

## FROM THE AOA VICE-PRESIDENT



It is a little over two weeks since the very memorable and impressive service to consecrate Holy Trinity Cathedral, a vision and project that has occupied us since

Bishop Selwyn purchased the land 174 years ago – not long in the history of building of some cathedrals but, as the first piece of land acquired for that purpose in New Zealand, the last to be finished and consecrated.

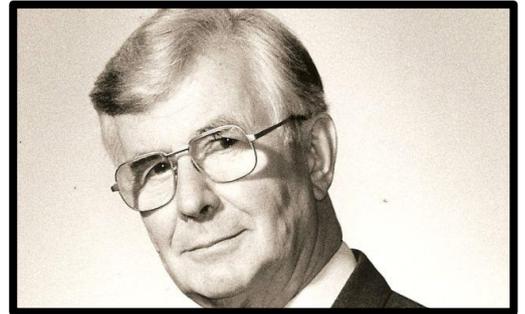
My association with the place goes back now ten years and three months since I was appointed and told “you need to get something done with the organs”. It has been a very interesting time, starting with looking at knee-jerk panic reports saying work should be carried out immediately at a price that would go up in three months. I encouraged a period of reflection and setting our sights on finding the best organ builders for the job.

This proved to be a very useful time. Plans developed along with the building project. The result we now have is a stunning new 4 manual 122 stop Nicholson organ in the Cathedral – an instrument of outstanding colour and versatility that looks as good as it sounds. In St Mary’s, Pierce Pipe Organs have restored and enhanced a much loved organ which now speaks with an authoritative Edwardian voice.

Auckland is very fortunate to have had four magnificent and contrasting instruments installed over the last few years, firstly at the Town Hall, than at St Matthew-in-the-City and now at Holy Trinity Cathedral and St Mary’s. I hope this will be an inspiration to other cities in NZ who should not be afraid to look outside the box.

*Philip Smith*

## PROF. PETER GODFREY (1922–2017)



The September 2017 AOA Newsletter noted that Peter Godfrey was President of AOA 50 years ago, in 1967/8, and that he chaired AOA’s 1968 AGM at St Mary’s Cathedral, Parnell.

It was with sadness that we learned of his death on 28 September 2017.

Peter was again back in Auckland in January, attending services at Holy Trinity Cathedral sung by the St Mary’s Singers, and he attended the dinner after Evensong where, according to the established tradition, he conducted the singing of several anthems / madrigals.

Many in attendance sensed that this was, even more than on previous occasions, a poignant moment of appreciation for Peter, including his particular sense of humour, and of the extraordinary impact that he has had on choral music in New Zealand, but particularly in Auckland.

Yet it was more personal than that for most. Their continued love of and involvement in music, including in continuing to strive for the highest standards of church music, is a testament to the enormous impact of this man, for whom deep affection was, and will continue to be, held.

*Stephen Hamilton*

## COMING EVENTS

**AOA Student Organ and End-of-Year Event**  
**This coming Saturday, 25 November**  
**St Matthew-in-the-City, 10.00am \***

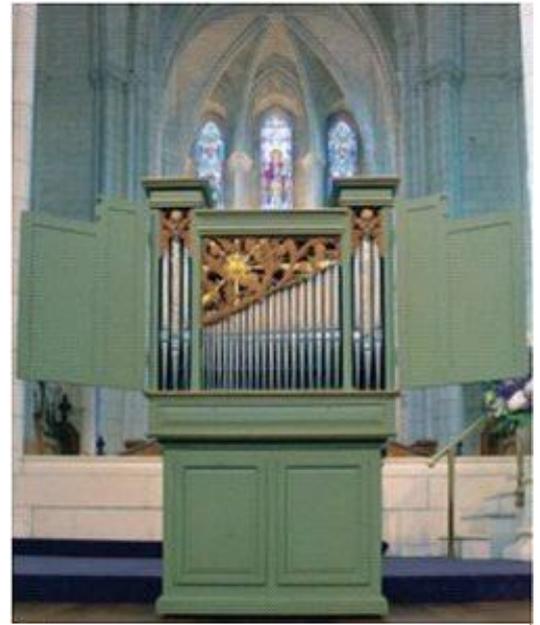
Please support our end-of-year event focussed on young organ and music students at St Matthew-in-the-City, playing and accompanied on the Willis and Mander Organs.

The Mander chamber organ was played by John Scott at the 1981 Royal Wedding in St Paul's Cathedral, London, as part of the orchestra accompanying Kiri Te Kanawa singing Handel's 'Let the Bright Seraphim'. This event will be followed by an AOA lunch at the Elliott Stables, a 2 minute walk from St Matthew's, with our students hosted by AOA.

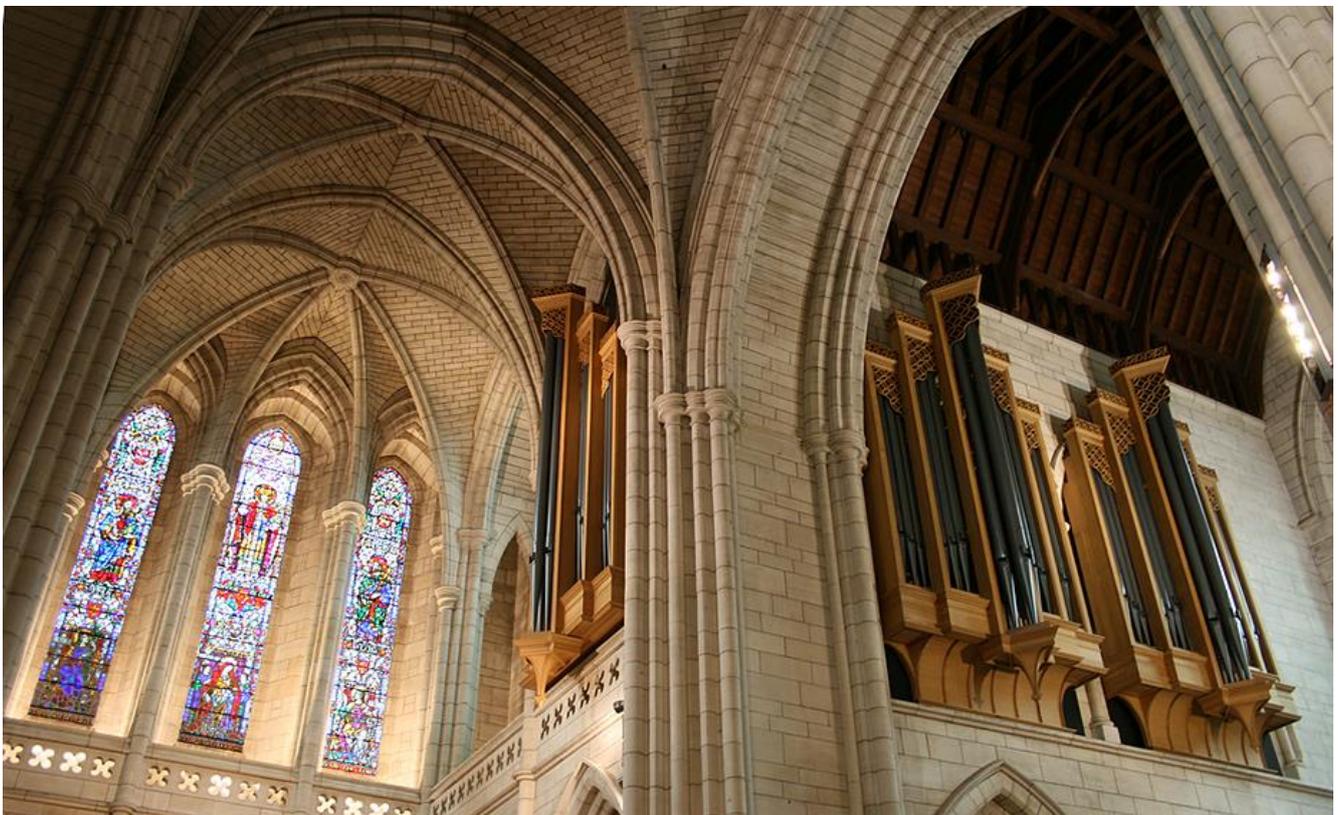
Please join us, support our younger AOA members, and enjoy the end-of-year event!

For further details contact: Paul Chan (021) 399 938 or Stephen Hamilton (09) 216 5422.

*\* Please note the new start time for this event, which was previously advertised as 10.30am.*



The Donald Barriball Memorial Chamber Organ (Mander Organs, 1981), owned by the Musica Sacra Trust



The organ of St Matthew-in-the-City (Henry Willis and Sons, 1862, rebuilt 2012)

## **Holy Trinity Cathedral Organ Events in 2018**

**Saturday 12 January 2018, 7.30pm**  
**Andrew Lumsden, UK**

Andrew Lumsden has been Organist and Director of Music at Winchester Cathedral since 2002. Prior to this, Andrew was Assistant Organist at Southwark Cathedral (1985–1988), Sub-Organist at Westminster Abbey (1988–1992), and Organist and Master of the Choristers at Lichfield Cathedral (1992–2002).



**Saturday 17 February 2018, 7.30pm**  
**Paul Tarling, Germany**

Paul is a former Organ Scholar at Holy Trinity Cathedral. In 2010 he played at the inaugural concert on the Auckland Town Hall organ; William Dart commented: “The rest of the afternoon consisted of unmitigated, guilty pleasure. It is not often that we hear a rip-roaring Organ Symphony by Guilmant, and 20-year-old soloist Paul Tarling, accompanied by the energetic Auckland Youth Symphony Orchestra under Anton Poljanich, held nothing back.”

**Saturday 17 March 2018, 7.30pm**  
**John Linker, NZ**

John Linker (from Princeton, Illinois, US) is Organist and Director of Music at Christchurch Transitional Cathedral. He is also Music Director of the Christchurch City Choir. John is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music.



**Saturday 21 April 2018, 7.30pm**  
**Olivier Latry, France**

Olivier Latry has been Titular Organist of Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris, since he was appointed to the position at the age of 23. He is an accomplished, thoughtful and adventurous musician exploring all fields of organ music, and has an exceptional talent as an improviser. Olivier was the NZOA Congress recitalist in Wellington in 2012 (organ of St Paul’s Cathedral), and he returned to New Zealand to perform on the organs of the Auckland Town Hall and Waiapu Cathedral, Napier in 2013.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES – 1970-71

### The events and the people 45 years ago

On 26 July 1970 members were given a tour of the Auckland Town Hall organ, shortly before the completion of the Croft re-build.

The President, Roger Harris (then organist of St Matthew-in-the-City), reported that AOA would present fewer organ recitals as more churches were presenting their own recitals, and it made little sense to compete with these churches, when AOA often used the same organs.

AOA ran an Organ Playing Competition which was won by Ruth Nobes. The adjudicator was Lin Saunders. Ruth continued as a member of AOA until her death in 2010, and her sister Jeannie Hamilton continues as a member in memory of her sister.

At the 1971 AGM it was reported that AOA had written to the NZBC regarding an organ television programme. They had replied simply thanking AOA for the suggestion, and would note it for future use.

Auckland hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> Dominion Congress at Queen's Birthday weekend in 1971. The recitalist was Dr George Thalben-Ball from The Emple Church, London. He gave an opening address at the Town Hall regarding modern organ design and demonstrated the re-built Croft organ to a packed Town Hall audience, in the presence of the Mayor, Sir Dove-Myer Robinson. This was advertised as the 'official opening and demonstration of the new Town Hall organ'. Thalben-Ball also gave the Congress recital at Holy Trinity Cathedral – arranged in conjunction with the NZBC. He had earlier given a recital at the Town Hall on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May, and again with the NZBC Orchestra on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

AOA made an arrangement with Council to organise monthly concerts on the newly rebuilt Town Hall organ, with free use of the Hall, the first of which was given by Anthony Jennings (of Wellington, and without payment of a fee) on 1 August. AOA advised the Council that presenting the monthly recitals 'by outstanding players' could amount to as much as \$500 per year. The Council agreed to provide a grant of \$500 for a minimum of 12 recitals. (This is equivalent to \$560 per recital in current dollars.)

## 2017 AOA SUBSCRIPTIONS – FINAL CALL!

**Thank you** to the many members who have now paid the 2017 subscription (and any overdue balance payable)!

The subscription notices (and copies of any overdue subscription notices if applicable) were sent to members in a special mailing with the last AOA Newsletter in September.

I have acknowledged receipt of all members who have advised me of payment by internet banking. I have not acknowledged those who have paid by internet banking but who have not advised me of the payment.

Thank you also to those who have made payment by cheque. All cheques received have been banked.

If you are one of the few members who has not yet paid, please make payment as soon as possible. If you have mislaid your Subscription Notice / Statement, please let me know and I will send you a replacement. Or in the unlikely event that you are not sure whether or not you have paid, please also check with me and I will advise you!

If you are one of the few members who had an overdue balance at the start of 2017 and you do not make payment by the end of 2017, I will be recommending to the Committee at our first meeting in the New Year that you should be crossed off the membership list of AOA / NZOA. It is not fair for other AOA members to carry the costs of a few members who choose not to pay their subscriptions or respond to requests for payment of overdue subscriptions.

Thank you.

*Stephen Hamilton*

Details about AOA are available at:  
[//auckorgan.nz](http://auckorgan.nz)