

NEWS & PREVIEW

EVENTS

The Royal College of Organists has announced the following events and courses for Spring 2019. **Hymns and Voluntaries** – practical guidance, with Ian Curror and Bramwell Bourne (9 Mar, Plymouth: Emmanuel Church, Mannamead); **Preparing for CRCO, ARCO and FRCO**, with John Scott Whiteley, Tom Bell and Robin Harrison (16 Mar, Huddersfield: St Paul's Hall); **TOSE-in-a-Day** – Repertoire, keyboard skills, choral conducting and accompanying tuition for teenage organists of around Grade 5 standard and above with tutors Daniel Moul, Jeremiah Stephenson and Simon Williams (London venues, 23 Mar); **Equipping the Organist**, with James Lloyd Thomas (30 Mar, Stourbridge: St Thomas, Market Street); **Carlisle Local Organ Workshop**, with Andrew Cantrill-Fenwick, Andrew Macintosh and Tom Bell (30 Mar, Carlisle Cathedral, St Cuthbert and St Aidan); **Easter Course**, with Daniel Moul, Stephen Farr, Susan Landale, Sarah MacDonald and Simon Williams (4-6 Apr, Cambridge: Sidney Sussex and other colleges); and **Best Foot Forward**, with Kevin Bowyer (24 Apr, Glasgow University Memorial Chapel). Details: bit.ly/2DCXsmG

The **Saint Cecilia Singers**, formed in 1949 by the 19-year old Donald Hunt, then assistant to the director of music, Herbert Sumsion, at Gloucester Cathedral, is celebrating 70 years with Evensong (former choir members are invited to participate), a birthday tea and free concert in the Cathedral (2 Mar), to include Duruflé's Requiem and pieces performed at the Singers' inaugural concerts in 1949 and 1950. Email Bairbre Lloyd: mail@bairbre.co.uk

The **Sibelius Academy's** first Organ Academy will take place from 1-7 Aug 2019, using a variety of organs in Helsinki and Janakka. bit.ly/2DKa1FO

GOING DUTCH

AMONG THE ATTRACTIONS OF ORGELFESTIVAL HOLLAND (Alkmaar, 21-28 June) are the events surrounding the International Schnitger Organ Competition. After Pieter van Dijk's 'Cheesemarket' concert in the Grote Kerk (21 Jun), the Festival's opening concert (21 Jun, Grote Kerk) will be given by St Salvator's Chapel Choir from St Andrews, performing music by Bernard Foccroulle, Johannes Ockeghem, Orlando di Lasso, Heinrich Scheidemann, Michael Praetorius, Bach and Buxtehude, conducted by Claire Innes-Hopkins, with organist Bernard Foccroulle.

Other highlights of the programme include a symposium on Franz Caspar Schnitger, builder of the Grote Kerk's Van Hagerbeer/Schnitger organ, around which the Festival revolves (23 Jun). In the 400th year since the death of Franz Caspar's father Arp Schnitger, Martin Böcker, Pieter van Dijk, Gerben Gritter, Cees van der Poel, Krzysztof Urbaniak and Frank van Wijk will consider who was 'The Better Schnitger'. Pieter van Dijk and Frank van Wijk will give a duet recital of orchestral music by J.S. Bach, Beethoven and Brahms at the Grote Kerk (24 Jun), and Bas de Vroome will make a case for the organ works of Hugo Distler (1908-42) in a lunchtime recital (27 Jun).

The **15th International Organ Academy Alkmaar** runs contiguously with the Festival. The event consists of workshops, masterclasses, concerts and excursions. The academy is open to organ students, professional organists and advanced amateurs, as well as observers. Participants work with international specialists on a repertoire specifically attuned to the characteristics of the teaching organs. Lessons are held in the Grote Sint Laurenskerk on both its world-famous organs – the Van Hagerbeer/Schnitger organ (1646/1725) and the Van Covelens organ (1511), and on the wonderful Müller organs of the Kapelkerk (1762) and the Lutheran Church (1755), all in Alkmaar. The jury members of the International Schnitger Organ Competition 2019 will teach at the Academy. bit.ly/2TgnDVp1



▲ The Van Hagerbeer/Schnitger organ of the Grote Kerk, Alkmaar



The Phoenix Collective, a newly-formed group of Kodály-trained musicians, is to offer courses ranging from Kodály Pedagogy for different age groups to Baroque Dance, Dalcroze Eurhythmics and A Cappella Arranging. Kodály musicianship will form part of all courses. The inaugural weekend course, 'The Holistic Voice', covering Alexander Technique, Vocal Technique, Kodály Musicianship and Gospel Singing, will be held at Royal Russell

School, Croydon, South London (30-31 Mar). Allan Hubert-Wright will show how to create different sounds with the voice for different styles of singing – here, the 'classical sound' and the 'gospel sound'. Based in France, Hubert-Wright uses funding from the French government to work with singers in all genres – many, but not all, with damaged voices. Conductor and broadcaster Ken Burton will lead sessions on gospel singing and will conduct his own London Adventist Chorale in a concert performance on 30 March. In the Alexander Technique sessions, Kathy Hulme will show how even small physical adjustments can make a great difference to the range and quality of vocal sounds produced. Cyrilla Rowsell (pictured) and others will lead Kodály musicianship sessions, catering for all levels of experience. 'Kodály is a wonderful way to learn musical skills, knowledge and understanding through singing,' she told C&O. thephoenixcollective.co.uk