

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, November 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 30 November. We aim to send out the newsletter on the first Friday of the month.

Future SLSO events

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

Saturday 9 November: Visits to the Most Precious Blood, O'Meara Street, SE1 1TE (11.15am) and St Peter's, Vauxhall 310 Kennington Lane, SE11 5HY (2.30pm). You are welcome to join us at one church or both.

No meeting in December as you may all be busy. . .

Our **2025 programme** is shaping up. It will begin with:

Saturday 18 January: Repertoire session, focusing on music for Lent and Easter. Please bring your ideas, suggestions for the seasons.

Saturday 22 February, at 2.30pm: Our annual **composite recital** will take place at Penge Congregational Church. If you would like to perform, please contact Alan Langridge on alan2468100@gmail.com. We do encourage members from across the society to play, and particularly welcome beginners including those on our bursary scheme.

Recent SLSO events

Annual dinner, Saturday 5 October, at Brasserie Blanc, Chancery Lane

We welcomed Barry Rose as our guest speaker, with his wife, Buffy. Barry spoke of his career in insurance and then in cathedrals and with the BBC. There was laughter, interaction — particularly with our president, Harry Brama — and moments of thought, not least about how we as organists lead hymn-singing that everyone wherever they are in the building can join in fully. Books were sold and signed (*Barry Rose: Sitting on a Pin* is available from various retailers online). There was great food and wine aplenty. Thank you to everyone for coming and those who organised the evening.

Photo: Laura Carminati



IAO news

The latest newsletter is attached.

Opportunities

The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, at Queen Square, WC1N 3BG, is seeking a **curator for the chapel organ** for six months from November, as a freelance. Please see the attached document for full details.

Recitals and concerts over the next two months

Mondays at 1pm, at St Michael's Cornhill: [weekly organ recital](#). That on Monday 18 November is being given by our member John Ward. *John writes: "I'd love to see some friendly SSLSO faces! It's a special recital for me to play at the church where Harold Darke was organist for fifty years as I won the Harold Darke prize many moons ago at RCM, and also had my first serious lessons from Roger Fisher of Chester Cathedral (himself a Darke pupil), and I'm including an improvisation on themes by Harold Darke in my programme!"*

Mondays at 1.20pm, at Southwark Cathedral: weekly lunchtime recitals.

Fridays at 12.30pm, at St George's, Beckenham BR3 1AX: weekly recital series — singers, pianists, string players and more. The recital on 20 December will be carols sung by the choir. Free entry, retiring collection for music at St George's. No recital on 27 December.

Saturdays at 11am, at St George's, Beckenham BR3 1AX: weekly recital series – students from Trinity School and more. Free entry, retiring collection for music at St George's. No recital on 28 December.

Saturday 2 November, at 12.30pm, at the Most Precious Blood, Southwark: Richard Gowers (St George's, Hanover Square) (free, retiring collection).

Sunday 3 November, at 5pm, at Westminster Abbey: Benjamin Newlove (St Alphege's, Greenwich) (free 30-minute recital).

Sunday 3 November, at 5.30pm, at St Paul's Cathedral: Peter Stevens plays *Les Corps Glorieux* by Messiaen (free).

Tuesday 5 November, at 1.05pm, at St Mary's, Ewell: Bach (free, 30-minute recital).

Tuesday 5 November, at 1.10pm, at St George's, Hanover Square W1S 1FX: Tom Winpenny (St Albans Cathedral) (free).

Wednesday 6 November, at 1.15pm, at Temple Church, EC4Y 7HL: James Thomas (Bury St Edmunds).

Sunday 10 November, at 7.30pm, at Christ's Chapel, Dulwich SE21 7AD: Andreana Chan (Pembroke College, Cambridge) plays music by Bach, Buxtehude, Vaughan Williams, Chaminade and Ghislaine Reece-Trapp (free, retiring collection). *Note the time (not 7.45pm)*.

Tuesday 12 November, at 1.10pm, at the Guards' Chapel, Birdcage Walk SW1E 6HQ: Ben Bloor (Brompton Oratory).

Wednesday 13 November, at 6pm, at Freemasons Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, WC2B 5AZ: Katherine Dienes-Williams (Guildford Cathedral) plays "lighter repertoire on the restored 1933 Willis III organ". Admission £10.

Saturday 16 November, at 1.10pm, at St Michael and All Angels with St James, Poplar Walk, Croydon CR0 1UA: Ed Gaut (Keble College, Oxford) (free).

Saturday 16 November, at 7.30pm, at St Mildred's, Bingham Road, Croydon CR0 7EB: **Olivier Latry Grand Inaugural Concert** on the new Nicholson & Co. west organ. There are just a few seats still [available](#).

Sunday 17 November, at 3pm, at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster: Donald Mackenzie (Oden Leicester Square, and Ayrshire) (free).

Sunday 17 November, at 4.30pm, at St Paul's Cathedral: Marcus Wibberley (free 30-minute recital).

Monday 18 November, at 1pm, at St Michael Cornhill: SLSO member John Ward.

Wednesday 20 November, at 1.05pm, at the Welsh Church of Central London W1W 8DJ: Thomas Allery (Temple Church, and St Mary-le-Bow, London) (free).

Thursday 21 November, at 6.30pm, at the Guards' Chapel, Birdcage Walk SW1E 6HQ: Jean-Baptiste Robin.

Thursday 28 November, at 6.30pm, at the Guards' Chapel, Birdcage Walk SW1E 6HQ: Simon Johnson (Westminster Cathedral).

Saturday 30 November, at 1.10pm, at St Michael and All Angels with St James, Poplar Walk, Croydon CR0 1UA: Nicholas Tall and Alexander Trowell, English Song Book (free).

Saturday 30 November, at 4pm, at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, WC2H 8EP: Ashley Grote (Norwich Cathedral) (free).

Tuesday 3 December, at 1.05pm, at St Mary's, Ewell KT17 2AY: Bach organ recitals (free).

Wednesday 4 December, at 1.10pm, at St Michael and All Angels with St James, Poplar Walk, Croydon CR0 1UA: Joshua Ryan (Hampstead Parish Church) plays *La Nativité du Seigneur* by Messiaen (free).

Saturday 7 December, at 6pm, at St George's German Lutheran Church, E1 8EB: Organ Vesper given by Richard Brasier (St George's German Lutheran Church, London) (free).

Saturday 7 December, at 7.30pm, at St Mary's, Ewell KT17 2AY: A Christmas Cracker, organ solos and duets played by Sarah and Jonathan Holmes, plus audience carols (free, suggested donations £10).

Tuesday 10 December, at 7.30pm, at Christ's Chapel, Dulwich SE21 7AD: Benjamin Chewter (Metropolitan Tabernacle Baptist Church, London) (free, donations invited for the maintenance of the chapel organ). *Note the time, programme attached.*

Thursday 12 December, at 1.10pm, at St Mary's, Guildford GU1 3TY: Jeremiah Stephenson (All Saints', Margaret Street, and St Paul's Cathedral) (free).

Saturday 14 December, at 7.30pm, at St Matthew's, West Wimbledon SW20 0DE: Wimbledon Chamber Choir Christmas concert, conducted by SLSO member Peter Smith. Works include Palestrina's *Missa Brevis* and carols, including one of Peter's own.

Saturday 14 December, at 7pm, at St Dominic's Priory (The Rosary Shrine), NW5 4LB: Jeremiah Stephenson (All Saints', Margaret Street, and St Paul's Cathedral) (free).

Tuesday 17 December, at 1pm, at St Mary's Frensham, GU10 3EA: Gary Sieling (concert organist) (free; soup and bread available from 12pm in the church hall).

Wednesday 18 December, at 1.05pm, at the Welsh Church of Central London W1W 8DJ: Anthony Gritten (Royal Academy of Music) (free).

Sunday 22 December, at 3pm, at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, SW1H 9NH: Service of Meditation: Gerard Brooks plays *La Nativité du Seigneur* by Messiaen, with an audio-visual presentation included (free).

Further ahead

The Bloomsbury Organ Day 2025 is Saturday 25 January. It comprises an afternoon of free events (from 12.30pm), and an evening recital by David Briggs. Further information and to book tickets, visit organistsonline.org/bloomsbury.

Also on **Saturday 25 January, at 6pm**, a **Silent Movie Night** at St Mary-at-Finchley, N3 1TL. Darius Battiwalla will be improvising to Alfred Hitchcock's *Blackmail*. Free entry, generous donations welcomed.

Saturday 28 June, 7pm, at the Royal Festival Hall: an organ recital including improvisations by Wayne Marshall. Tickets from £20; details on the attached flyer and [here](#).

Members' news

Marilyn Harper has written a set of preces and responses and a setting of the evening canticles, both now published by Encore Publications. The canticles, *The Dulwich Village Service*, are for two-part voices and organ and are based on English folk songs. Visit [the publishers' website](#) to view sample pages and to order. Do let Marilyn know if you sing either or both!

Memorial Service for Ian Keatley

Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral on Friday 22 November, the feast of St Cecilia, will celebrate the life and work of Ian Keatley. It will include the première of "What shall be after him?" by Nico Muhly. Pre-service music starts at 5pm, with the service at 5.30pm. A reception in the retrochoir will follow.

Please do join us at an event soon.

With very best wishes to you all,

The SLSO Committee