

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, December 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 December. 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

Our **2025 programme** is shaping up. The first events planned are on the attached document.

Saturday 18 January: Repertoire session, focusing on music for Lent and Easter. Please bring your ideas, suggestions for the seasons, especially pieces that other members may not know so that we can all expand our repertoire. We hope also to have some music available to buy. The session will be held at a member's house in Forest Hill. If you would like to come, please contact Andrew Chadney, email secretary@sslso.org.uk for details.

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 SSLSO events

Visits to the Most Precious Blood and St Peter's, Vauxhall, Saturday 9 November

Ten members visited two very different Lewis organs. That at the Most Precious Blood, near London Bridge, was relocated relatively recently from St Mary's, Battersea Rise, where it had been stuck in a corner. It is now arranged over the back of the church and speaks well into the space. Members enjoyed trying out a wide variety of repertoire, which it is capable of. (There's even a "transpose" dial!) The afternoon found us at St Peter's, Vauxhall, a much smaller organ which had been installed the "wrong" way round — with the Great pipework behind the Swell — but with some particularly beautiful diapasons, demonstrated by the church organist Will Fraser.

SSLSO Committee

There will be at least two vacancies on the SSLSO committee as committee members finish their terms of office in March 2025. Please do contact us if you would be interested in joining. We have four or five meetings a year, currently on Sunday afternoons on Zoom, and committee members would be expected to play a part in organising meetings or undertaking specific roles (e.g. education). Please contact secretary@sslso.org.uk if you are interested or would like further information.

Opportunities

RCO Play the Organ Year 2025: more information at rco.org.uk. The launch event is on **Sunday 19 January, at 3pm**, at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, SW1H 9NH: a 45-minute concert by Gerard Brooks, followed by the opportunity for all who wish to play.

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.

Entries can now be made for the organ section of the **2025 Godalming Performing Arts Festival**, on 3 March, at St Peter and St Paul, Godalming, GU7 1EW. The adjudicator is Jonathan Hope, of Gloucester Cathedral. The syllabus and more information can be found at godalmingperformingartsfestival.com.

Recitals and concerts over the next two months

Please check weekly recitals over Christmas and the New Year with the venues directly.

Mondays at 1pm, at St Michael's Cornhill: [weekly organ recital](#).

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 7 December, at 12.30pm, at the Most Precious Blood, O'Meara Street, London SE1 1TD: Charles Maxtone-Smith (Buckfast Abbey).

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).

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).

Saturday 4 January, at 12.30pm, at the Most Precious Blood, Southwark SE1 1TE: Richard Pinel (St Mary's, Bourne Street) (free, retiring collection).

Sunday 12 January, at 4.30pm, at Southwark Cathedral: A meditative performance of *La Nativité du Seigneur* by Messiaen, given by Simon Hogan.

Sunday 12 January, at 7.30pm, at Christ's Chapel, Dulwich SE21 7AD: Hannah Parry (Concert Organist, London) (free, retiring collection).

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. Book tickets on [Eventbrite](#).

Further ahead

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

2025 Saturday-morning recitals, at 11am, at St John the Evangelist, Goose Green SE22 9AT. Admission free, retiring collection; refreshments after the recital.

10 May Lucy Morrell (Head of Academic Studies and College Organist, Dulwich College)

14 June Calum Ward (piano)

19 July Dorothea Harris (Organist of the Stadtkirche St Michael, Schlüchtern, Hesse)

20 September Peter Wright (former Director of Music of Southwark Cathedral)

Please do join us at an event soon.

With very best wishes to you all,

The SLSO Committee