



**CHRIST CHURCH, ESHER
LUNCHTIME CONCERT**

Christopher Herrick *organ*

Wednesday 18 May 2022
at 1.15pm

*This concert is free to watch on our 'Music on the Green' YouTube channel.
Online donations welcome on our JustGiving page
www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG*

Programme



Music on the Green

Quality music in the heart of Esher

Music on the Green (MOTG) is the Parish of Esher's musical outreach programme based at Christ Church, overlooking Esher Green. At MOTG we believe that music should be accessible to all. Whilst having our firmest foot planted at the classical end of the spectrum, we seek to offer a rich and varied programme, presenting live music in interesting and rewarding ways so that it can be widely appreciated and enjoyed.

'Dorian' Toccata and Fugue, BWV 538

J S Bach (1685-1750)

Amazing Grace

Iain Farrington (b. 1977)

Trio Sonata No. 1 in E flat, BWV 525

J S Bach (1685-1750)

Three Danish Hymn Preludes

- i *Se, nu stiger solen af havets skød,*
from Chorale Preludes Vol. 15
(2014) Op.32 no.1
- ii *I østen stiger solen op,*
from Chorale Preludes Vol. 2
(2003) Op.11 no.13
- iii *Du, som gir os liv og gør os glade,*
from Chorale Preludes Vol. 10
(2012) Op.22 no.10

Christian Praestholm (b. 1972)

Programme notes

'Dorian' Toccata and Fugue, BWV 538

This is one of Bach's most mature and contrapuntally rich works for the organ. The Toccata is a really satisfying and beautifully worked out contrapuntal web, with a rhythmic momentum that draws the listener inevitably from the beginning to its triumphant end. Bach indicates the use of two alternating keyboards, contrasting in colour rather than dynamic. The fugue is another such journey, perhaps a more complex one, but certainly no less satisfying. The theme rises through some gentle leaps and falls again in a syncopated rhythm. To round off the work, Bach increases the texture in the final bars to achieve a sense of climax.

Amazing Grace

Iain Farrington has an exceptionally busy and diverse career as a pianist, organist, composer and arranger. He has performed worldwide along with artists such as Bryn Terfel, Lesley Garrett and Paul McCartney; he played the piano at the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics with the London Symphony Orchestra and Simon Rattle, refusing to be distracted by the antics of Mr Bean next to him; and he has had a number of orchestral works broadcast by the BBC including

'Gershwinicity', commissioned for the 2018 Proms, and 'Beethoveniana' (a virtual performance) for the 2020 Proms. Two dramatic Choral Cantatas - 'The Burning Heavens' for strings, piano and choir and 'An Old Belief' for organ and choir - were commissioned and have been performed by Twickenham Choral under Christopher Herrick's direction.

His numerous organ compositions include 'Lay my burden down', a set of five pieces based on African/American spirituals and traditional songs, composed in 2017. No. 3 in the set is 'Amazing Grace', a continuous sequence of jazz/gospel variations, full of joy and optimism, on the tune that itself needs no introduction.

Trio Sonata No. 1 in E flat, BWV 525

Bach's first biographer, J.N. Forkel, tells us that he compiled his 'Six Sonatas or Trios for two manuals and obligato pedal' for his eldest son, Wilhelm Friedemann, 'who, by practising them, prepared himself to become the great performer on the organ that he afterwards was.' The sonatas certainly fulfil their aim of developing an advanced technique, but Bach was never didactic without also being musically creative, and no-one but an assiduous student would care for them

now if they were not such marvellous pieces to play and listen to. Their interest derives from the way that he tempers rigorous three-part counterpoint with touches of the new 'galant' style.

This is immediately apparent in the symmetrical balance of two- and four-bar phrases at the opening of the first sonata, a movement laid out on the lines of a concerto Allegro, with the opening idea returning to reinforce the tonal structure. The other two movements are both in binary form, and in both cases Bach cleverly inverts the main themes after the central double bar. But in other respects they are well contrasted: the Adagio (in C minor) is like a languorous siciliana, while the Allegro is dance-like, with a perky main theme that gives rise to some nimble pedal writing.

Three Danish Hymn Preludes

Christian Praestholm, among other works, has written nearly 300 hymn preludes which are widely played both liturgically and in concert, particularly in Denmark. The composer has recorded a selection of these Preludes on the P.G. Andersen organ in his own church, Sankt Mortens Church, Randers.

Here are three fine examples, each one preceded by the hymn melody. '*Se, nu stiger solen af havets skød*' (See the golden sun rising from the ocean) starts from a soft lugubrious low C and gradually builds majestically to a great

full-organ C major chord. The pictorial effect, progressing from deep darkness to glorious blazing light, is shattering. In contrast, the light-hearted '*Østen stiger solenop*' (The sun is rising in the East), after a short adagio introduction, swings into a jazzy allegro that toys with strict fugato, but soon abandons academic rigour for sheer joie de vivre. '*Du, som gir os liv og gør os glade*' (Lord, you give us life and happiness) is a lively and brilliant toccata that makes the most of the repeated notes in the hymn tune.

Biography

'Herrick is a musician with a powerful urge to communicate. And communicate he does, drawing on his enormous technical and intellectual resources to turn out performances which sometimes amaze, often astound, but never fail to stimulate' – Gramophone Magazine

Christopher Herrick's career as one of the world's leading concert organists is based on firm foundations. As a boy he was a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral, singing in the 1953



Coronation and later that year going on a three-month choir tour of North America performing over forty concerts. He was subsequently Organ Scholar at Exeter College Oxford, and postgraduate Boulton Scholar at the Royal College of Music in London. He was invited to St Paul's Cathedral to be Assistant Organist, later spending ten years at Westminster Abbey, playing for prestigious events including Lord Mountbatten's State Funeral, as well as Sir William Walton's eightieth birthday concert and his funeral service a year later.

As an exclusive Hyperion Records artist Christopher has recorded nearly 50 albums, including 14 'Organ Fireworks' programmes on magnificent organs worldwide, as well as the complete organ works of J S Bach on Metzler organs in Switzerland. In 1984 the 'Organ Fireworks' album included Herbert Brewer's 'Marche Héroïque' that was played

as Mountbatten's coffin was carried from Westminster Abbey.

Christopher's many broadcasts for BBC Radio 3 include the Organ Prom during the 1994 Henry Wood Promenade Concerts 100th Season. The BBC recorded all eight organ sonatas by Alexandre Guilmant on the van den Heuvel organ in Katwijk aan Zee in the Netherlands and sponsored a trip behind the Iron Curtain to record the big Liszt and Mendelssohn organ works on the historic Ladegast organ in Merseburg Cathedral; this led to an invitation in 1987 by the GDR Artists' Agency to give ten concerts, less than two years before the fall of the Berlin Wall.

After his Russian debut in 2013 at the St Petersburg White Nights Festival in the Mariinsky Concert Hall, Christopher was invited back to play a complete Bach cycle in 12 concerts during the first half of 2014. This echoed his previous 1998 New York marathon at the Lincoln Center Festival in Alice Tully Hall, where he presented Bach's complete organ works in 14 concerts on 14 consecutive days. This received a stunning review in the New York Times: *'He is a virtuoso, no question. He was at the peak of his considerable form, combining precision with panache, interpretive freedom with sheer joy in virtuosity. The playing was, in a word, triumphal.'*

During a busy international concert schedule, Christopher has had the pleasure and privilege of encountering organs of many styles. Now nearing his ninth decade he hopes to continue giving concerts wherever there are fine organs.

Music on the Green

Music on the Green in its present incarnation was launched in January 2012, growing organically out of 'Esher Music' which had been started up by Tom Bell, the predecessor of our present Director of Music. What began as basically a monthly organ recital series was developed into a more general chamber music series by Stuart Whatton, under the oversight of a committee including the then Rector William Allberry and chaired by Richard Marshall.

After some experimentation we settled into a pattern of varied lunchtime recitals on the third Wednesday of every month, with the snack lunch beforehand becoming almost as much of an attraction as the music itself, to the extent that we regularly attracted audiences of 60-80 before the pandemic.

In addition to the monthly lunchtime series, MOTG is also the umbrella brand for more occasional weekend concerts (such as the recent Beethoven 250th celebrations), which give us a chance to put on a more substantial full-length programme two or three times a year.

Over the past decade we think we have hosted 92 weekday lunchtime concerts (including six virtual ones during the pandemic), at least 15 'weekend specials' and ten 'Come & Sing Carols' events – the latter happening in the run-up to Christmas each year without even a pause for the coronavirus crisis.

This is without counting our parallel but separate Music in the Tower series, held annually during Holy Week, which (together with its predecessors Bach in the Tower and Baroque in the Tower) has been running since 2010, albeit with an enforced interruption in 2020 and 2021.

Instruments featured over the course of the past decade include:

- Organ, piano, harpsichord
- Violin, viola, cello, double bass, folk fiddle
- Guitar, electric guitar
- Piccolo, flute, baroque flute, alto flute
- Oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon
- The whole saxophone family (sopranino, soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, bass)
- Trumpet, horn, trombone, tuba
- Chromatic harmonica
- Classical accordion
- Bouzouki
- Theorbo
- Marimba, tubular bells, tambourines and a panoply of other percussion!

It is a source of great joy that the whole MOTG operation is now back on its feet once more now that the pandemic-induced disruptions have receded. We are delighted to welcome you to our concert today.

Parish of Esher events



Charity Gala Concert for Ukraine

Christ Church, Esher
Saturday 21 May 2022
5pm

The Ukrainian Cultural Association in the UK presents a concert of music and poetry in aid of Ukrainian humanitarian relief.

Alexander Ilvakhin *baritone* + Rozanna Madylus *mezzo soprano*
Marcella Riordan *actress* + Alla Sirenko *pianist, composer, event producer*

Popular Ukrainian songs and original compositions by Alla Sirenko will be performed, along with well known operatic arias and Ukrainian and English poetry. The buffet supper, kindly sponsored by Mama Olga's Kitchen enterprise, will include some traditional Ukrainian and Italian dishes. Additional donations welcome towards Ukrainian humanitarian relief via www.ucauk.com.

Individual ticket £25 Family ticket £45 *two adults, up to three children*

Book tickets via www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parish-of-Esher
Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS
office@esherparish.org.uk + www.esherparish.org.uk





FUTURE LUNCHTIME CONCERTS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Third Wednesday of the month

Doors open 12.30pm - Concert from 1.15pm

2022 Programme

- Jun 15 Flavio Rodrigues (classical accordion)
Jul 20 Belinda Jones & Gamal Khamis (two pianos)
Aug 17 *No concert (Summer break)*
Sep 21 Toby Hughes, double bass
Oct 19 Joanne Rozario, clarinet & Neil Crossland, piano
Nov 16 Dieci Corde (cello & guitar)
Dec 21 Come & Sing Carols

Please continue to check our website for up-to-date MOTG news.

Music on the Green Weekend Special

Sunday 26 June, 5pm Christ Church, Esher

BOYCE CAMERATA

Conductor Yassine Taoude Benchekroun *Piano soloist* Adam Heron

This vigorous young chamber orchestra will be treating us to a programme of British and Viennese repertoire including symphonies by William Boyce and a Mozart piano concerto.

Tickets £12 (children free) ~ Interval refreshments.

For further information contact the Parish Office. Tel: 01372 462282
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