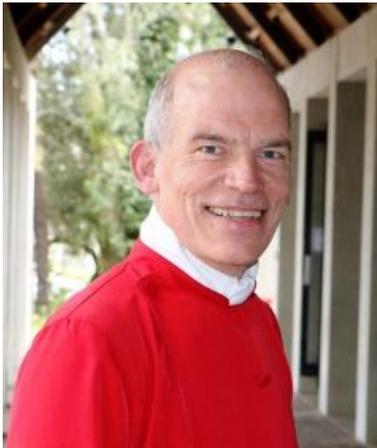


**FROM THE PRESIDENT**



It is with great pleasure and excitement that I write these first words as President of the Auckland Organ Association. These are certainly very exciting times for the organ in New Zealand, not least because as the two major organ projects at Holy Trinity Cathedral reach, or near, completion.

But first, of course, a huge debt of gratitude to Stephen Hamilton for his unstinting hard work over the past three years as AOA President; the current health of the organisation is a tribute to his commitment and enthusiasm for the AOA and its members. I have been involved in many Organists' Associations in the UK over the years, and I have to say that, both from the programme of events, and from the involvement of members from a wide range of backgrounds, this is one of the healthiest I have known! Thank you, Stephen, for that, and for carrying on as Treasurer. You aren't out of the woods yet!

There have been some excellent events recently, including a couple at HTC for which huge thanks go to Philip Smith for organising them. I was sorry to miss Indra Hughes' demonstration of the Town Hall organ but I have heard excellent reports of the evening. The programme for the forthcoming year is looking excellent, with a variety of educational, informational and social events to look forward to.

I look forward to meeting you all over the next months at one event or another, and wish you all well in your own pursuits of the King of Instruments.

*Michael Stoddart*

**JOHN WILLMOTT**

John Willmott, a long-term member of AOA, died on 29 April 2017 at the age of 80. Several AOA members attended his funeral at St Andrew's First Presbyterian Church on 6 May, where he had been the organist for many years. The church was full to overflowing. Two choirs led the music, with the excellent pipe organ played by Dr John Wells, including the Widor Toccata at the end of the service before John's casket was carried from the church to the sound of bagpipes.

John was a respected school teacher and Principal. He was heavily involved in the Auckland Primary Principals Association Schools' Music Festival for over 30 years, including conducting the massed choirs and playing the Auckland Town Hall organ. He was an early recipient of a fellowship of the Association in 1998.

John was awarded the NZ Choral Federation's first Distinguished Service Award just before he died, in recognition of his outstanding service to the NZCF Auckland Region over many years. He had joined the committee of the Auckland Choral Association (the forerunner to NZCF Auckland) in 1987 and chaired the Association from 1989 to 1991. John then became Chairman of the Auckland Secondary Schools' Choral Festival committee (later renamed 'The Big Sing') and was coordinator of the event for 9 years (1993-2001).

John conducted the North Shore Male Voice Choir for 26 years from 1998.

He was also the President, Secretary or Treasurer of several other organisations in which he was involved, including the North Shore Vintage Car Club and U3A Takapuna.

## COMING EVENTS IN AUCKLAND

### St Mary's Organ Recital Series

**Sunday 11 June, 3.00pm** (Zosia Herlihy-O'Brien, Organ Scholar, Holy Trinity Cathedral) and Paul Chan (Organist, St Matthew-in-the-City).

**Sunday 16 July, 3.00pm** (Stephen Vincent, Organist, St Luke's, Remuera).

Tickets (\$15 per recital) are on sale through iTICKET ([www.iticket.co.nz](http://www.iticket.co.nz) or phone 361 1000; booking fees apply).



### Auckland Town Hall Organ Events

**Thursday, 18 May, 6.00pm, Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall**  
(presented in association with APO)



**Nicholas Forbes**, AOA member, will perform for 35 minutes prior to the 7.30pm APO concert. The event in free to APO ticket holders.

Nick is Assistant Director of Music at St Patrick's Cathedral in Auckland and Musical Director of the North Shore Chorale. He began organ lessons as a chorister at Christchurch Cathedral and was organ scholar at Christ's College.

He completed a music degree at Auckland University, specialising in organ and historic keyboard with Dr John Wells and James Tibbles and conducting with Dr Karen Grylls. Nick has been a music teacher and organist at King's College, where he conducted the school's multi award-winning choir 'All the King's Men'.



**Sunday 28 May, 2.00pm, Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall**

**Jeremy Filsell**, NZOA Brisbane Congress recitalist, has established a concert career as one of only a few virtuoso performers on both the Piano and the Organ. Jeremy has held posts in the UK at Cranleigh School, Ely Cathedral, St Luke's Chelsea, St Peter's Eaton Square, the London Oratory School, Royal Holloway College University of London and Eton College. In the USA he combines international performing and teaching activities with being Artist-in-Residence at Washington National Cathedral, Director of Music at the Church of the Epiphany in downtown Washington DC and Professor of Organ at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore MD.

Jeremy will be accompanied by **Eric Suter**, formerly Organist at Washington National Cathedral, USA. Previously, Eric held positions at Trinity Church, Copley Square, and at the Parish of All Saints, both in Boston; and at Trinity Church-on-the-Green in New Haven, Connecticut.



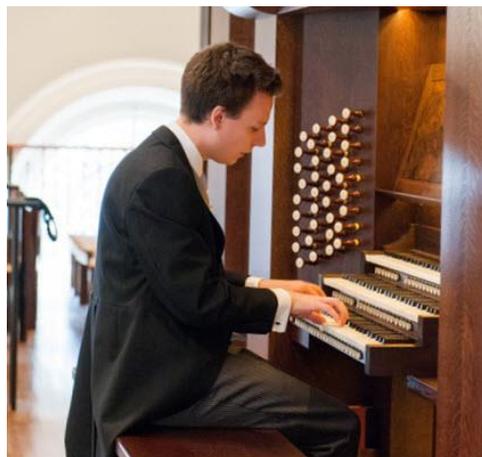
They will perform works for organ & piano by Rachmaninov and Dupré. Free admission, koha donation.

**Sunday 30 July, 2.00pm, Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall**

**Benjamin Sheen** is one of the UK's brightest young organists, having won the inaugural Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition in 2013. In the same year, he was awarded Second Place and the Jon Laukvik Prize at the 2013 St. Alban's International Organ Competition in its 50th year. In addition to his competition successes, he has also completed his Master of Music degree at the Juilliard School in New York, having studied

with Grammy award winning organist Paul Jacobs. He currently resides in New York City, and combines a busy concert career with the position of Acting Organist at St. Thomas Church on Fifth Avenue.

Ben began his musical education as a chorister at St. Paul's Cathedral, where he took up the organ aged 10. In 2003, Ben became the youngest person ever to give a recital in the cathedral's Sunday evening series at the age of just 13. Ben was awarded a music scholarship to Eton College where he studied organ with Alastair Sampson and David Goode. While at Eton, Ben gave several recitals across the UK, including Liverpool Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and York Minster as well as appearing a number of times in the Windsor Festival as a soloist. He also toured the USA with the Eton College Choir, giving a number of solo concerts in New York, Denver, Washington and Princeton University.



For three years, Ben held the position of organ scholar at Christ Church Cathedral where he was responsible for daily service playing as well as occasionally conducting the renowned cathedral choir. While studying at Oxford, Ben combined his position as organ scholar in the cathedral with a busy solo career, which led him to numerous performances in cathedrals and concert halls across the UK, as well as further afield in Australia and Germany. Recently, Ben has given several performances of his own transcription of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, as well as several concerto performances of Guilman and Poulenc. Ben has made appearances on BBC Radio Oxford and BBC Radio 3 with Christ Church Cathedral Choir.

Ben is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, winning the Limpus, Durrant and Frederick Shinn prizes and was awarded the Worshipful Company of Musicians Silver Medal for 2011.

**Thursday, 3 August, 6.00pm, Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall (presented in association with APO)**

**Dr Indra Hughes** is widely recognized as one of the most distinguished musicians working in New Zealand today. He received his early training at the cathedral in Blackburn, Lancashire, and at Oriel College, Oxford, where he was Organ Scholar and also took a degree in Law. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.

In March 2007 he became the first person in New Zealand to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts (University of Auckland), with a thesis presenting new theories about the unfinished ending of Contrapunctus 14 from J S Bach's The Art of Fugue. In September 2007 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Indra Hughes is also a much admired writer, broadcaster, speaker, adjudicator and examiner. He has written and presented many radio programmes for Radio New Zealand Concert. These have included a number of Composer of the Week talks, as well as his own 10-part series, Music Matters. Several of these programmes have concentrated on the music of J S Bach and his family.

In June 2010 Indra was elected Vice-President of the New Zealand Organ Association, and has been President 2011-2017.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### AOA in 1958-61 – the events and the people almost 60 years ago

At the AGM held at Pitt Street Methodist in March 1958, George Wilson was elected President of AOA, with Roger Hollinrake as Vice President. No-one was prepared to be elected as Secretary at the meeting to replace Mrs Enid Anderson; Burt Flynn subsequently took on the role, in addition to that of Treasurer, replacing Mr Jeffery who had been the first Secretary-Treasurer.

The 1959 AGM was held at St Mary's Cathedral, Parnell. After a welcome from Dean Monteith, a short recital was given by Mr Godfrey, the recently appointed Director of Music. It was noted that 28 of the 80 members had not paid their subscriptions for the previous year, and those members who had paid were subsidising those members who had not. Roger Hollinrake (son of Professor



Horace Hollinrake, Dean of the School of Music at Auckland University, who had been involved in the formation of the Association in 1952) was elected as the new President, with Ron Dellow as Vice President. Mr Flynn was elected as Secretary-Treasurer, although he had stated that he would be pleased if someone else could be found for either or both positions. It was resolved that all members under the age of 25 should pay a lower subscription. Mr A Marsden Woods was nominated as auditor. He advised that he could assist the Association in its difficulties with regard to payment of the IAO (UK) Quarterly Records and Capitation Fees. He was elected and thanked for his offer.

Ron Dellow was elected as President in 1960. AOA provided financial assistance to the newly formed Wellington Association and responded positively regarding a proposal from the new Association for a national Convention / Conference; however no response was received from other parties contacted about the matter.

In March 1961, Geoffrey Skerrett was elected President, with Peter Godfrey as Vice President. Ron Dellow continued as a member of the Committee. The incoming Committee was provided with some directives as follows:

- monthly meetings of a social nature, combining either a recital or recorded items with supper and general conversation
- two delegates to be sent to the Music Council of Auckland
- an Organists' Class be included in the 1961 brochure of the Auckland Competitions Society Festival
- the Articles of Association should be revised and reprinted.

It was proposed that an annual Conference of Organists, proposed by the newly formed Wellington Association, should be held at Queen's Birthday weekend, or a similar holiday period, and that the conference should take the form of recitals, lectures, discussions and open forums so that a dissemination of ideas from all over the Dominion may take place.