



The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music

Tuesday 10 May 2022, 5.30pm
St Pancras Parish Church

“Cymbals and Dances”

London Contemporary Dance School (The Place)
Paul Plummer *organ*

Programme

*Four dance interpretations of new organ works
submitted to the Festival's "Call for Scores" incubation project*

I

Martyn Noble New Movements on the 3rd Mode

Peter Smith Passion Chorale
from Twelve Hymn Preludes

Martyn Noble Variations on The Passion Chorale

II

Frederick Viner Nocturne

Matthew Martin Conditor alme siderum

Matthew Martin Liebster Jesu, wir sind heir

III

Nicholas O'Neill An Exaltation of Skylarks

Sebastian Forbes Reflections on a Theme
of Alan Rawsthorne

IV

Martyn Noble New Movements on the 3rd Mode

Peter Smith Jesus Christ is risen today
from Twelve Hymn Preludes

*To facilitate smooth transitions between the pieces,
please save all applause for the end of the performance.*

This innovative event takes a journey into the world of music and movement, adding a fascinating new dimension to the traditional organ recital. Today's performance is the culmination of an exciting collaboration between dancers from London Contemporary Dance School at The Place, located immediately across from St Pancras Parish Church on Duke's Road, and LFCCM 2022's resident organist Paul Plummer.

Each year the Festival holds its "Call for Scores" incubation project, an open submission process for choral and organ music to be performed at forthcoming Festivals. Earlier this year, Paul recorded a selection of organ pieces submitted to the last "Call for Scores". These recordings were passed on to four student-led groups of dancers who selected specific pieces they wanted to interpret and then spent several weeks designing, choreographing, and rehearsing new dance works to match the music.

Additional solo organ pieces are placed between the dance items, including two new chorale preludes by Matthew Martin which receive their premiere performances at this recital.

Notes on Dance Interpretations

I. New Movements on the 3rd Mode - Passion Chorale

Choreographers and dancers Faye Singleton Brontë Adelman

"Where it begins" (to Martyn Noble's *New Movements on the 3rd Mode*): interlacing and apart, a connection is formed. Through improvisation and set movement we explore this connection and how it can grow and take shape.

"Where it ends" (to Peter Smith's *Passion Chorale*): an invisible string connects the people in the space. Back and forth, we will attempt to break it and rebuild it, but we will always remain tethered together.

II. Nocturne

Choreographers and dancers Willow Fenner Olivia Foscett
Ronan Cardoza Lily McDonald

Delicate, feminine, quiet, unspoken; "Nocturne" (to Frederick Viner's *Nocturne*) is an angelic procession of comfort and unease.

III. An Exaltation of Skylarks

Choreographers and dancers Brooke Sorensen Sunny Marko-Bennett Jess Yeo

Our work (to Nicholas O'Neill's *An Exaltation of Skylarks*) is a practice in surrendering to the present moment, trusting that our innermost selves will carry our outer selves to signs of guidance that assure us that we are exactly where we are meant to be - and maybe you are too.

IV. New Movements on the 3rd Mode – Jesus Christ is risen today

Choreographer Wency Lam
Devising dancers Esme Lovell Ming Chin Hsieh

“Conditioning I” (to Martyn Noble’s *New Movements on the 3rd Mode*) explores the topic of agency and control. Is letting go of control a kind of control? Is controlling a form of giving up control?

“Conditioning II” (to Peter Smith’s *Jesus Christ is risen today*) explores the bodily experience of an unconsciously mechanic, repetitive, and restless way of living.

Programme notes by the performers

Biographies

Paul Plummer

Paul Plummer was Organ Scholar of New College, Oxford before moving to London to study piano accompaniment. He worked as Assistant Organist of St Marylebone Parish Church and Director of Music at St Stephen’s, Gloucester Road. At St Stephen’s in 1998, he set up the Rush-Hour Recital series which continues to attract substantial interest and is connected to the nearby Royal College of Music. He also oversaw the rebuild of the church’s large Norman & Beard organ before leaving in 2002.

Organ recital engagements include St Paul’s Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and Westminster Cathedral; he has also played on tour in the United States with the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church, Oxford and deputised in many British cathedrals. From 2008 to 2013 he lived in Germany and Austria, working as a pianist in opera houses, but has since been back in the UK working as a freelance vocal coach and piano accompanist. He has worked as a vocal coach for the young artist programmes of The Royal Opera and for the Polish National Opera in Warsaw, and accompanies rehearsals regularly for London choirs such as The BBC Singers and Chorus of Opera Rara.

In October 2016, he was organist for the acclaimed CD of choral works by William Petter, *Ablaze with Light*.

During the Covid period Paul was the piano accompanist of many live-streamed concerts with the collective Proud Songsters (still available online), and also accompanied baritone Jamie W. Hall on a CD recording of *Die Schöne Müllerin* recently released on Convivium Records. He enjoys tweeting angrily as @LonOperaCoach.

More events this week at
The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music

All events take place at St Pancras Parish Church

Wednesday 11 May

1.15pm Choral Eucharist
with music by Howard Skempton, James MacMillan, Stuart Rea,
Anselm Elis McDonnell, Julian Jarvis, and Samuel Kemp

Thursday 12 May

1.15pm **“Retrospective”: 20 Years of Commissioning New Music:** Lunchtime Concert

Founded in 2002, the London Festival of Contemporary Church Music has been promoting and performing new sacred music for 20 years. In this lunchtime recital, Artistic Director and Festival founder Christopher Batchelor presents some of his favourite selections from the past 20 years of new sacred music at St Pancras Parish Church.

5.30pm Organ Recital by the Organists of Highgate School

A delightful recital programme of contemporary organ music performed by the organ teachers and students of Highgate School.

Friday 13 May

1.15pm **“Da pacem, Domine”:** Lunchtime Concert

The Byron Consort of Harrow School performs a programme of contemporary choral music focusing on commemoration and remembrance, with music by Kenneth Leighton, William Mathias, Arvo Pärt, John Tavener, and Roxanna Panufnik, who introduces the performance.

5.45pm **“The Clouded Heaven”:** Rush-Hour Recital

University College London Chamber Choir presents this beautiful programme of choral works by Judith Bingham to celebrate her 70th birthday in 2022, alongside new music by Grace-Evangeline Mason, Michael Cryne, and Hugh Wood.

continued overleaf

More events this week at
The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music

Saturday 14 May

7.30pm **"Dazzling Light": Choral Music for 40 Voices: Concert**
This event is ticketed. Book online at lfccm.com/tickets

A stunning programme of ancient and modern repertoire for large-scale choirs performed by The Lacock Scholars, featuring the iconic *Spem in alium* by Thomas Tallis, the ethereal *Ecce beatam lucem* by Alessandro Striggio, and contemporary works for 40-part choirs by David Bednall, Gabriel Jackson, and Alec Roth.

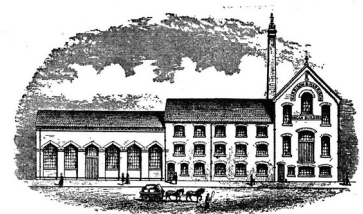
Sunday 15 May

10.00am Choral Eucharist
with music by Tim Ambler, Nicholas O'Neill, Stuart Rea, Jonathan Dove,
Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Paul Davis

6.00pm Choral Evensong
with music by Janet Wheeler, Christopher Batchelor, Gregory Rose, Elliott Park,
Sebastian Forbes, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Cecilia McDowall



The
Thanet Street
Trust



HARRISON & HARRISON
ORGAN BUILDERS

The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music was founded in 2002 with the aim of showcasing contemporary liturgical music in both service and concert. Now in its twentieth year, the LFCCM has grown to include nearly 60 events, dozens of composers, hundreds of performers, and thousands of audience members, both live and online.

www.lfccm.com