Preludes, and "Lollipops" with a Last Night of the Proms flavour).

Tuesday 10 September, at 1.10pm, at the Guards' Chapel, Birdcage Walk, SW1E 6HQ: Ben Giddens (the Guards' Chapel).

Friday 20 September, at 6.30pm, at Dulwich Picture Gallery: recital by Sara Trickey (violin) and Daniel Tong (piano).

Works include Beethoven's Sonata no 2 in A major and the Kreutzer Sonata, a selection of dances, by Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky, Bartok, Dvořák and Kreisler. More details and tickets from [Dulwich Picture Gallery](#).

Saturday 21 September, at 11am, at St John's, East Dulwich SE22 9AT: Terence Atkins (Barnet Parish Church). *See attached flyer*.

Saturday 23 September, at 7.30pm, at St John the Evangelist, Duncan Terrace, N1 8AL: Isabelle Demers.

Saturday 23 September, 7pm for 7.30pm, at The Italian Church of St Peter, 136 Clerkenwell Road EC1R 5DL.

Laura Carminati, one of the volunteers, writes: "The world première of Missae Papae Ioannis by Massimiliano Pace, scored for soprano, piano, four cellos and narrator, at the Italian Church of St Peter marks the start of a three-day event to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the canonisation of Pope John XXIII. The Apostolic Nuncio to the UK, Monsignor Miguel Mauray Buendía, the director of the Pope John XXIII Foundation, Don Ezio Bolis, and representatives of Italian institutes will be in attendance." See attached flyer.

More details are on the [Eventbrite page](#). SSLSO members are offered a **discount** of £5. Please use the code SSLSO on the ticket page. Laura and the whole team of volunteers organising the event would be delighted to see anyone and are very grateful for all publicity.

Tuesday 8 October, at 1.10pm, at the Guards' Chapel, Birdcage Walk, SW1E 6HQ: Charles Andrews (Temple Church).

News from the RCO and the RSCM

Please see the attached documents.

Obituaries

Ian Keatley, Organist and Director of Music of Southwark Cathedral

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Ian Keatley. He had joined the SSLSO earlier this year. An obituary by his predecessor at Southwark, and SSLSO member, Peter Wright, can be found in the [Church Times](#).

The Rt Revd Timothy Dudley-Smith died on 12 August, aged 97. He will be long remembered for the words of hymns including "Lord, for the years" (1967) and "Tell out, my soul" (1962). John Betjeman described the latter as "one of the few modern hymns that will truly last". One of many obituaries can be found [here](#).

An obituary for organ builder Dominic Gwynn, who died on 24 May (Newsletter, June 2024), is due to be published in the *Church Times* this month. Bookmark this [page](#).

Congratulations

to **Stephanie Gaunt** on being awarded the ARCO, winning the Sowerbutts Prize, the Durrant Prize and the Samuel Baker prize.

Please do join us at the dinner next month.

With very best wishes to you all,

The SSLSO Committee