

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, January 2025

Dear Members,

A very happy new year to you all. Here's to lots of musical opportunities in this Play the Organ Year! Events and more can be found at rco.org.uk/play.

The SSLSO have many events planned for the coming year; please see the attached document, which is slightly updated since you received it with the last newsletter. Also included in this month's newsletter are details of recitals, concerts, and more. There are still opportunities to hear Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur*.

Please do send in details of recitals you are giving or organising. Please email southwarksouthlondon@gmail.com by Friday 31 January for inclusion in the February newsletter. 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 18 January: Repertoire session, from 2pm, 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. There will be 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. Each player is asked to provide piece(s) of up to 6 minutes in total (shorter is fine, too!). Please let Alan know your piece(s) and timings, together with a short biography and programme note. These are required by Friday 24 January, please. Alan will co-ordinate the programme and practice times, and provides huge support and encouragement at this event. *Thank you, Alan!*

Saturday 8 March: Visits to the Guards' Chapel and St Mary the Boltons, with SSLSO member John Ward. Our session at the Guards' Chapel (Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk SW1E 6HQ) is from 10am till 12.30pm, and then we have from 2pm till 3.30pm at St Mary the Boltons (8 The Boltons, SW10 9TB). Do join us for all or any part of the day.

SSLSO Committee

There will be at least two vacancies on the SSLSO committee as committee members finish their terms of office in March. 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.

London Organ Day 2025 is **Saturday 1 March**, from 10am. Venues are St Botolph without Aldgate, EC3N 1AB, and the German Lutheran Church, E1 8EB. Speakers and performers include Shanna Hart, William Whitehead, Richard Brasier, and David Franke. Full details and booking at iao.org.uk/london-organ-day.

The IAO Eastern Region Organ Day, to which SSLSO members are invited, is **Saturday 31 May**, 10.30am-4.30pm. For more details and to book a place (£10), please see the attached flyer. Our member Alan Langridge will be the SSLSO organist performing in the composite recital.

The **deadline for entries** for the organ section of the **2025 Godalming Performing Arts Festival** is **Monday 20 January**. The classes will take place on **Monday 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

Sundays at 5pm, at Westminster Abbey: weekly half-hour organ recital, admission free.

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

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

Wednesdays at 1.15pm, at Temple Church, EC4Y 7HL: free 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 Friday 10 January will be given by the director of music, SSLSO member 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. *Please see attached document for more details of the Friday and Saturday recitals.*

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

Thursday 9 January, at 5.30pm, at The Guards' Chapel, SW1E 6HQ: Martin Ford plays *La Nativité du Seigneur* by Messiaen (free, retiring collection, wine after).

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).

Wednesday 15 January, at 1.05pm, at the Welsh Church of Central London W1 8DJ: Stephen Disley, part of the Glyn Lang memorial series (free, retiring collection towards expenses and organ maintenance).

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](#).

Friday 31 January, at 1.15pm, at St Bride's, Fleet Street EC4Y 8QU: Jeremy Lloyd (Ely Cathedral) (free, retiring collection).

Saturday 1 February, at 6pm, at St George's German Lutheran Church E1 8EB: Ophelia Amar (Royal Academy of Music) gives an Organ Vesper (free, retiring collection).

Saturday 8 February, at 5.30pm, at the Dutch Church EC2N 2HA: Reitz Smits (the Netherlands) gives a recital of Poulenc, Byrd, J. S. Bach, and Smits, a St Albans International Organ Festival event.

Tuesday 11 February, at 1.10pm, at The Guards' Chapel, SW1E 6HQ: Travis Baker (concert organist) (free, retiring collection).

Sunday 16 February, at 3pm, at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster SW1H 9NH: Joshua Simões Chapel Royal, Hampton Court) (part of the RCO Play the Organ Year).

Saturday 22 February, at 4pm, at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, WC2H 8EP: Darius Battiwalla (Leeds City Organist) (free, retiring collection, buffet).

Thursday 27 February, at 6.30pm, at The Guards' Chapel, SW1E 6HQ: Matthew Jorysz (Westminster Abbey) (free, retiring collection, wine after).

Friday 28 February, at 1.10pm, at Croydon Minster CR0 1RN: Chingyan Lo (Hong Kong) (free, donations).

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 Stadkirche St Michael, Schlüchtern, Hesse)

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

2025 Saturday-evening recitals, at 7.30pm, at St John the Evangelist, Duncan Terrace, Islington N1 8AL. Admission free, collection.

31 May Johannes Skoog (1st prize-winner at the Montreal organ competition)

28 June Gary Sieling

26 July James McVinnie

27 September Katelyn Emerson

Please do join us at an event soon.

With very best wishes to you all,

The SLSO Committee