



The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music

Tuesday 16 May 2023, 5.30pm
St Pancras Parish Church

“Cymbals and Dances”

London Contemporary Dance School (The Place)
Martyn Noble *organ*

Programme

*Dance interpretations of contemporary organ works
including two submitted to the Festival's "Call for Scores" incubation project*

I

Simon Hancock Postlude alla Fantasia

Simon Preston Alleluyas

George Haynes Toccata

Daniele Croce Sortie

II

Cecilia McDowall First Flight

Martyn Noble New Movements on the Third Mode

William Walton Orb and Sceptre

III

Jenni Pinnock Prelude in B Flat Minor

Iain Farrington Song (from "Fiesta!")

Zsolt Gárdonyi EGATOP ("Hommage à Errol Garner,
Art Tatum, Oscar Peterson")

Pamela Decker Albarda (from "Flores del desierto" -
Tangos for Organ)

*To facilitate smooth transitions between the pieces,
please save your 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 organist Martyn Noble, Sub-Organist of His Majesty's Chapel Royal, St James's Palace.

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, Martyn recorded a selection of contemporary organ pieces, including several submitted to the most recent "Call for Scores". These recordings were passed on to three 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 compositions by George Haynes and Daniele Croce which receive their London premieres at this recital.

Notes on Dance Interpretations

I. Postlude alla Fantasia

Choreographers and dancers Lilah Bobak Amina Abdel-aal Nancy Dickinson

Our inspiration came from the title of the piece (which translates to "After the Fantasy"). We worked off imagery reminiscent of a fantasy or mirage, often echoing each other's movements to create the illusion of hallucination. We worked through relating these ideas to the expectations behind the male gaze, highlighting the "fantasy" that a woman is forced to create. Revisiting the motif of connection and vulnerability, the piece creates an unravelling of events including elegant, yet grounded, movement.

Programme note by Lilah Bobak

II. First Flight

Choreographers and dancers Alma Kremnitzer Lauren Scott Mads Jesson

"Soft Weapons": a piece exploring the safety created within a community and how isolation can be weaponised.

Programme note by Alma Kremnitzer

III. Prelude in B Flat Minor

Choreographers and dancers Dulcie Gilbertson Amelia McCulloch Benjo Aptroot

Amelia McCulloch and I were inspired by the short sharp but whimsical sounds of Prelude in B Flat Minor. Repeated sections in the piece conjured for us images of cycles in nature. Due to the dramatic nature of the music, we choreographed movement that alludes to a withering flower. The piece portrays themes of Cycles, energy being drained, withering and finally rejuvenation.

Programme note by Dulcie Gilbertson

Biographies

Martyn Noble

Martyn Noble is currently Sub-Organist of His Majesty's Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, Musician-in-Residence and Teacher of Piano at Highgate School, and Teacher of Organ and Piano Accompanist at the Royal College of Music Junior Department. He has given recitals in Buckingham, Hampton Court and St James's Palaces, Westminster Abbey, Canterbury, St Paul's, and both of Liverpool's Cathedrals. In February 2020, he took part in recording choral works of Pelham Humphrey with H.M. Chapel Royal Choir for Delphian Records and also had his debut with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, where he performed Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir.

As a piano accompanist Martyn has accompanied for professors and students at the Royal College and Royal Academy of Music, for Leeds Lieder Festival, and the British Isles music festival at Charterhouse School. In 2018 he was also fortunate enough to play for the UK tour of Miss Saigon in Bradford, Plymouth, and Norwich. This summer he is due to be a répétiteur and Vocal Coach for Sherborne's Summer School of Music – his third appearance at the summer school.

In 2015, Martyn graduated with a first class Bachelor of Music degree from the Royal College of Music. He has appeared live on BBC Radios 3 and 4 and has recorded for Novello, Boosey & Hawkes, and for choral CDs with Priory and Signum Records. He also plays annually for Classic FM's broadcast of "Carols from Buckingham Palace" which airs immediately after His Majesty The King's speech on Christmas Day.

Martyn has composed several choral works and is currently published by Chichester Music Press. His pieces have been premiered at Exeter University, the Royal College of Music, Hooglandse Kerk in Leiden, and as part of The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music.

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

All events are free and take place at St Pancras Parish Church unless otherwise noted

Wednesday 17 May

1.15pm Choral Eucharist
with music by Joshua Ballance, Gianluca Pantaleo, Nicholas O'Neill, Will Sims,
Paul Davis, and Donald Wetherick

Thursday 18 May

1.15pm **"Music for Four, Five, and Six Voices":** Lunchtime Concert

Contemporary motets by Tarik O'Regan, Judith Bingham, Anthony Powers, Cecilia McDowall, and Gail Randall interweave the movements of William Byrd's exquisite *Mass for Five Voices* in this beautiful and reflective lunchtime recital programme.

Friday 19 May

5.30pm **"Lo, God is here":** Rush-Hour Recital

A beautiful recital of sacred music by two of the United Kingdom's most prolific church music composers, honouring both the 80th birthday of Philip Moore and the 10th anniversary of the death of Stephen Dodgson.

Saturday 20 May

7.30pm **"A Berkeley Celebration":** Concert at Hampstead Parish Church, NW3 6UU
This event is ticketed. Book online at lfccm.com/tickets

A celebration of the 75th birthday of Michael Berkeley CBE, the 120th anniversary of the birth of his father Lennox Berkeley, and the 400th anniversary of the death of William Byrd, featuring the premiere performance of a new work by Michael Berkeley, *Released by Love*, and a Q&A with the composer led by Petroc Trelawny.

Sunday 21 May

10.00am Choral Eucharist
with music by Michael Wolniakowski, Toby Young,
Paul Hayward, and Simon Hancock

6.00pm Choral Evensong
with music by Simon Hancock, Helene Hauglin, Anthony Esland,
David Barton, and George Haynes

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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 more than 20 years old, 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