

WELCOME TO THE WEEK!



Organists' diaries have long had July 1987 totally blocked-out for an orgy of clannish conference, competition and celebration – in the East of England. This *mensis mirabilis* presents St Albans International Organ Festival and the once-every-decade world 'summit', the International Congress of Organists, this year in Cambridge. Ideally scheduled, both in time and place, between these two significant events, slots the Third Oundle International Organ Week.

Appropriately then the Oundle Week hosts a galaxy of great organists, with a *sforzando* on the young and recently-established, to give recitals on the Frobenius organ: Jacques van Oortmerssen and Kimberly Marshall make return visits from Amsterdam and California respectively and are joined by Anne Page, Colin Andrews and American, Timothy Albrecht. It is a particular pleasure additionally to welcome Lionel Rogg from Switzerland; his records and recitals inspired so many in England when organ (and organist-) reform was first mooted here in the 60s. Their programmes mark notable anniversaries – those of Buxtehude, Guilman, Vierne, Pierné – and, further, present facets of *stilus fantasticus* (bravura and drama), and modern pieces from both sides of the Atlantic.

Yet besides hailing the skills of those already successful in the profession, OIOW sounds another suitable and agreeable theme – the training of those who may soon make their mark. The concurrent Summer School has attracted this year 42 well-referred young organists whose talent and enthusiasm will underpin the whole enterprise; hear them at Sunday's Platform Concert!

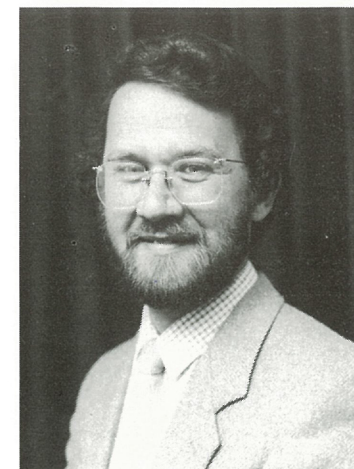
Of course it is obvious that OIOW should cater for organists and organ buffs; breaking new ground however, the 1987 Week has widened its appeal. There are celebrity chamber music recitals in the Stahl Theatre, inspiring programmes in lovely country churches and, on Friday, a Gala Concert with a Scottish slant in which old meets new: Sir Alexander Gibson conducts Britain's finest chamber orchestra, the ECO, in popular classics by Mendelssohn and James Parsons premières with the orchestra OIOW's first major commission – Organ Concerto by Derek Bourgeois.

I believe it is no cliché to suggest that the Third OIOW has something for everyone – concerts, exhibitions, sideshows in the Market Place or merely drinks at the Festival Club. Look through these pages and buy further tickets immediately!

I am delighted that Oundle International Organ Week is to add its own special notes to the 'principal chorus' and cultural calendar of the region, this July. Oundle is an attractive setting – a handsome town set in delightful and perhaps under-appreciated countryside; may the Week prove for many, visitors and locals, a diapason of agreeable diversion and discovery!

James Parsons

A VOTE OF THANKS



As we embark on the Third Oundle International Organ Week, I feel that I must express the sincere thanks of the Executive Committee to those who make the Week possible. In particular, my thanks go to the Headmaster of Oundle School for allowing the use of the School's facilities, and to the members of staff who assist with accommodation and catering.

We are extremely grateful for continued financial support from bodies which have consistently aided us in the past, and this year we are particularly pleased with the assistance afforded us by East Midlands Arts and Eastern Orchestral Board in connection with the commissioning and first performance of Derek Bourgeois's *Organ Concerto*. Without the generosity of all our Sponsors the splendid calendar of concerts for the Week could not happen.

The Summer School is proud of its non-competitive element, but we are equally proud that talent and potential is encouraged in a constructive and realistic way, following careful assessment by Tutors. Without the many prizes and recital engagements this would not be possible, and we are most grateful to all who have assisted by donating awards or prizes in whatever form at The Young Organists' Platform concert.

Finally I wish to express our indebtedness to the Trustees of those Trust Funds which have supported us for the first time this year. Through their extraordinary benevolence we have been able to keep down the cost of the Summer School to a level which can be afforded by young organists. Their generosity is greatly valued by the Organ Week Directors and by the forty-two young musicians here this week; indeed it represents an investment in the future generation of British organists – one with which we are privileged to be involved in the coming Week.

Martin Freke