

SEPTEMBER 2016

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



The NZOA Congress in Christchurch at Queen's Birthday weekend was a great success. It was a momentous occasion for our Christchurch colleagues, given everything they have experienced in recent years. And the weather was kind to us!

AOA was well represented among the attendees, supporters, and in the Organ Performance competition. Congratulations to AOA member Paul Chan who won first-equal prize in the competition. Jonathan Mayer, a new AOA student member from Hamilton, and a student of former AOA member Rachael Griffiths-Hughes, received a special commendation from the judges.

Subscription notices / Statements are enclosed with this Newsletter. If there is an overdue balance showing on your Statement, please prioritise making your payment, or contact us if you are not sure whether this is correct. (We believe it is correct, having checked our records several times). The Subscription Notice last year was enclosed with a copy of NZ Organ News, and some members apparently did not realise this. It pays to look at the enclosures with NZ Organ News!

Please take advantage of the \$10 prompt payment discount, by ensuring we receive your payment by 20 October. We appreciate your ongoing AOA membership (and therefore also of NZOA) and your financial support.

The next AOA event is the trip to Waiheke on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November. This should be a great experience, even for those who have visited the Whittaker's Musical Museum previously. We will pay the entry fee on behalf of AOA members!

## MICHAEL STODDART

We welcome Michael Stoddart, FRCO, Director of Music at Holy Trinity Cathedral, who is a fine organist, as a new member of AOA, and as a colleague to AOA VP Philip Smith, Cathedral Organist.

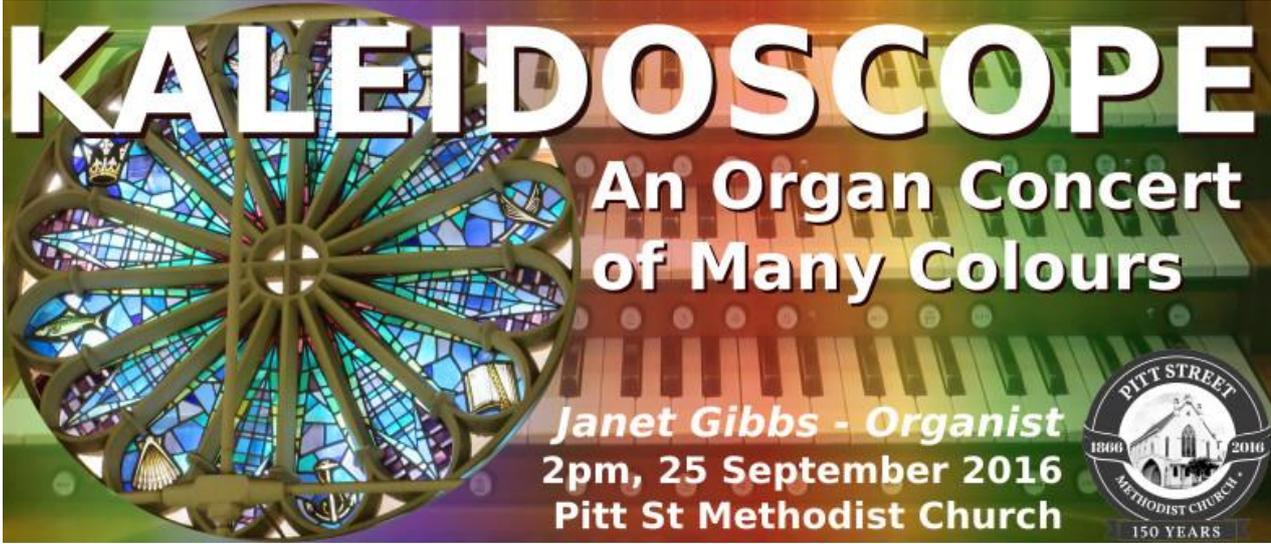


In 2004, Michael was appointed Organist and Director of Music at St Mary's, Portsea. He was also Assistant Sub-Organist at Portsmouth Cathedral.

In 2009 Michael was appointed Director of Music at St Nicholas' Cathedral, Newcastle. There he trained the Cathedral choirs of boys, girls and adults which sang for six regular weekly services, and had overall responsibility for all aspects of music-making in the cathedral.

Michael is married to Elisabeth, who is a language teacher and a musician. They have four daughters.

## COMING EVENTS

A promotional poster for an organ concert. The background features a colorful, multi-colored keyboard of an organ. On the left, there is a circular kaleidoscope-like pattern with intricate, colorful designs. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# KALEIDOSCOPE

## An Organ Concert of Many Colours

*Janet Gibbs - Organist*  
2pm, 25 September 2016  
Pitt St Methodist Church

A circular logo for Pitt Street Methodist Church. It features a central illustration of the church building. The text around the border reads "PITT STREET METHODIST CHURCH" and "150 YEARS". The years "1866" and "2016" are also present on either side of the building illustration.

This concert is part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations at Pitt St Methodist Church, which was dedicated on 14th October 1866. The current pipe organ was built in 1911.

Programme: J.S.Bach - Concerto in A min BWV 593 (1st movt.)

Jacob Kirkman - Voluntary VI (Op.9)

William Walond - Voluntary V (Op.1 No.5)

G.Tartini - Air in G

J.S.Bach - Toccata & Fugue in Dmin BWV 565

Interval including a "blow and tell" about the organ -

Alexandre Guilmant - Marche Funebre et Chant Seraphique

Josef Rheinberger - Cantilene

W.A. Mozart - Ave Verum Corpus (arr. for organ)

Pietro Yon - Humoresque (Toccatina for Flute)

Gordon Young - Chant Heroique

S.S.Wesley - Choral Song

Alphonse Maily - Toccata D min/D ma

Theodor Dubois - Fiat Lux

### **AOA visit to Whittaker's Musical Museum, Waiheke Island Saturday, 19 November 2016, Oneroa, Waiheke Island**

The Whittaker Musical Museum has an extraordinary range of 73 historic instruments including several organs. The organ (right) is a concerto organ built by Waters and Son New York 1877. It is in excellent condition, has brass reeds from 16ft bass to piccolo treble and a haunting theatre sound, a gold clock and angelic paintings.

AOA members should find their own way by ferry to Waiheke. Museum entry and demonstration of instruments is free for AOA members (cost for non-members \$10). Members will be able to play some of the instruments. Seats have been booked for AOA members. Catch the 11am ferry from downtown, take the bus to Oneroa (meets ferry), have lunch at a café of choice, attend the museum and demonstration 1.30-3pm, then return to Auckland on the 4pm ferry.



## Auckland Town Hall Organ Recital – Kevin Bowyer

Sunday, 13 November 2016, 2:00pm, Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall

Kevin Bowyer was born in Southend-on-Sea, UK, in January 1961 and studied with Christopher Bowers-Broadbent, David Sanger, Virginia Black and Paul Steinitz.

In his early career he won first prizes in five international organ competitions and his 1987 world première of Kaikhosru Sorabji's two hour solo Symphony for Organ, considered "impossible" ever since its publication in 1925, helped to cement his reputation as a player of contemporary music and music of extreme technical complexity. In June 2010 he performed the première of Sorabji's Second Symphony for Organ (1929-32) in Glasgow and Amsterdam – at nearly 8 hours duration, the longest notated organ work of all.

Tours abroad have taken him throughout Europe, North America, Australia and Japan. He has released a great number of solo CDs, many of which have won awards. These include many landmark recordings of contemporary music as well as the complete organ music of J S Bach (on 29 CDs) and music by Alkan, Brahms, Schumann, Reubke, Hindemith, Schoenberg, Messiaen, Alain and many others.

Jonathan Wearn, writing in MusicWeb International, described him as "one of the world's hardest and most formidable virtuosos..." .

"...amazing intensity of interpretative vision and wonderful use of organ colour..."

*Gramophone*



**By the 1990s it became clear the 1970 Auckland Town Hall organ could not adequately fulfil its role. It was under-powered and lacked versatility. The hall had been restored to its Edwardian grandeur in 1997, but not the organ.**

The growing dissatisfaction of musicians prompted City Organist Dr John Wells to promote complete restoration. 'Restore the Splendour' was the catch cry. With the formation of the Auckland Town Hall Organ Trust in 2004 and the appointment of international consultant Ian Bell of London the goal was in sight.

An international tendering process led to a contract being signed between Auckland City Council and one of Germany's largest organ-building companies, Orgelbau Klais of Bonn. The city would provide \$3 million of the \$3.5 million required and the balance would come from public donations including through the Trust's 'adopt-a-pipe' scheme.



With so little of the original to work with, Klais opted to build a new organ incorporating what was salvageable from the 1911 instrument. It would be a third larger than the original and in every way designed as an international instrument of the twenty first century. Uniquely it would have two stops based on Māori instruments – the kōauau (flute) and pūkāea (horn). All through, the spirit of the 1911 instrument would be captured using similar pipe scales and wind pressures to ensure the Town Hall was filled with sound.

The new organ was inaugurated on 21 March 2010. Birmingham City Organist, Thomas Trotter, who performed during the opening celebrations declared, "This organ ranks with the finest town hall organs anywhere in the world".

## **FROM THE ARCHIVES**

### **AOA in 1953-5 – the events and the people**

At the end of the first year of the Auckland Organists' Association, the first President, Dr Stephenson, reported that there were 83 financial members, and more new members were expected to join.

He reported that, in its first year, AOA had formed a strong relationship with the Auckland Music Council, including taking a place on the latter organisation's Board, and this had assisted AOA to take a responsible place alongside other musical organisations in Auckland.

Dr Stephenson was farewelled in August, to take up a position in Australia. He was succeeded as President by Arthur Reid.

Betty Stewart (winner of the Organ Section of the Competitions Festival) gave a recital on the Auckland Town Hall organ on 8 November 1953, along with Mervyn Rosser and Ron Powell.

At the AGM held in 1954, Trevor Sparling was elected as President of AOA, with Ron Dellow as his Vice President. Ron Dellow introduced a proposal for a School for Organists and Choirmasters. The AGM decided to leave the Committee to investigate the matter further.

At the AGM, Mr Sparling reported that discussions had been held with regard to the matter with the Director of the Centre for Adult Education. It was decided to defer further action and to arrange functions along the lines of subjects which might form the basis of a School in future years.

Mr Sparling also reported at the AGM held in 1955 that "members will be pleased to learn of the completion of the work on the Town Hall organ. This should greatly increase the usefulness of the instrument, and it is understood that plans are already in train for its use in concerto works with orchestra."

It was moved (and seconded by Mr Thompson) at the same AGM that "the Committee should arrange for a minimum of six recitals at the Town Hall".

At the AGM held in 1956, 60 years ago this year, the President reported that "in response to the request from the last Annual Meeting, arrangements were made with the Town Hall authorities for a series of four free organ recitals. We are most grateful to the City Council and its officers for allowing us the use of the Town Hall and practice facilities for the various recitals free of charge. His Worship the Mayor accorded the President and Secretary a very sympathetic hearing when we met him to discuss the proposal."