



George Herbert organ

Monday 11 July, 2022 - St Mary's Church, Titchmarsh

***Toccatà in F major* BuxWV 157 - Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)**

Dieterich Buxtehude was a Danish or German organist and composer of the Baroque period, whose works are typical of the North German organ school. As a composer who worked in various vocal and instrumental idioms, Buxtehude's style greatly influenced other composers, such as Johann Sebastian Bach. He is one of the most important composers of the mid-Baroque period in Germany. In the *Toccatà in F major*, Buxtehude comes close to the two-movement plan one associates with J S Bach.

***Prelude and Fugue in C minor* BWV 546 - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)**

The *Prelude and Fugue in C Minor* is actually a pairing of an earlier five-part fugue from Bach's Weimar period (1708-1717) and a prelude written around 1730. It displays the strong influence of vocal writing and a structure that features four ritornello sections and highly imitative episodes.

***Sweet Time Suite* - Kenny Wheeler (1930-2014)**

Opening

Kenny Wheeler was a Canadian composer, and trumpet and flugelhorn player, based in the UK from the 1950s. He did not like to, as he sometimes put it, 'pigeonhole' music. His music, and his playing, spanned many genres. He was undoubtedly rooted in jazz while also loving free improvisation. He occasionally contributed to rock music recordings and was influenced by the world of classical music. He composed prodigiously throughout his career and was a skilled arranger for small groups and large ensembles. His *Sweet Time Suite* is an ambitious, extended and captivating work, originally written for Big Band. The beautiful and arrestingly memorable opening chorale is played here in a transcription for organ.

***Trois Pièces* - Nadia Boulanger (1887-1979)**

Prélude; Petit Canon; Improvisation

Nadia Boulanger was a French music teacher, conductor and composer. She taught many of the leading composers and musicians of the 20th century, and also performed occasionally as a pianist and organist. From a musical family, she achieved early honours as a student at the Conservatoire de Paris but, believing that she had no particular talent as a composer, she gave up writing music and became a teacher. In that capacity, she influenced generations of young composers, especially those from the United States and other English-speaking countries. Among her students were many important composers, soloists, arrangers, and conductors, including Burt Bacharach, Daniel Barenboim, Lennox Berkeley, İdil Biret, Elliott Carter, Aaron Copland, John Eliot Gardiner, Philip Glass, Roy Harris, Quincy Jones, Dinu Lipatti, Igor Markevitch, Astor Piazzolla, Virgil Thomson, and George Walker. Her 1911 composition *Trois Pièces* for organ was written to be included in an anthology of organ music by various composers published the following year.

***Laudes* - Frances Pott (b. 1957)**

Laudes was commissioned by the Master and Fellows of St John's College, Cambridge, with support from the Herbert Howells Organ Music Fund. It was first performed by Edward Picton-Turbervill, Herbert Howells Organ Scholar, on 30th April 2014, at the end of a live broadcast of Choral Evensong on BBC Radio Three. The brief for *Laudes* was that it should occupy the very limited space between the conclusion of worship and the end of the complete radio transmission. Although fleeting elements of recapitulation nod towards a fairly conventional sonata structure, the piece aims to communicate as an improvisation, unfolding more or less organically in what should (apart from the slightly broader introduction) feel like a single sustained exhalation. To that end, the music was actually written at a single sitting and within a single day. This was accomplished away from any keyboard, with marginal amendments made only after the score was complete in all essentials. The abstract Latin title hints at the optimistic mood of the music while leaving it applicable to a variety of contexts within the Church year or, indeed, to recital use.

Frances Pott

George Herbert has just graduated from the University of Cambridge, where he studied German and Music. Whilst at university, he was the organ scholar at St John's College. In this role, he regularly accompanied the college's choir in its routine of daily services, recordings and tours, helped to teach the 8-13 year old choristers, and occasionally conducted the choir - including in its 2021 Advent Carol Service on BBC Radio 3. His final year was particularly exciting, as it saw the long-overdue introduction of girls and women into the choir for the first time in its history. He is a keen pianist and trumpeter, and played in the St John's College Big Band and funk group Lepage-Dean. He is a passionate environmentalist, and researched communist East German environmental policy and international relations for a dissertation in his final year at university. Born in Manchester in 2001, his passion for music was kindled in earnest when he started singing in Manchester Cathedral Choir aged nine. George is an alumnus of the Creative Oundle for Organists Summer School programme.