



ULSTER SOCIETY OF ORGANISTS AND CHOIRMASTERS

President: Philip Stopford

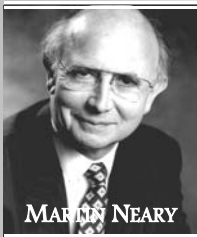
NEWSLETTER - October 2009

OCTOBER EVENT ~ CHORAL WORKSHOP

Saturday 3rd October

11:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

Come & Sing



MARTIN NEARY

Carrickfergus Grammar School

120 North Road, Carrickfergus, County Antrim BT38 7RA



Take the main A2 coast road to Carrickfergus. 200 yards on the Belfast side of the castle there is the only roundabout in Carrickfergus. Turn away from the sea and continue in a Northerly direction. Just over a mile from the roundabout you see Carrick College on your left. About 100 yards on up the road, the entrance to the Grammar School is also on the left. Sat Nav N 54° 43' 43" W 5° 48' 41"

OCTOBER **Saturday 3rd** **11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.**



COME & SING DAY with MARTIN NEARY

Carrickfergus Grammar School

This choral workshop and masterclass will be given by Martin Neary, former Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey.

The event will be divided into three sections:

- ♪ Dr. Neary will direct all participants in performing some music by former Abbey organists Purcell and Guest; in the singing of psalms; the music of Samuel Sebastian Wesley; and John Tavener's famous "Song for Athene" which was directed by Dr. Neary at the funeral of Princess Diana.
- ♪ All will be invited to watch while Dr. Neary works with Carrickfergus Grammar School Choir, and gives his thoughts and ideas on their current repertoire.
- ♪ Thirdly, there will be a question and answer session, when there will be an opportunity to discover more about Dr. Neary's illustrious career.

The group repertoire is as follows, some of which you will be able to keep as part of your membership or attendance fee.*

Henry Purcell	Thou knowest Lord the secrets of our hearts* Remember not Lord our offences*
Douglas Guest	They shall grow not old
S. S. Wesley	Lead me Lord,* The Lord hath been mindful of us* Blessed be the God and Father*
Tavener	Song for Athene
Neary	Christmas; Psalms

This is a free event to members of the society. Non-members are also encouraged to attend and there will be a nominal charge of £3 per head to cover expenses.

It is quite likely, but not guaranteed, that there will still be places available on the day.

! ***Please note that there are no catering facilities at this venue so participants should bring their own food and drinks for the day.*** !

NOVEMBER **Saturday 7th** **3:00 p.m.**



MEMBERS' RECITAL

Saint Anne's Cathedral, Donegall Street, Belfast

This year the members' recital will take a slightly different format and will be a "recital of short pieces" by several members.

DECEMBER **Saturday 5th**



PRESIDENT'S SOCIAL EVENING & QUIZ

Further details in the November Newsletter

JANUARY **Saturday 9th** **3:00 p.m.**



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Venue to be arranged.

MAY 2010 Saturday 1st to Monday 3rd

Next year we are planning to visit the 'Three Choirs Festival' area round the Severn Valley and nearby south Wales. Our itinerary will include choral services at some or all of the Cathedrals at Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester where the choirs are all in top form at present. Among other places, we are also investigating the possibility of visiting Tewkesbury Abbey, Ludlow PC, Great Malvern Priory, St Woolos' Cathedral, Newport and Llandaff Cathedral (Cardiff).



HOLYWOOD MUSIC FESTIVAL

~ SATURDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2009 ~

Please note this date as the September Newsletter is incorrect.

Organ Classes - in association with USOC

Class A39 Age 16 and under Entry Fee £5.00

VENUE: Hollywood Methodist Church

PIECES: 1. Prelude in F BWV 556 (J.S. Bach)
from Eight Short Preludes and Fugues

2. Another contrasting piece

PRIZE: 1st Prize - £30 - donated by USOC

Class A40 Open Entry Fee £5.00

VENUE: Hollywood Methodist Church

PIECES: Two contrasting pieces
(4 minute time limit for each piece)

PRIZE: 1st Prize - Barber Cup plus £50 donated by USOC

Class A41 Hymn Accompaniment Entry Fee £5.00

VENUE: Hollywood Methodist Church

This class is confined to competitors who have never won a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize in organ at any festival at date of application.

This class aims to promote good hymn accompaniment skills.

PIECE: The hymn 'Jesu, stand among us' (Tune: St. Barnabas).
Each candidate will play a suitable introduction, followed by two verse (with pedals). There should be a change of registration in the second verse. The initial registration will be set by the Secretary.

PRIZE: 1st Prize - £30 - donated by USOC

If you have any queries or for further information, please contact:

Stephen Timpany, 11 Erindee Park, Donaghadee, BT21 OLG
Tel. 07980 117 397

Entry forms may be downloaded from www.hollywoodmusicfestival.com

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRY: **Thursday 1st October 2009**

SATURDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2009

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Come & Sing

**ALL DAY CHORAL
WORKSHOP**

conducted by **Martin Neary**
see previous pages for more details

in the Assembly Hall of **Carrickfergus Grammar School**
120 North Road, Carrickfergus, BT38 7RA



British organist and conductor **MARTIN NEARY**, who was Organist and Master of the Choristers at Winchester Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, is especially noted for championing contemporary church music, and for his groundbreaking performances of music by Bach and Purcell. In 1978 he directed the first complete performance in England of the Saint Matthew Passion with period instruments, and in 1995, apart from conducting two televised programmes to mark the tercentenary of the death of Purcell, his CD with the Westminster Abbey Choir and the New London Consort, *Music for Queen Mary*, was nominated for a Grammy. He is particularly associated with contemporary British composers Jonathan Harvey and John Tavener, with many commissions and premières. He has performed several times at the BBC Proms, including directing the Bach Magnificat, a Britten program, and he was soloist on the first night of the 2004 season, playing Bach's Toccata & Fugue in D minor.

Since leaving Westminster Abbey in 1998, Neary has continued his career as organist, guest conductor, composer, and writer. His compositions were featured at the 2001 church music festival in Tucson, Arizona. As organist, he has also programmed many new works, not least in his recitals at the Royal Festival Hall. He is one of only two people to have been elected twice as president of the RCO. Neary, who read theology and music at Cambridge University and later studied conducting at Tanglewood under Erich Leinsdorf, and with André Marchal in Paris, has received numerous awards. Among them are an honorary doctorate of music from Southampton University, and his appointment as Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order by the Queen, in recognition of his services for choosing and directing the music at the funeral of Princess Diana.



CD LAUNCH

"LOVE NEVER ENDS"

Sacred Music by Philip Stopford sung by The Ecclesium Choir

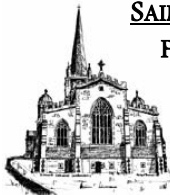
This will be launched at St. Thomas' Parish Church, Lisburn Road, Belfast
on **Thursday 1st October, 2009** at 7:45 p.m.

SAINT COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL, LONDON STREET LONDONDERRY

Friday 2nd October

7:30 p.m.

Admission Free



ORGAN RECITAL

by **MARTIN NEARY**

SAINT MOLUA'S CHURCH, UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, STORMONT, BELFAST

Friday 2nd October

8:00 p.m.

"SCHOLA PLUS"

Music by the boys of St. Peter's Cathedral, Belfast, directed by Nigel McClintock

Tickets £10 (including supper) are available from:

- ♫ The Parish Office (028 9041 9171)
- ♫ The Good Book Shop, Donegall Street, Belfast (028 9024 4825)

Proceeds to the Repair Fund. Parking in church grounds and surrounding streets.

CHRIST CHURCH, INFIRMARY ROAD, LONDONDERRY, BT48 7HG

Thursday 8th October

1:00 p.m.



Organ Recital by Dr. Desmond Hunter

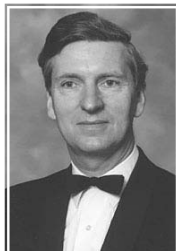
This is the first of a series of "first Thursday" recitals, now known as the William West Memorial Concerts. Any donations given will be used to provide bursaries for young local music students.

BOOK LAUNCH

"REPRISE. AN IRISH CHURCH MUSICIAN LOOKS BACK"

by Harry Grindle

This will be launched at St. Mark's Parish Church, Dundela
on **Saturday 17th October, 2009** at 10:30 a.m.



REPRISE – AN IRISH CHURCH MUSICIAN LOOKS BACK

by Harry Grindle

For the last few years I have ceased reading novels, concentrating on poetry, theology and autobiography/biography, but nearly all of the writers are dead! So it was a real pleasure to review the memoirs of one who is very much alive – **Reprise**, by our much respected member, Dr. Harry Grindle. Here Harry gives us a full and honest account of his lifelong experiences as student, teacher, organist, choirmaster, conductor, academic, husband and parent, pulling no punches – warts and all.

“Grindle” is an uncommon name of English origin which can be spelt in several different ways and in the first chapter of the book the clan, from farming stock, is traced back to the seventeenth century when the brothers Henry and Ralph Grindall bought land in Counties Armagh and Monaghan at the time of the Plantation. Harry comes from the Monaghan line.

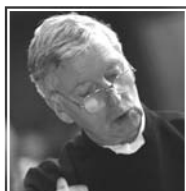
Harry was born in Bangor in the middle of the “hungry” 30s when times were hard and money was scarce. He helped his father in the shop by delivering groceries on his message-bicycle and in the summer became a farmer’s boy, working on his uncles’ farm in County Armagh.

Bangor Abbey and its choir were important from early days and Harry claims the Abbey as his spiritual home – his dedication to church music began there. Education was important, so Regent House School, Queen’s University and his first teaching posts in Belfast and London are covered in chapters 2 and 3.



His first important organist post was at Bangor Parish Church, then on to Belfast Cathedral in 1964 where he spent the next 10 years which are covered in chapters 5-10. On taking up the appointment at Belfast Cathedral, Harry inherited what was virtually a large choral society, most effective in the hands of Captain C. J. Brennan, but the aim was to transform this into a

traditional cathedral choir, which huge effort met, not with wholehearted support, but from some quarters bitter opposition. It was hard work, but Harry succeeded in putting Belfast Cathedral Choir on a par with the best of its English counterparts. A lovely letter of appreciation from Herbert Howells says it all.



There is much about the various choirs which Harry formed – the Cathedral Consort, the Cathedral Singers, the St. Louis Sisters’ Choir, the Priory Singers – and their many concerts, TV appearances and radio broadcasts which added so much to the choral music of both North and South.

The final chapters, 11 and 12, cover Harry’s time at Stranmillis College, his continuing promotion of church music and his eventual retirement in 2008. Fortunately, such a major contribution to the musical life of the entire country did not pass unnoticed and Harry was one of the recipients of the Royal Maundy from HM the Queen in Armagh last year; he was also awarded an ARSCM in 1977, a Lambeth DMus in 2005 and an MBE in 2009, honours well earned and well deserved.



Harry is a family man and his wife, Heather, and daughters, Hannah and Rachel, are essential to the story. Indeed my wife, Dorothy, and I are proud godparents of Rachel. I thought that I knew Harry well but I had no idea of the number of things in which he was involved and the massive amount of work he got through until I read **Reprise**. Like Elgar in composing *Gerontius*, in writing **Reprise** Harry “ has opened his heart, once.”

Read, mark, learn – it is a must!

Billy Adair



The book, which is published by April Sky Design, Newtownards, will be available (price £11.99) from The Good Book Shop, 61-67 Donegall Street, Belfast..

It can also be purchased at the launch in Saint Mark’s Church, Dundela, on Saturday 17th October - details on previous page - at the special discounted price of £9.99



MESSAGE FROM THE HON. SECRETARIES

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER:

Items for this to be with the Secretariat by **Friday 23rd October** at the latest please. *If you are sending us information for Newsletters, please make absolutely sure that all the details are correct, as we will assume that they are.*

FLIERS:

We are happy to enclose fliers for events of interest along with the monthly newsletters. There is a nominal charge of £10 for this service, which should be included with the fliers - please send to us by the 20th of the month for the next issue - address below.

Size of flier: A6, A5 or 1/3 A4 as we use A5 envelopes.

Circulation: we print 200 newsletters at present.

The event will also be advertised in the usual way in the newsletter.

MESSAGE FROM THE HON. TREASURER

Thank you to all members who are up to date with their subscription payment. However, I should be delighted to receive payment from those members who still have amounts outstanding.

The current annual subscriptions are:

Northern Ireland & Republic of Ireland	£20	Mainland Great Britain	£10
International Overseas Member	£7	Full-time Student	£10

Please contact the Treasurer if you have any queries in this regard.

CONTACT

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