

FROM THE PRESIDENT

NDOA members who subscribe to the IAO's *Organists' Review* (which I hope are many) will know that my 'Lost Cypher' poem appeared in the 'Interact' (letters) section of the September issue. It was followed by an item by Joe Riley in 'Postscript' on the frustration of not being able to be 'seated one day at the organ'.

Joe went on to write about how improvising on the organ relates to composing for it, which is an appropriate topic for our Association as we have some members who like to improvise, some who like to compose, and some who do both. I know that several of our members have been composing choral works during the restrictions on organ playing, and I hope that in a future Composers' Day we shall hear some of the results.

As it happens, next year's programme is already filling up, as Richard Tapp, our President-Elect, has agreed to find room for several of the events we have not been able to have this year. They include a Young Organists' Day at Stony Stratford, a visit to Thorpe Underwood and Harrington, which was to have been on 18th July, and a Garden Party, which was to have been on 31st August. Instead, on both of those days we will have had a 'virtual' event – my slideshow on Organs around the World, and Richard's show on the Nicholson at Castle Ashby church. I hope those members who Zoom in (it is very easy to do) will have enjoyed these events, as we may be likely to have more in future, whether or not we are able to have 'live' events.

To end on a poetic note (as I have done in most of these Messages) I will remind members that the royalist Richard Lovelace was imprisoned in 1642 for opposing the Clergy Act. His poem 'To Althea, from Prison' includes the lines 'Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage.' With the help of a friend who lives in Roade, I have adapted the stanza as follows:

*"Home's walls do not a prison make, nor lockdown's rules a cage;
We innocent and quiet take them for a hermitage.
If there is music that we love, and if our minds are free,
We can make tunes that soar above, in larger liberty."*

Keep composing! **John Wilson**



NDOA VIRTUAL EVENTS. On Bank Holiday Monday 31st August at 7.30pm, Richard Tapp, Organist of St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby, will give a Zoom presentation on the history of the Nicholson Organ at the church, subtitled *Two Marquesses, Three Victorian gentlemen-clerics and One Organ Builder*. Just click on the Zoom link at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6975997612> or enter Meeting ID 697 599 7612 and your name at your Zoom login.

On Saturday 26th September at 7.30pm, our President, John Wilson will give a Zoom presentation on ***Around the UK in 40 Organs***. Login details will follow. All are most welcome at both events.



NDOA NOTES AND NEWS. We hope you have been enjoying some of the links and suggestions for viewing, reading or listening highlighted in *Newsletter Extra* over the past few months. Here are a few more items which may be of interest, and some more suggestions for you to try - this *Newsletter Extra* is issued a day or two early to include events over the Bank Holiday weekend.

- **Mander Organs.** Last month we noted the very sad news that Mander Organs had ceased trading. It is now reported that the name and intellectual property are being acquired by F H Browne of Canterbury, which will re-brand as Mander Organs from 1st October. Browne's MD, Stephen Bayley, and two other members of his team, are former Mander employees.
- **The Proms** resume live events (albeit sadly without a live audience) this weekend, and on Saturday 29th August at 7.30pm there is a live organ prom featuring Jonathan Scott <https://www.bbc.co.uk/events/ebhp8g>
- **Matthew Collins**, Organist of Howden Minster, performs a most enjoyable recital on the Minster's 1930 Rushworth & Dreaper at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tf0QVOA651U>, including Grayson Ives' fabulous *Intrada* composed for the HM the Queen's Jubilee service in St Paul's in 1977 - listen and you can't fail but conjure up a picture in your mind's eye of Her Majesty's regal progress along the nave. Many members will also be familiar with the R&D instruments of similar vintage in NTCG (ex-College St) and Stowe School and can compare and contrast! Further online recitals are scheduled for 31st August and 14th September, both at 1pm, featuring Timothy Selman (York) and Tim Harper (Ripon) respectively.
- **RSCM Hymns and Songs Festival Webinar - 19th October.** RSCM has announced that it will hold a webinar on hymns and liturgy in an online seminar held jointly with Hymns Ancient and Modern - see www.rscm.org.uk for information.
- **Thomas Trotter's** excellent Birmingham recitals are a favourite of concert-goers, but are obviously presently paused and may not resume until the New Year, so Thomas has recorded an excellent short programme on the Symphony Hall organ which you can find at <https://www.thsh.co.uk/event/thomas-trotter-online>.
- **Strassburg, Pfarrkirche.** Richard McVeigh continues to post really interesting videos in addition to his excellent live online weekly recitals and virtual church on his Beauty in Sound YouTube channel. Check out his demonstration of the Hauptwerk set of the lovely Piotr Grabowski organ from 1743 in the Pfarrkirche at Strassburg, Austria at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpCa63BPZ80>. You can find more details of the organ at <https://piotrgrabowski.pl/strassburg/>
- **An Organist is for Life...** You may have read Adrian Marple's book (think updated *Corno Dolce*) when it was issued three or four years ago, but if not it's now available as an e-book from Amazon or on Kindle at £2.99 and a very entertaining read. Look it up on Amazon.co.uk. Some of the stories may seem quite far-fetched - but of course from our own experiences we know differently...
- **In Quires and Places...** Following the most recent government guidance, it seems that it is now permissible for amateur and professional groups to sing, including in church. The RSCM has just published some very helpful guidance, which you can find at <https://www.rscm.org.uk/covid-19-resources-for-churches/> which include some guidance notes, models for singing and playing in churches, and a useful set of Frequently Asked Questions. For those in the Church of England, the updated guidance is at <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/COVID%2019%20advice%20on%20conducting%20public%20worship%20v2.3.pdf>.



The next edition of NDOA's **Newsletter**, Issue 4/2020 will be published on 1st October. It will include an article on the history of the organs of St Michael's, Northampton by Roger Palmer; an interview with the IAO's General Secretary, Alan Taylor, and a profile of Northampton's newest organ builder, Soundcraft, which has to date built two exquisite continuo organs, both of which now reside in Cambridge. Don't miss it!

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