

From the Director:

Greetings to all our readers! After the excitement of our Dunedin Academy last January, it's great to be able to announce that Michael Stewart is organizing an ANZCO Student Concert in Wellington Cathedral on July 29th. Performers will be Rebecca Lee (Auckland) and Edwin Kwong (Melbourne). ANZCO is delighted to assist these talented young artists with their travel costs. More on this from Michael below.

We have also had some excitement in Council. Tim Noon and George Chittenden are leaving Council for pastures new in Exeter and Helsingborg respectively and we take this fresh opportunity to thank them for all their work for ANZCO, and to wish them every success.

I am also delighted to announce that Michael Stoddart (Auckland, Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Parnell) and David Burchell (Dunedin City Organist) have agreed to join Council. Our thanks to them for this; we are looking forward to fresh energy and ideas! You can read about Michael and David below.

Our NextGenz programme last year was not only a lot of fun, but also brought young students and audience members across the country together with a sense of connectedness which is often missing from organ concerts. It was a privilege to be able to put this on and (again) we thank our organisers (some of whom I'd like to pressgang into the Council) for a sterling job. Council have resolved to repeat NextGenz again in 2017, perhaps from Invercargill 'upwards' to Whangarei.

The Academy idea is one of ANZCO's original and most important concepts, too, so another academy is planned for January, 2018. More to follow on that.

So we continue to forge ahead. Don't forget, if you are making a will, leave a bit to ANZCO – and thanks to our founder, Thomas Heywood, for that idea.

John Wells



Departing Members

George Chittenden, Director of Music and Cathedral Organist at St Paul's Cathedral for the last five years is to depart his post on Sunday, 31st July, having been appointed to the prestigious position of Organist at *Sankta Maria Kyrka* (St Mary's Church), Helsingborg, Sweden. This historic medieval church, which included Bach's illustrious teacher, Diderik Buxtehude, amongst its former organists, appoints George following the retirement of Mats Hultkvist, who held the post for thirty-four years.

'Mariakyrkan', as it is colloquially known in Helsingborg, is a basilica-sized church built in the Danish Gothic style and dating from the 14th Century; its foundations pre-date this by a further



two-hundred years. The church is home to an impressive wealth of musical resources: with nine choirs in the parish and three-and-a-half organs in the church itself, George's leadership of the organ music, choral works and concerts at St Mary's Church forms part of a substantial team, comprised of six full-time musicians who are committed to excellence in all forms of musical expression, ranging from the high-classical through to gospel and contemporary styles.

George's choral-directing responsibilities will be primarily for the leadership of the auditioned choirs *Kyrkokör* (Church Choir), and *Oratoriekör* (Oratorio Choir), the latter of whom collaborate regularly with the region's symphony orchestras.

Welcome to the Council

David Burchell is Dunedin City Organist, Organist and Choir Director of St Joseph's Cathedral, and Senior Organist and Parish Choirmaster at All Saints' Church, Dunedin. He is also organ tutor and graduation organist at the Department of Music, University of Otago. Away from the organ, he is Musical Director of City Choir Dunedin, and Musical Director of recently-formed 'The Little Box of Operas', a company specialising in chamber opera.



He studied at Oxford University and was Organ Scholar and later Assistant Organist at New College, working for six years with the renowned chapel choir. This included a term in charge of the choir, television and radio broadcasts, and participation in the recording of many CDs as organ accompanist and soloist. He has also worked as a university lecturer and was director of the Newcastle University Orchestra.

For eleven years he was Organist and Choir Director at Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin, and since moving to Dunedin in 1999 he has made a considerable impression on the musical life of Dunedin, principally as a choir trainer, organist, piano accompanist and also as an orchestral conductor with the Dunedin Youth Orchestra, Southern Sinfonia and St Kilda Brass. As Musical Director of City Choir Dunedin he directs performances of major works for choir with a variety of accompanimental groups.

David has appeared as organ soloist with the Southern Sinfonia in Poulenc's *Organ Concerto*, Saint-Saëns's *Organ Symphony*, and in the première of Anthony Ritchie's *Organ Overture*. He

has also appeared with the Southern Sinfonia, directing from the harpsichord, in Bach's fifth *Brandenburg Concerto* and as harpsichordist in C.P.E. Bach's *Concerto for Harpsichord and Fortepiano*.

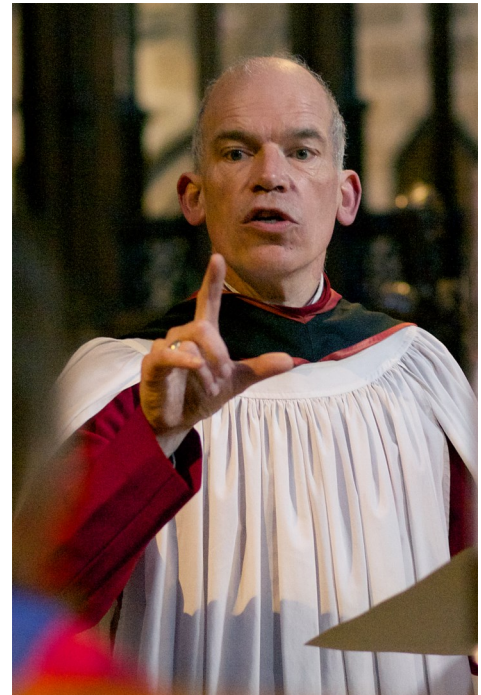
After graduating from Oxford he spent a year working for the Organ Builder William Drak, and subsequently assisted with the installation of several instruments in the UK and in the USA. At his home outside Dunedin he has built a music room which houses the 20-stop 1863 Telford and Telford organ built for the first St Paul's Church in Dunedin, and also has a small portable single-manual organ which he has converted from a 1922 Positive instrument.

And ...

Michael Stoddart commenced his musical education as a chorister at Westminster Abbey where he studied the organ with Christopher Herrick. After secondary education at the Haberdashers' Aske's School in Elstree and gaining his ARCO, he was appointed Organ Scholar at Magdalen College, Oxford. Here he played a full part in Oxford musical life both as an organist, playing daily choral evensong, and as a singer deputising at Christ Church and New College. Returning to London, he was appointed organist and choirmaster of St Peter's Streatham, where he directed a mixed choir and was able to enjoy playing a four-manual Hill instrument, and sang as a deputy lay clerk at St Paul's Cathedral.

He then moved to Paris for an extended period of organ study at the Paris Conservatoire with Susan Landale. He was appointed organist and then choirmaster of St George's Church and was involved in the musical life of Evreux Cathedral, where he initiated a children's choir. He also played a part in plans for a new organ in the Cathedral. He then directed the Choeur d'Enfants at the Parisian church of St Louis en l'Île and spent two years as assistant organist at the American Cathedral in Paris.

Returning to the UK in 2004, he was appointed Organist and Director of Music at St Mary's Portsea and Musical Director of the St Mary's Music Foundation where he greatly expanded the children's choir. He was also Assistant Sub-Organist at Portsmouth Cathedral and gained his FRCO. Appointed Organist and Director of Music at Newcastle Cathedral in 2009, was responsible for training the Cathedral choirs of boys, girls and adults which sing for six regular weekly services, with overall responsibility for all aspects of music-making in the cathedral.



After seven years in Newcastle upon Tyne, Holy Trinity Cathedral offered him a number of new boxes to tick. In particular the opportunity to direct the music in a building with a substantial (and reliable) organ with a generous, reverberant acoustic. With progress on the new cathedral organ at Holy Trinity proceeding well, and the first part already in containers on its way here, the cathedral's New Voice rivals all but a few English cathedral organs. He feels very fortunate to be arriving as so many things at Holy Trinity come to fruition, with other people having done the hard work.

ANZCO Trans-Tasman Students Concert

Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, 12.45pm Friday 29 July

Three up-and-coming young organists from both sides of the Tasman will present a lunchtime organ recital at Wellington Cathedral of St Paul on Friday 29 July. Rebecca Soojung Lee (Auckland), Sam Ewen (Dunedin) and Edwin Kwong (Melbourne) will perform on the Cathedral organ, which boasts several original ranks of Lewis pipework along with a glorious acoustic. The programme will include music by Vierne, Rutter, Whitlock, Alain, Franck, CocherEAU and Verdi!

Born in South Korea, Rebecca Soojung Lee began her organ studies in 2014 under Miran Park. She has been studying with Dr John Wells since the beginning of 2016. Rebecca is actively engaged with musical activities at church, serving as an organist at the Korean Methodist Church of

Auckland and as a pianist at the Korean Church of Auckland. Rebecca is currently a Year 13 student at Westlake Girls High School in Auckland, and she is very excited to study the organ and violin at university next year.



Wellington Cathedral of St Paul

Sam Ewen, the 2015 Head Boy and Proxime Accessit of Central Hawke's Bay College, Waipukurau is a first year student at the University of Otago. He is studying Health Science as a pre-requisite for a degree in Dental Surgery. As a year 8 pupil, aged 11, Sam decided he would like to learn to play the piano. When he left school at the end of 2015 aged 17 he had achieved the ATCL (Associate Trinity College London) diploma. Two days after this examination, and in the middle of his school exams, he sat and passed Grade 8 Organ with Distinction.

Director of Music and Organist of St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Burnley, Melbourne, Edwin Kwong has performed internationally at Eton College and St John's College, Cambridge and across New Zealand.

He is currently a student of the renowned virtuoso and ANZCO Founding President Thomas Heywood, and has participated in masterclasses with renowned organists such as David Goode, Stefan Kießling, Timothy Noon, and Ben Sheen.

Come and support the next generation of ANZAC organists! Entry is by suggested donation of \$10. All proceeds go towards ANZCO's continuing work in building the future of the organ in Australasia.

For more details, please contact Wellington Councillor Michael Stewart on dom@wellingtoncathedral.org.nz

Sydney Conservatorium Organ Music Academy

Scoma 2016 September 28 - October 2

SCOMA '16 is now just three months away! Compared with 2014, our second Organ Academy promises to be even bigger and better, with two outstanding overseas tutors, more participants, more concerts ... and a brand new attraction, our state-of-the-art Noorlander virtual organ, which is already the talk of the town.

All the information you need can be found at:

<https://openacademy.sydney.edu.au/course/WFSCOMA16>

I would like to draw your attention quickly to just a few important details:

Academy Students

If you were planning to sign-up as an active participant and haven't yet registered, then please do so without delay; we have extended the cut-off date slightly to July 17 to accommodate any late arrivals.

Observer Passes

For those wishing to attend as Observers, enrolments open on August 9. Observer Passes are transferable and entitle the bearer to attend any or all sessions, including Sarah's Kim's recital (with concluding reception) and the Academy BBQ. At only \$120 they are extremely good value.

Noorlander Organ Demonstration

Wednesday 28 September from 9.30-11.30am

Come and hear Sietze de Vries put the amazing new Noorlander virtual organ through its paces as only he can do - with a series of improvisations perfectly suited to the style and period of the organ he has selected. You can get a foretaste of his work here:

<https://soundcloud.com/orgelmakerij-noorlander/sets/sietze-de-vries>

Concerts

In addition to daily improvisation and interpretation classes, there will be three recitals during the course of the Academy. May I suggest you put the following dates in your diary now?

Friday 30 September 7.00pm

St Mary's Cathedral - International Organ Recital Series

Sietze de Vries (Holland)

Entry by Donation

Saturday 1 October 3.00pm

Verbrugghen Hall - Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Academy Student Recital

Admission free

Sunday 2 October 3.00pm

Verbrugghen Hall - Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Organ Recital Sarah Kim (Paris)

Admission free for Academy Students and holders of Observer Passes. General admission tickets will be available from September 1 via a link on the SCOMA webpage.

And finally just a quick reminder for all the organ die-hards out there that the Sydney Organ Competition takes place the very next day, Monday 3 October (Public Holiday), at various venues around town. We are very pleased that this year the Open Section is being held for the first time at the Con. Full details can be found at <http://danseur.webplus.net/>

I do hope you can join us for what promises to be a most inspiring and enjoyable five days of organ music.

Council Contact List (as at 1 June, 2016)

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