

## IAO e-NewsSheet, no.14, July 2023

### IAO AGM – and prices held in spite of inflation

Our AGM took place last month in Blackburn Cathedral when it was confirmed that, in spite of continuing high inflation, there will be no change to the affiliation fee paid by local associations in 2024, which provides your continuing membership of the IAO. Our commitment to providing members with value-for-money was further emphasised at a later meeting when it was confirmed that subscription rates for the print edition of *Organists' Review* magazine will not be changed in 2024.

The AGM was followed by a recital given by IAO President for 2022-4, Robert Sharpe (see photo), which included works by Bach, Buxtehude, Pierre Cochereau, Francis Jackson and Jean Langlais. Admission was free, but the retiring collection will benefit our **Brereton Fund**, which awards annual grants to individuals and projects that support organ playing and choral singing (see also next page....).



### IAO Organ Festival: York 2024

As reported in the previous e-NewsSheet, this event is to take place next year over four days from **Thursday 25 July**, with an open-consoles session involving up to a dozen city centre organs on the Monday morning. Few city centres could match such an opportunity! The festival will include recitals on the newly-restored organ in York Minster and the final stages of the IAO/RCO 2024 organ competition for young organists will be another important feature.



More details will be available in the next *e-NewsSheet* and booking arrangements will appear in the December edition of *Organists' Review*.

Unfortunately our colleagues at BIOS, who were the lead organisers for *OrganFest* this year, have reported that plans have been abandoned due to difficulties with the proposed main venue.

## IAO support for a range of activities

With audience size for some 'live' events apparently being slow to recover after the pandemic, several local associations have recently benefited from IAO financial support through our Grant & Guarantee Scheme. This includes events at Banbury, Chelmsford Cathedral and Wimborne Minster.

This year's **Stanley Vann Scholarship** of £1,000 has been awarded to Tristan Weymes to support his postgraduate Choral Conducting course at the Royal Academy of Music. Our **Brereton Fund**, in addition to the usual annual grants for organ lessons, *etc*, has made grants of £2,000 each to Liverpool Cathedral (sponsorship of organ students) and the Swan Consort (choral workshops for state primary schools).

## Organ music discount scheme for IAO members at

<https://sheetorganmusic.co.uk/>

Our regular deal for IAO members with Church Organ World continues to offer a discount of 10% on any orders over £20 (excluding P & P). In order to qualify for this discount, you must be a paid-up member of an IAO affiliated association or society (including the Central Society of Organists) and use the current discount code, which is **4Q9M4K9X**.

Please do not abuse this benefit by passing the code on to friends who are not members of your association, as this may lead to future withdrawal of the offer. The code will be changed every quarter and notified to you via this e-NewsSheet.

**Exclusive Play Now Pay Later™ promotion  
from Aspire Classical Organs,  
plus 5% off all instruments for IAO members**  
<https://www.aspireorgans.co.uk>



We understand that investing in a musical instrument can be a significant expense. That's why we're excited to offer our customers an exclusive 4-year interest-free financing option on all of our instruments, supplied by people who love organs for people who love organs.

We now offer an affordable solution to purchase an instrument with minimal initial outlay and a **special concession for all IAO members**.

Play Now Pay Later™ provides a unique interest-free plan and avoids the full initial outlay for a new instrument. Our most popular instruments, the *Chorum 40S* and the *Envoy 35F*, are available from as little as £189.00 per month.

Details via the above weblink or phone 01792 721499.

## From local affiliated associations...

### Appeal on behalf of Bristol Beacon

Eric Tyson of the Bristol association is asking for us to support an £800,000 appeal for the restoration of the Harrison organ in the Bristol Beacon, formerly the Colston Hall. For more details, please visit <https://bristolbeacon.org/support-us/organ-appeal/> , where you will find an opportunity for online donation.



### 'The Organ' magazine: a collection

Mark Johnson of the Oldham association is in contact with a colleague who has a collection of 'The Organ' magazines/booklets from 1921 to 1993 (see photo). If you are interested in offering a new home for this collection, or know of anyone who might be, please contact Mark via [markjohnson1@ntlworld.com](mailto:markjohnson1@ntlworld.com). The collection is offered free to anyone who is prepared to collect it from the North Manchester area.

### Oxford online organ recital

Joanna Ashbourn has written from Oxford with details of an organ recital by **Thierry Escaich** given in Christ Church Cathedral on 22 June. It is now available via <https://tinyurl.com/oxfordconcert2023>, lasts just over an hour and includes music by Bach, Brahms, Franck, Vierne and Widor.

## Reminders

- New subscribers to the IAO's quarterly magazine **Organists' Review** are always welcome. You can find details at <https://organistsreview.com/subscribe-paper/> . For those, new or returning subscribers, who prefer to speak to someone rather than use the website, you can telephone 0330 088 2735. Please be aware that, like local associations, we do not have full-time staff, but someone will return your call.
- The **IAO Benevolent Fund** (a charity independent of the IAO, chaired by Peter Wright) exists to provide support for IAO members in financial hardship. New applications are always welcome – and are confidentially considered – as, of course, are new donors (individuals or associations) to the fund. Full details about either can be found via the IAObf's new website: <https://iaobf.org.uk> .



*The next IAO e-NewsSheet is planned for October 2023*