



## *Southwark & South London Society of Organists*

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists  
~ Registered Charity No. 279537

President: Dr Harry Bramma  
Chair: Irene Wolstenholme MVO

## Newsletter July 2026



Hello Folks,

Welcome to the July edition of the newsletter.

There is information regarding two SSLSO events, in July and August. We hope to see you there!

As yet, I have not received any suggestions for the **'Musical Quotations'** feature, so I have added another of my own favourites. **Do please let me know of yours!**

This month's [Meet The Members](#) features [Gary Wannan](#).

The newsletter will be having a snooze over the summer, so the next issue will be out at the beginning of September.

Please do email details of goings-on to [southwarksouthlondon@gmail.com](mailto:southwarksouthlondon@gmail.com) by **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August**, for inclusion in the September issue.

I aim to send out the newsletter on the first Friday of the month. For information regarding upcoming SSLSO events, please visit our website [www.sslso.org.uk](http://www.sslso.org.uk).

Richard

## Meet the Members – Gary Wannan



**Gary, it is great to have you on board, both as an SSLSO committee member, and also as our Meet The Members profile for this month!**

**You have a daunting array of professional medical qualifications. Were you set on a career as a doctor from an early age?**

No, not at all. It is one of the few things in my life where I specifically felt led by God. I went on a Christian holiday, and there happened to be three medical students there who all asked me whether I had thought about becoming a doctor. One thing led to another, including the realisation that I had already chosen the school subjects I needed in order to apply.

**A degree in medicine involves 5–6 years of hard study at university, before you even began training in psychiatry. That’s a very long tunnel indeed! At what stage did you decide to focus on this particular branch of medicine?**

When I was at medical school, I used to say that I would probably end up doing General Practice, Paediatrics or Psychiatry. In the end, I managed to get qualifications in all three. Child Psychiatry was the one I enjoyed most.

**Your career history makes fascinating reading, with your expertise extending into several different avenues – as a doctor, teacher, expert witness in court... Is there any one area that you enjoy over the others?**

What I have particularly enjoyed is that, although my specialty is relatively narrow, it has allowed me to do many different things, including the teaching, expert witness work in Court, and also trade union work with the British Medical Association. I have enjoyed nearly all of it!

**And now we come to your interest in music! It is clearly an important part of your life. Did this come from your parents or schooling? Are your wife or children on the musical radar?**

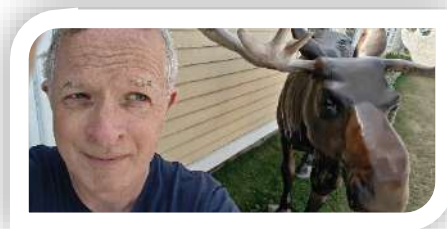
It came from me, really, and I had to encourage my parents to arrange lessons. I have drawn much comfort from music over the decades, although I have an ambivalent relationship with playing: it is something you have to work at and want to get right, but one also does it for the beauty and pleasure of it.

Our younger son sings beautifully; our elder son has perfect pitch, and now regrets not having learnt the piano more seriously.

**Please tell us a little about your organ-playing journey.**

I started on a home electric organ in the late 1970s/early 1980s, and played it quite badly before getting pipe organ lessons, which improved my playing enormously. As a result, I never really learnt the piano.

My teacher then was Robert Lightband, who was a very capable cathedral and city organist. I later had some lessons in my forties with Jonathan Bunney, and I now receive instruction from Marilyn Harper, who has been a huge support in helping me improve my playing. As ever, you get back what you put in.



**I guess that your career precludes you holding a tied Sunday post, even if you wanted to. Do you have access to an instrument for practice at home or in church?**

I have a two-manual electronic instrument at home, which I won on eBay by bidding 50p more than the highest competing bid! It has revolutionised my ability to practise. I work less these days, now that I am partially retired, so we will see what the future holds.

**Thinking of organ repertoire – is there one period that you particularly enjoy? Baroque, Romantic, 20th/21st century?**

Baroque. I often listen to Bach for hours.

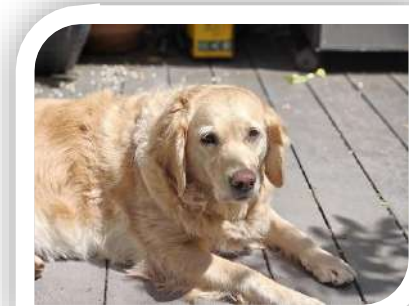
**Are there any instruments on which you have heard recitals played, that you really rate? Are there any particular players who inspire you?**

Oh, where do I start? I have got to know the Christ's Chapel, Dulwich, organ through lessons with Marilyn. It is old and quirky, a bit like I am becoming, which may be why I like it so much.

As for players, I love how Peter Hurford and David Goode interpret Bach.

**It's hard to imagine that outside of medicine and music you have time for any other interests! Or do you??**

Some may say that I have too many! I walk our Golden Retriever, cook, taste wine, swim and ski.



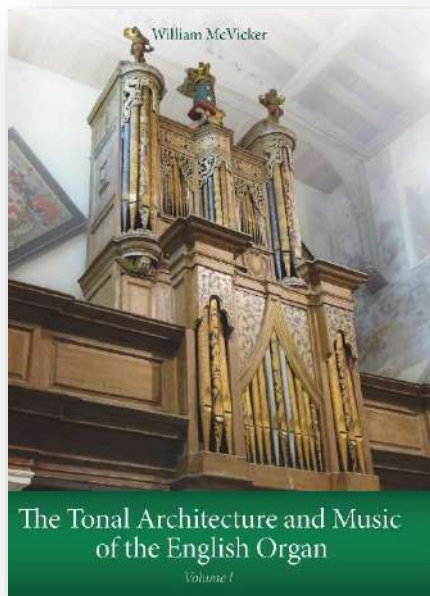
## News

### The Tonal Architecture and Music of the English Organ – William McVicker

**This recently-published book looks like a must-read! Perhaps start your Christmas list early 😊.**

In this two volume book (sold as a pair), Dr William McVicker explores the fascinating interplay between English organ design and its repertoire, revealing how instrument and music shaped each other over centuries. Introducing the concept of tonal massing—the dynamic balance of stops—he shows how builders and composers collaborated, consciously or not, to create distinctive sounds and expressive possibilities.

From the Restoration to the Victorian era, French, Brabant, and continental influences transformed English organs, while innovations by builders such as J. C. Bishop and the adoption of graded choruses shaped performance practice. The book traces these developments through the Organ Reform Movement and the rise of the neo-Romantic organ, highlighting debates over historic fingering, pedalling, and tonal balance.



Accessible, richly illustrated, yet deeply informed, this book is essential reading for musicians, historians, and organ enthusiasts, offering a unique insight into one of the world's most complex and expressive instruments—and the music it inspired. It is presently available only through the BIOS webstore and is priced at £100 (excluding of post and packing), as opposed to the £145 book store retail price.

Purchase here: <https://bios.org.uk/shop/tonal-arch-eng-organ/>

Dr William McVicker



Andrew Chadney writes:

For several years now there has been an organ recital included in the Penge Festival, held at Penge Congregational Church. As in previous years the performers were members of the SSLSO. This year's concert was performed by John Webber and Bridget West.

For the first half John played us a very eclectic programme comprising several short pieces, some unfamiliar to me, as well as Rheinberger's 1st Sonata - showing once again what an underrated and neglected composer he is.

After a welcome cup of tea Bridget took centre stage for the second half and quickly demonstrated that she is on top form with Andriessen's Variations on a Theme. Showing her versatility, she treated us to Buxtehude's Praeludium in D. Her third piece was written by a friend of hers, Christopher Maxim, and was very atmospheric and sounded very playable. She finished the concert in style with another favourite - Boellman's Suite Gothique.

What a great way to spend a damp June afternoon!

**John Webber's programme**

- *Fanfare, Op.85* C S Lang
- *Sonata no.1 in C minor (Prelude; Andante; Finale)* Josef Rheinberger
- *La Romanesca* Antonio Valente
- *Minuet from a Trio Sonata* G F Handel
- *Sketches for Pedal Piano, Op.58, Nos.2 & 4 ((CM and DbM)* Robert Schumann
- *Vesper Voluntary in D minor, Op.14, No.2* Edward Elgar)
- *Theme from BBC TV's "Miss Marple"* Ken Howard & Alan Blaikley

**Bridget West's programme**

- *Variations on a Theme* Andriessen
- *Praeludium in D* Buxtehude
- *"Ad cenam Agni provide", a movement from Lumen Christi* Christopher Maxim
- *Suite Gothique* Boellman

## Organ Restoration

### St Margaret's, Lee: A Year of Bach before the organ is restored

Duncan Atkinson KC, Director of Music, writes:

St Margaret's Church, Lee, enjoys a rather fine Walker organ, dating from 1928. You can read about our music programme and the organ here:

<https://www.stmargaretslee.org.uk/page/?title=Music+at+St+Margaret%27s&pid=14>.

In Summer 2027 Nicholson and Co will start a rebuild of the organ. The work will include a full restoration and reinstatement of the Open Diapason 1 on the Great, which currently graces the organ case, but without speaking. You can read more about it here:

<https://www.nicholsonorgans.co.uk/pf/stmargaret-lee/>

Before work starts, the organists at St Margaret's plan to celebrate one of the greatest composers of organ music, Johann Sebastian Bach, in **A Year Of Bach**. From Trinity Sunday 2026 until Trinity Sunday 2027 we will include a piece of music by Bach in a service every week. We will also include a short note in the notice sheet each week about the piece being played.

This is alongside a wider fundraising campaign for the organ. You can make a donation online:

<https://givealittle.co/c/smlorganfund> or contact Duncan to ask about other donation opportunities. Finally - if you are approached to deputise at St Margaret's in the year ahead, please be prepared to play something by Bach.

## From 'Manuals and Pedals'

### Martin White writes:

This post conflates two topics – the career achievements of **Gerald Hendrie** and the publication by **Lyrebird Music** of a new edition of his organ music in four volumes.

Hendrie was born in 1935 and has had quite an amazing career, which is well detailed in his Wikipedia profile. To summarise, he studied at the Royal College of Music, became organ scholar at Selwyn College, Cambridge from 1954-1961 (gaining a MusB and a PhD) and was a lecturer at the University of Manchester from 1963-1967; he subsequently became Founding Professor of Music at the Open University from 1969-1985, and then Director of Studies in Music at St John's College, Cambridge from 1980-1983. He is a rare combination of performer, musicologist and composer. His contribution to music education through his work at the Open University was ground-breaking in taking into account the remote study model that formed the basis of the OU.

Hendrie started composing in the early 1960s, and now has a catalogue of piano, organ and liturgical compositions, which are listed in Wikipedia.

**Lyrebird Music** was founded by Jonathan Baxendale a decade or so ago.

A feature of all Lyrebird projects is the care that is taken over the editorial, so that the music is married to the excellent case-bound and digital publications that are a delight to place onto the music desk of a piano, harpsichord or organ. Prices are very reasonable given the quality of the scores, typically around £35-£45.

A few weeks ago, David Ponsford gave a lecture recital of his new Lyrebird edition of Couperin's music at the AGM of the British Institute of Organ Studies.

Lyrebird also publishes the complete works of César Franck (ed. Richard Brasier), and a volume of transcriptions for organ of some of Elgar's orchestral music by Andrew Dewar.

Lyrebird has now published the complete organ works of Gerard Hendrie in four volumes (also available as a single volume).

As an introduction to Hendrie's musical style, listen to Tom Winpenny playing Two Sketches On The Name BACH from *Le Tombeau de Marcel Dupré*, on the organ of St Alban's Abbey. These are dedicated to the late John Scott and require a very high level of virtuosity. The music is quite 'tuneful' to the ear, but as you watch the score unfold, listening to the recording, you quickly become aware of the artistry and musicianship of the composer. To me (and I am certainly a novice at this), his music has elements of not just Dupré but also Demessieux and Falcinelli.

There is also a useful review of Hendrie's style and organ works in a review of one of Tom Winpenny's recordings by the British Music Society.

Just one caveat – the Lyrebird website is slow to respond, and the navigation could be more intuitive.

(ed.RP)

## Forthcoming Events

SSLSO Event

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July

1) Visit to the Organ of the Grand Temple, Freemasons' Hall

Great Queen Street, WC2B 5AZ

11.00am

2) Visit to St Alban's, Holborn

18, Brooke St, London EC1N 7RD

1.00pm

This firm favourite is on the horizon!

Following the visit to Freemasons' Hall (places are now all booked), we will then adjourn to that Holy of Holies, St Alban's, Holborn, to inspect and play the fine Compton organ there.

For those who feel this is important, there is a whole selection of pubs and eateries in the area!

SSLSO Event

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August

Annual Summer Social

2.00pm-5.00pm

St Giles, Camberwell

**All welcome!**

For the thirsty, liquid refreshment will be on sale at the bar, *comme d'habitude!*

Come and commune with faces both familiar and new.

What's not to like?!

All Saints' Church

Bark Hart Road, Orpington BR6 0QD

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July

7.30pm

All Saints' Festival Choir

Handel's 'Saul'

Tickets at the advanced booking rate may be purchased on line using the QR code on the flyer, in person from choir members, or call 07426 807758.

Full details on the attached flyer.

## Recitals

St Barnabas, Kensington

23, Addison Road, W14 8LH

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July

7.30pm

St Barnabas, Kensington, will host **MADE NEW!**, the inaugural concert celebrating the newly restored **1856 Walker Organ**. This historic London instrument has been brought back to life, and we are marking its return with a vibrant programme featuring:

- **Poulenc's Concerto for Organ, Strings, and Timpani**
- Works by **JS Bach, Messiaen, Respighi**, and more
- Performances by **Joshua Gearing**, the **Willow Orchestra**, and the **Alyth Choral Society**

It promises to be an evening of music, heritage, and renewal — a chance to experience the colour, power, and beauty of a 19th-century treasure filling the church once again.

Please find the Eventbrite link for tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/made-new-tickets-1980367162493>

Please see attached flyer.

ST · BARNABAS  
KENSINGTON

St Mildred's Church

Bingham Road, Addiscombe CR0 7EB

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July

Our Young Artists series is back in the summer, with recitals on five consecutive Sundays starting on 14<sup>th</sup> June. The recitals will begin at midday, after coffee, and admission is free.

A collection will be taken and all proceeds will go to the restricted fund for future organ scholarships at St Mildred's. I'm sure everyone agrees that our recent organ scholars have been a brilliant addition to our worship and long may this continue.

Details of the performers will follow, but we are working with Trinity Music Academy on this project.

The Academy is open to young musicians, aged 8 to 18, from across South London.

Both of our organ scholars are part of the Academy and will be performing for us – so don't miss out!

The King's Chapel of the Savoy

Savoy Hill, London WC2R 0DA

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July

7.00pm

Philip Berg and James Runcie

Please see attached flyer for more details.

St Stephen Walbrook

39, Walbrook EC4N 8BN

- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July                      12.30pm                      Claire Kitay
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July                      12.30pm                      Alexander Flower
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July                      12.30pm                      Benjamin Chewter
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July                      12.30pm                      Alan Rapley

- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August                      12.30pm                      David Bednall
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August                      12.30pm                      Louis Horsman Carpenter
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August                      12.30pm                      Chingyan Lo
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August                      12.30pm                      Kai Krakenberg

**Admission free**, with a retiring collection

St Alphage, Burnt Oak

HA8 0DN

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July

3.00pm-4.15pm

Anthony Halliday

(St Francis Church, Melbourne, Australia)

**Admission** £10.00 followed by refreshments £5.00 (cash or cheques only).

St George's Parish Church, Beckenham

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July

11.00am

Herman Jordaan

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

12.30pm

Ann Hubble (violin) & Richard Mander (organ)

Christ Church, Spitalfields

Commercial Street, London E1 6LY

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July

7.30pm-8.45pm (Tube – Liverpool St or Aldgate East)

11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Organ Concert Series John Kitchen (Edinburgh)

**2026 Organ Concerts on the 1735 Richard Bridge / William Drake organ**

**Admission by programme £15 (under 25s £10)**

**Programme:**

Overture in <i>Athalia</i>	G. F. Handel (1685-1759)
Trumpet Voluntary in D	Anon. (?Blow and Purcell)
Voluntary in G	Henry Purcell (1659-1695)
Voluntary in D minor for double organ	
Voluntary in G no. IX, Op. 7	John Stanley (1713-1786)
Voluntary in A no. 1, op. 7	
Voluntary in G minor/major Op.6, no. 9	Samuel Wesley (1766–1837)
Andante in E flat major	Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810—1876)
Voluntary III in G (1804)	William Russell (1777–1813)
Voluntary VI in F (1804)	
Voluntary XII in C minor/major (1804)	

**John Kitchen** is an organist, harpsichordist, pianist, continuo player, accompanist, choral director, lecturer, writer, reviewer, adjudicator and recording artist. Following twelve years as a Lecturer in Music and University Organist in St Andrews, he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Music in the University of Edinburgh. He was a very active member of the Music Department there from 1988 until 2014 when he retired from teaching; however, he retains the post of University Organist. He also directed the Edinburgh University Singers for 30 years, until 2018.

John is Director of Music at Old Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, and Edinburgh City Organist with performing and curatorial duties at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh. He maintains a close association with Edinburgh University's St Cecilia's Hall and the early keyboard instruments there, most of which he has recorded for the Edinburgh-based label, Delphian Records. He has also made many organ recordings, including three on the Usher Hall organ. In 2017 he was awarded an MBE for services to music.

St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood

Sylvan Road, SE19 2RX

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July

7.30pm

Simon Hogan

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August

7.30pm

Tim Harper

St John's, East Dulwich

62A, East Dulwich Road SE22 9AT

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July

11.00am-11.45am

Ann Hubble, violin and Richard Mander, organ



**Programme:**

Sonata in b minor BWV 1030

J S Bach

Song of Freedom

Stanford

Elegy

Glazunov

Salut d'Amour

Elgar

Violin concerto in C major

Leclair

**Admission free**

Retiring collection

Tea and coffee afterwards

St John the Evangelist RC Church - Duncan Terrace, Islington N1 8AL

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July

7.30pm

Jan Liebermann (Germany)

**Admission:** Free, with a retiring collection for church funds and organ maintenance.

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August

3.00pm

Imogen Morgan (St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh)

**Admission:** Free, with a retiring collection.

**Instrument:** 4-manual Harrison & Harrison organ (originally 1912)

# Advance Notice

SSLSO Event

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Annual Dinner

More details to follow.

A good time will hopefully be had by all!

## Recitals

St Stephen Walbrook

39, Walbrook EC4N 8BN

- |   |                |                           |
|---|----------------|---------------------------|
| • <u>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September</u>  | <u>12.30pm</u> | <u>Dr Michal Szostak</u>  |
| • <u>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September</u> | <u>12.30pm</u> | <u>Dr Rupert Jeffcoat</u> |
| • <u>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September</u> | <u>12.30pm</u> | <u>Callum Anderson</u>    |
| • <u>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September</u> | <u>12.30pm</u> | <u>Jeremy Lloyd</u>       |

St Alphage, Burnt Oak

HA8 0DN

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September

3.00pm-4.15pm

Samuel Austin

(York Oratory)

**Admission** £10.00 followed by refreshments £5.00 (cash or cheques only).

St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood

Sylvan Road, SE19 2RX

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm

D'Arcy Trinkwon

**Admission free**, donations welcomed.

Refreshments will be served.

St John's, East Dulwich

62A, East Dulwich Road SE22 9AT

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September

11.00am-11.45am

Theo Geileskey

(organ scholar King's College, London/St. Paul's, Knightsbridge)

**Admission free**

Retiring collection

Tea and coffee afterwards

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

- 20<sup>th</sup> September Gerard Brooks (MCHW Director of Music)
- 15<sup>th</sup> November Andrew Furniss (MCHW)
- **Time:** Sundays at 15:00 (3:00 PM).
- **Admission:** Free, with a retiring collection.
- **Instrument:** 4-manual Harrison & Harrison organ (originally 1912)

St John the Evangelist RC Church - Duncan Terrace, Islington N1 8AL

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September

Jozef Gaszka

(Guildford Cathedral)

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October

James Orford

(St Paul's Cathedral)

- **Admission:** Free, with a retiring collection for church funds and organ maintenance.
- All recitals start at 7.30pm

Southbank Centre

Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September

2.00pm

Jean Rondeau

**Goldberg Variations**

The pioneering period musician brings a fresh, imaginative perspective to Bach's masterpiece on the Queen Elizabeth Hall organ.

Please see attached flyer.

Tickets start at £20

Carshalton Methodist Church

Ruskin Road, Sutton SM5 3DE

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November

Roger Sayer's 'Interstellar'

Anne Gunton of the Methodist Church writes:

We are hosting a special concert on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November when acclaimed organist Roger Sayer (<https://www.rogersayer.org/>) will be performing his unique Interstellar concert.

The event is being held to celebrate 100 years since our church building opened and our organ began playing. The organ is listed on the National Pipe Organ Register – index number N13417 gives the specification of the 1926 instrument and the current specification is listed under K00638.

As you may know, Roger Sayer, former Organist and Director of Music at Temple Church in London, was chosen by Hans Zimmer for his soundtrack to Christopher Nolan's film Interstellar.

The evening's programme will major on the ground-breaking Interstellar score, recorded for the movie by Roger himself, and will include a short film about the collaboration between Roger, Zimmer and Nolan to create one of cinema's most unforgettable soundscapes. There'll be an opportunity to ask Roger questions in a Q&A session.

As part of the space theme, during the day running up to the performance we will have a pop-up planetarium in the church, with 30-minute shows throughout the day.

Details of the concert and planetarium and how to book tickets (£20 concert, £5 planetarium, no booking fees) are at [carshalton-methodist.org/events/interstellar&planetarium](http://carshalton-methodist.org/events/interstellar&planetarium)

St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood

Sylvan Road, SE19 2RX

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October      7.30pm

Katelyn Emerson

**Admission free**, donations welcomed.

Refreshments will be served.

St Mildred's Church

Bingham Road, Addiscombe CR0 7EB

15<sup>th</sup> May 2027

Celebrity Organ Recital

David Briggs

**More details to follow**

## Favourite Music Quotations

Please send me any of your favourite musical quotations for inclusion in the next issue –  
[richipill@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:richipill@blueyonder.co.uk)

**“A good musician may be summarised as follows:**

1. A well-trained ear
2. A well-trained mind
3. A well-trained heart
4. A well-trained hand

All four must develop together in constant equilibrium.

As soon as one lags behind or rushes ahead there is something wrong.”

**Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967)**

Website

Please do look regularly at [sslso.org.uk](http://sslso.org.uk). Our webmaster updates it frequently and there is much to see.