

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH CONCERT SERIES    SPRING · SUMMER 2013

# Concerts at The University

Friday 22 February 2013

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

**Christopher Nickol** · organ

Programme of works by BUXTEHUDE, SAMUEL WESLEY,  
J.S. BACH, WILLIAM BYRD and JAAK NIKOLAAS LEMMENS.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
*Edinburgh College of Art*

## **Praeludium in G minor BuxWV 149**

Dieterich Buxtehude (c.1637-1707)

Although J.S. Bach and Nikolaus Bruhns composed notable examples of the multi-section organ prelude, Buxtehude's works are arguably the best in this genre. The musical core of his G minor Praeludium is two fugues; the first has a flowing cantabile style, whilst the second has a more brassy martial quality. Both fugues are preceded and succeeded by toccata passages which exploit the ringing, bell-like sounds of the baroque organ.

## **Air and Gavotte**

Samuel Wesley (1766-1837)

Samuel Wesley was the son of the hymn writer Charles Wesley, and the father of the organist-composer Samuel Sebastian Wesley. The titles 'Air' and 'Gavotte' are not Wesley's, but were supplied by the composer and editor John E. West when he produced an arrangement of these two pieces in 1905. In the 'Air', the Ahrend organ's Hauptwerk Trompet and Ruckpositiv Dulcian will be heard as solo voices, whilst the 'Gavotte' will use the two manuals in dialogue.

## **Five chorale preludes from the *Orgelbüchlein***

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Advent - Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottessohn BWV 601

Christmas - In dulci jubilo BWV 608

Passiontide - Christus, der uns selig macht BWV 620

Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein BWV 641

Easter - Heut' triumphiret Gottes Sohn BWV 631

The 46 'Orgelbüchlein' chorale preludes span the church's year from Advent to Pentecost, and it's fascinating to hear Bach's response to the various texts and liturgical seasons. The Advent prelude 'Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottessohn' has a restrained anticipatory excitement, whilst 'In dulci jubilo' brings joyful Christmas bell-like sounds.

In contrast, the Passiontide 'Christus, der uns selig macht' has an anguished chromaticism, whilst the Easter 'Heut' triumphiret Gottes Sohn' has an emphatic majesty. The prayerful 'Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein' has a highly ornamented version of the chorale in the soprano; in the other four preludes, the chorale melody is heard unadorned in the top voice, and also in canon during 'In dulci jubilo' and 'Christus, der uns selig macht'.

## **The Carman's Whistle, from *The Fitzwilliam Virginal Book***

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Along with John Bull and Giles Farnaby, William Byrd was the main contributor to *The Fitzwilliam Virginal Book*. A 'carman' was reportedly a person who drove carts pulled by horses, and it's said that whistling tunes contributed to controlling equine behaviour! The opening statement of the tune is followed by eight variations, using the Ahrend organ's various diapason and flute registers.

## **Cantabile and Finale**

Jaak Nikolaas Lemmens (1823-1881)

The nineteenth-century Belgium organist Lemmens taught Guilment and Widor, and one can hear in his toccata-like Finale pre-echos of the last movements of Widor and Vierne's organ symphonies. The Cantabile is in three sections, and the chordal middle passage in B major is contrasted with the flowing outer sections in B minor.

C.N.

**Christopher Nickol** was born in Cambridge, and was a music scholar at Ampleforth College, an organ scholar at Royal Holloway College, University of London, and a postgraduate scholar at the Royal College of Music. Whilst at the RCM, he participated in two of the Dunfermline Abbey Organ Festivals, and both of the Paisley International Organ Festivals. He is Director of Music at New Kilpatrick Church, Bearsden, Glasgow, where he directs three choirs and an instrumental group. He is Accompanist to the Bearsden Choir, a staff pianist at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and one of the team of deputy organists at Glasgow Cathedral.

Christopher has given organ recitals throughout the UK, and also in Europe and the USA. He has broadcast on BBC Radio and TV, and recorded 5 CDs, featuring organs in Ireland and Scotland (including next door's McEwan Hall Willis/Hope-Jones instrument). He was involved with the launch of Glasgow's 'Bach-style' organ in the Barony Hall, University of Strathclyde, contributing a detailed article about the instrument to 'Organists' Review.' He was also one of the players at the public opening recital; the other performers were John Kitchen, John Butt, Stuart Campbell, David Hamilton and the late David Sanger.

This year, Christopher is giving recitals in Ayr Town Hall, Glasgow Cathedral, Reading Town Hall, and St. Salvator's Chapel, University of St. Andrews. He continues to be a regular contributor to Glasgow Kelvingrove Art Gallery's programme of daily organ concerts, giving around 40 recitals every year.

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS:

Tuesday 26 February

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

The Edinburgh Quartet

Tristan Gurney · violin

Gordon Bragg · violin

Jessica Beeston · viola

Mark Bailey · cello

HAYDN Quartet in D major Op.33/6

BEETHOVEN Quartet in E flat major 'Harp' Op.74

ADMISSION FREE

Wednesday 27 February

2.00pm

Reid Concert Hall

Tovey Memorial Prize Competition Final

The Tovey Memorial Prize is awarded annually to the Music student who shows the greatest promise in composition or performance.

ADMISSION FREE

Wednesday 27 February

Friday 1 March

and Saturday 2 March

7.30pm

Canongate Kirk

Edinburgh Studio Opera

Michael Bawtree · musical director

Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones · director

'King Arthur' Together with Sundry Other Musick from the Genius of

Mr. Henry Purcell

TICKETS: £12.00 / £8.00 concessions

<http://xtspro.com>

Friday 1 March

1.10pm

St Cecilia's Hall

Nathaniel Mander · harpsichord

J.S. BACH Toccata in D minor BWV 913

C.P.E. BACH Sonata in A minor Wq.49/1

W.A. MOZART Variations sur le chanson français, 'Ah, vous dirai-je, Maman' K265

ADMISSION FREE