

President's Message December 2021

The recent recital series celebrating the restoration of the organ of St Mary Magdalene, Enfield rightly featured some EDOA involvement, both as performers and as supportive audience. Jonathan Marten who planned everything gave the first and the last was by Pavlos Triantaris, with much appreciated singing by his wife, Marily Kritikou. A members' recital is in the offing, but before that the church is the intended venue for our AGM, on Saturday 5th February, to which you are all warmly invited. Do note the timings: tea 4:30, AGM 5:00, recital 6:00 and meal 7:00. I am pleased that the organ recital will be given by Damon Ying FRCO. Arrangements regarding the meal are still being planned, but in the meantime it would be very helpful if you could please register your interest with Michael Hennin.

Both of our excellent autumn events are reviewed in this newsletter, but I should like to add my personal thanks to Martin Penny for hosting us at All Saints', Hertford and to Ruth Lewis for welcoming us to her 'At Home'. Ruth's suggestion of fire and fireworks stimulated a variety of fascinating contributions; but a few days later Record Review on R3 (as if to order) played the Overture to Rameau's long-forgotten opera *Achante et Céphise* (1751), revealing a surprisingly graphic depiction of a firework display. It's easily accessible on the internet.

When you add 'EDOA AGM' to 5th February in your new 2022 diary, you might also wish to note that the previous Saturday, 29th January, marks the welcome return of the Bloomsbury Organ Day, (www.organistsonline.org/bloomsbury) 12:30 – 7:30 pm. Entitled 'Trocadero and Townhalls', it will feature theatre and symphonic organs and their music, with the usual mix of recitals, masterclass and presentations – and not forgetting the Bloomsbury buffet! One of the most enticing sales stands is sure to be David Patrick's Fitzjohn Publications. I for one will look out for the enthusiastically reviewed *A Hugh Blair Album* and *Four Organ Solos* by the unjustifiably forgotten Harry Farjeon.

I imagine almost all of us were brought up to enjoy *Danse Macabre*, soon followed by *Carnival of the Animals* - for my part I confess to a passable, if lumbering, performance of the *Elephant* - and the delights of the rollicking 2nd Piano Concerto (brilliant Malcolm Binns!). Of course, before long one was knocked sideways by the colossal Organ Symphony. That C major chord, surely as legendary as Bach's Barabbas moment or Willcocks's "Word..."! The commemoration (almost to the day as I write this) of the centenary of the death of Saint-Saëns is producing much of interest about his vast output and long life. His organ music alone spanned 62 years. The latest *Organists' Review* has four readable and revealing articles by Stephen Isserlis, Gerard Brooks, Nigel Simone and Andrew-John Smith, in themselves worth the whole year's subscription!

David Aprahamian Liddle has very kindly sent round details of his compositions and performances, including how to access them on YouTube, and I know I am not alone in being extremely grateful to him for making everything so readily available. David's website is www.davidliddle.org There are many wonderful things to explore: thank you, David!

With best wishes to you all as busy Advent and Christmas renew our hopes and expectations for the New Year.

Terence Atkins