

**President's Message
September 2015**

The organ world has been knocked sideways by the shock of John Scott's untimely death. At what turned out to be his final recital in England (Bloomsbury Baptist on Saturday 25th July), he was as brilliant as ever, beginning and ending with Jean Guillou arrangements of Prokofiev. The first was the entertaining March from *The Love of Three Oranges* and the latter the stunningly virtuosic Toccata. As always, his Bach was perfection, in this case the relentless Prelude and Fugue in G (BWV 541). Paying tribute on Radio 3 from the late-night Bach Prom on 21st August, David Hill rightly spoke of John Scott's advocacy of Bach's music, reminding us that in 1984 he had won the prestigious Leipzig J S Bach International Organ Competition (but was unable to bring away the prize money because of the Iron Curtain!).

After being associated with St Paul's Cathedral for over 25 years, John Scott moved on to work with the equally renowned choir of St Thomas, Fifth Avenue. His reputation in the U.S. was already well established, for he had been nominated International Performer of the Year by the New York Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, but his fame was world-wide. We have to be thankful that in addition to his large output of recordings, we can continue to hear and see him perform, thanks to the internet. I would particularly recommend his playing of the Overture to Mendelssohn's *St Paul* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukSN3GQm88I> and of course there is so much else! It has been observed that two other equally famous ambassadors of the organ also died at the tragically young age of 59, namely Carlo Curley and Pierre Cochereau. Like them, John Scott will be remembered as one of the finest organists of all time.

It is good that the Royal Albert Hall organ continues to be featured in the Proms and the solo recital by Thierry Escaich did not disappoint. His own Chorale-Etudes leading straight on from familiar settings by Bach and Brahms were thought provoking and kept us on the edge of our seats, as did his brilliant Bach-inspired improvisations. And how lovely it was to hear Mendelssohn's Third Sonata! M. Escaich is back in London on Monday 2nd November at the Royal Festival Hall, with the gorgeous Romance and rarely played Finale of Vierne's 4th Symphony and much else to delight in.

Meanwhile, back in Enfield.... it has been most encouraging to have so much interest shown in the restored St Luke's organ over several events, including the well-supported opening recital by Peter Holder. Following our own members' recital this month, there are free Friday lunchtime recitals at 12.30 on October 2nd and November 6th by two distinguished EDOA performers, Roger Carter and Robert Evans respectively.

Best wishes for all the good things to come and, as always, stay in touch with www.edoa.org.uk.

Terence Atkins