

President's Message September 2017

As an Association we join the whole organ world in greeting Dr Francis Jackson on reaching his 100th birthday. Do read Philip Moore's affectionate article in the latest *Organists' Review*. The wonderful EAST ACKLAM will doubtless be well aired to 'For the fruits of his creation', this Harvest-tide, and many assured choirs will once again enjoy rising to the challenge of Jackson in G. Of his vast output of organ music, I would mention his Three Hymn Tune Preludes from as recently as 2005, including a very approachable REPTON. Those of us of a certain age will recall the ground-breaking 'Great Cathedral Organs' series of recordings from the mid 1960s and especially that from York Minster. Dr Jackson's playing of the Cocker 'Tuba Tune' followed by the Healey Willan 'Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue' remain legendary performances.

One of the highlights of this summer's Reformation Prom season must surely have been the St John Passion presented within the context of the Lutheran liturgy by the Dunedin Consort under the dynamic, renowned Bach scholar, Dr John Butt. We in the audience were invited to sing verses of three chorales, following an entertaining pre-concert rehearsal. The whole performance was simply stunning. Look out for any of the Dunedin recordings and also any of John Butt as soloist, not least the '48' on harpsichord, for you will not be disappointed!

For us in the EDOA, we have two celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation to look forward to, both on Tuesday evenings and well worth supporting. On October 3rd at St Andrew's Church Hall, Enfield, we shall welcome Philip Norman, and then on October 31st (Reformation Day) we are invited to join the Essex OA and CLESO at St Laurence, Upminster for a lecture-recital by Richard Brasier and Tom Bell. Full details are given in this newsletter and at www.edoa.org.uk. With regard to the latter event, I would stress that Upminster is within easy reach and will give an opportunity to meet fellow members of those neighbouring associations.

Last year Ashley Wagner wrote a fulsome account of taking part as a finalist in the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition, concluding that he hoped to enter again. This he duly did, was again selected to compete and went on to be "Highly Commended" (= 4th place). We congratulate him heartily on this impressive achievement and also on another success: his ARCO. Ashley gave a superb lunchtime recital in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral last month. An equally prestigious venue is booked for another of our younger members, for Philip Shrimpton is at St Paul's Cathedral on Sunday 17th September at 4.45pm, with our best wishes.

Many organ students have reason to be grateful to Anne Marsden Thomas and Dr Frederick Stocken for assistance with their progress in keyboard and paperwork skills. Now they have produced *Graded Keyboard Musicianship, Books One and Two*, which offer training in the core skills of figured bass, score reading, transposition, harmonization and improvisation. They are published by OUP, but Allegro Music has a special offer over the next few weeks at www.allegro.co.uk.

Terence Atkins