

OUNDLÉ SCHOOL CHAPEL Sunday 14 July at 4 00

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Organ Recital by Peter Hurford

Messe pour les Couvents

FRANCOIS COUPERIN
(1668 – 1733)

Plein Jeu – Fugue – Trio – Dialogue –

Chromhorne sur la taille – Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux

Couperin wrote two Organ Masses which are fairly late examples of a liturgical form practised throughout Europe for centuries. An Organ Mass consists of a lengthy series of short pieces, each designed to take the place of a particular verset of the text of the Mass. Normally there is a piece for every other verset, the alternate lines being chanted by the Choir.

There are 21 movements in the Mass of which Peter Hurford plays 6. Couperin achieves a certain unity between the many varied movements by using a type of 'head-motif' figure – a descending (or ascending) four-note scale in either top or bottom part. This figure replaces the plainsong which Couperin uses extensively in his other Mass "Messe pour les Paroisses".

Trio Sonata No.1 in E flat (BWV 525)

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
(1685 – 1750)

This is the first of a set of six Trio Sonatas which Bach wrote apparently for the instrument of his eldest son Wilhelm Friedmann. They are written to be played on two separate keyboards and pedals. Walter Emery felt that these Sonatas were amongst the most original of all Bach's organ works as no previous organ composer seems to have written anything that resembles them at all closely.

This Sonata follows the normal pattern of 3 movements, the two outer ones being allegros in a giocoso vein and the central movement being an adagio in the style of a siciliano.

7 fughetta and preludes from the Orgelbüchlein

BACH

Peter Hurford has put together a selection of seven fughetts (brief fugues) and preludes based on Chorale melodies. The fughetts all come from the collection formerly known as the 'Kirberger' collection and the preludes from the 46 Chorales known as the 'Orgelbüchlein' (little organ book). The Chorale melody is treated differently in all these pieces, although in the fughetts, the subject is derived from the first part of the Chorale melody.

Trio en passacaille

ANDRE RAISON
(1650 – 1720)

Raison was born in about 1650 and he spent his life as an organist being inscribed in the highest rank in that profession in a 1695 tax roll of the keyboard players of Paris. He taught Clérambault, who in 1710 dedicated his Premier livre d'orgue to him.

Raison wrote two volumes of Organ Masses which are generally regarded as being less profound than those of his more famous contemporaries Couperin and de Grigny. This Trio en Passacaille in his Second Mass has a theme identical to that of Bach's Passacaglia.

Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor (BWV 582)

BACH

Bach's Passacaglia is one of the greatest pinnacles of organ music. Originally its title was simply 'Passacaglia' but, owing to the length of the fugue section at the end of the work it usually gets a mention in the same manner as a Prelude and Fugue, although there is no formal break between Passacaglia and Fugue.

The Passacaglia as a form is defined in the 'Harvard Dictionary' as "a continuous variation based on a clearly distinguishable ostinato that normally appears in the bass but that may occasionally be transferred to an upper voice". Bach's work complies absolutely with that definition. It consists of an 8-bar theme and 20 variations followed by a double fugue, one of whose subjects is the first four bars of the Passacaglia theme.

It is Bach's only work with the title 'Passacaglia' and he probably wrote it between 1717 and 1723 either at Cöthen or Weimar. The theme is possibly derived from the Trio en Passacaille by André Raison.

Programme Notes by Paul Spicer

Peter Hurford

Peter Hurford was educated at Blundells School, the Royal College of Music and Jesus College Cambridge. From 1958 to 1978 he was Master of the Music at St Alban's Cathedral and in 1963 he founded the International Organ Festival there. Since 1982 he has been a Professor at the Royal Academy of Music and in 1984 he was awarded the OBE. In the last twenty-five years, he has made many major tours all over the world and among his numerous recordings are the complete organ works of J S Bach, for which he has been given the Gramophone Award in 1979 and the Silver Disc in 1983.

EXHIBITION OF SMALL ORGANS IN THE GREAT HALL

Exhibitors include—Roger Pulham
Vincent Woodstock
Peter Collins
Saxon Aldred
Richard Bower
William Drake
Nigel Church
Kenneth Tickell
Robert Deegen

Open every day during Oundle
International Organ Week

Saturday 20 July at 4 30

Sheila Lawrence will demonstrate
on the organs in this display