

Christopher Herrick

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, lucky to sing in the 1953 Coronation Choir and to take part in a 40-concert tour of North America later that year. He was Music Scholar at his senior school, Organ Scholar at Oxford University and Boulton Scholar at the Royal College of Music in London. He was asked back as Assistant Organist to St Paul's Cathedral and then spent ten years at Westminster Abbey, where he played for many Royal and State occasions, including the state funeral of Lord Mountbatten, the funeral service for Herbert Howells, and for both the 80th birthday concert and the funeral service for Sir William Walton.

In 1983 Hyperion Records, Britain's most prestigious Classical Music label, recorded an album by him entitled 'Organ Fireworks' on the Westminster Abbey organ. Since then, as an exclusive Hyperion artist, he has recorded over 40 CDs, including 14 Organ Fireworks discs - 'The strengths of this hugely enjoyable and downright spectacular series lie in consistently first-rate recordings of some of the world's most aurally stunning instruments and in Herrick's playing, which can only be described as unfailingly brilliant' (Gramophone) - and the complete organ works of Bach on 16 discs - 'Christopher Herrick and the Hyperion team deserve the warmest praise for a Bach cycle that has provided such scintillating and compelling listening' (Gramophone).

Since 1979 his busy concert schedule has taken him all over the world, regularly to Europe, North America, Russia, Japan, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong, and he has had the privilege and the pleasure of encountering innumerable organs of every conceivable style, from exciting larger instruments to delightful smaller ones, ranging from the historic to the brand new. Now in his 70s, he intends to continue to play in great cathedrals, leading concert halls and beautiful churches with fine organs as long as he has health and strength and as long as audiences continue to appreciate his particular brand of music making.

In fact, after playing his Russian debut in 2013 in the prestigious St Petersburg White Nights Festival at the Mariinsky Theatre Concert Hall, he was immediately invited back to play a complete Bach cycle in 12 concerts during the first half of 2014.

This echoed his previous 1998 marathon at the Lincoln Center Festival in New York, that time performing Bach's complete works in 14 concerts on 14 consecutive days in the Alice Tully Hall on the great Kuhn organ. This was rewarded with this 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.'

Daniel Gárdonyi

Daniel Gárdonyi descends from a German Hungarian family of musicians. He studied church music and organ in Bayreuth and Stuttgart (Bernhard Haas). Subsequently he worked as Assistant to Kay Johannsen at the Stiftskirche in Stuttgart. In 2011 he was appointed Director of Music at the Liebfrauenkirche, Frankenberg.

Since 2016 he has been based in Würzburg working as a freelance musician. He performs recitals throughout Germany, Hungary and other European countries, including venues such as Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche Berlin, National Concert Hall Budapest and Salzburg Cathedral. He serves as guest lecturer of organ and music theory at the KMF Schlüchtern. www.daniel-gardonyi.de

Peter Stevens

Peter Stevens is Assistant Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral. Born in Lancashire, he spent his sixth form years at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, where in his final year he also held the Junior Organ Scholarship at Manchester Cathedral. On leaving school, he spent a year as Organ Scholar at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, where he played for services at which members of the Royal Family were present, including the service to mark HM The Queen's 80th birthday.

Peter spent four years as Organ Scholar at King's College, Cambridge, accompanying the famous Chapel Choir in their daily services, broadcasts and recordings, as well as giving concerts in over 15 countries across the world. He played three times for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast live on Christmas Eve to a worldwide audience of millions.

After graduating with BA and MusB degrees, Peter moved to Westminster Cathedral as Organ Scholar, before taking up his present position in January 2011. In addition to working with the Cathedral Choir he organises and gives many of the Cathedral's organ recitals.

For three years, he was Organist of the Edington Festival of Music within the Liturgy, becoming Director of the Festival's Schola Cantorum in 2013. His organ teachers have included Jeremy Filsell, Colin Walsh, Thomas Trotter and David Briggs.