

Virgin Atlantic is happy to support Oundle International Festival

virgin atlantic 

Peterborough Cathedral - 1 pm

Tuesday 19 July

Thierry Mechler - Organ Recital

The Programme

*Paraphrase Grégorienne
sur le Te Deum (1983)*

Thierry Mechler (b.1962)

In this imaginative piece, Thierry Mechler follows a long tradition of French organist composers who have invented imaginative musical commentaries on old plainsong melodies.

*Fantaisie sur le verset du
Judex Crederis - Te Deum
Toccata en Si mineur*

A P F Boëly (1785-1858)

The composer's life spanned great changes in the aesthetics of French organ music. Franck and Saint-Saëns regarded him as a defender of the pure classical tradition and indeed he was an admirer of Haydn and Mozart and a champion of Bach. He wrote a significant number of versets, mostly on sections of the mass, but on the Te Deum as well. His nimble B minor Toccata in 3/8 time is dominated by the insistence of the opening theme. The motifs and figures have a Baroque clarity.

*Moderato Cantabile
from Symphonie No 8*

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

This is the second movement of Widor's 8th Symphony. Based around a single expressive melody, first heard over large left-hand arpeggios at the very beginning, the movement progresses towards a *poco animato* which, while retaining the main theme, makes much use of dotted figures. In the last stages, the main theme is heard briefly in canon in the pedal before emerging in a rhythmically altered state at the end.

Boléro

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)
(arr. Mechler)

When the dancer Ida Rubenstein needed a ballet score with a Spanish flavour, she hoped that Maurice Ravel might orchestrate some sections of Albeniz's exotic Iberia. What she received was the score of Boléro, a work of enormous popularity, structured on a single persistent theme over an ostinato drum pattern.

Romanian Folkdances

Béla Bartók (1881-1945)
(arr. Mechler)

*Der Tanz mit dem Stabe - Bräul - Der Stampfer - Tanz aus
Butschum - Rumänische Polka - Schnell Tanz*

The composer engaged in several years of intense research into Romanian peasant music from 1909. One of the results of this work was this set of Romanian Folkdances which have since become some of Bartók's most popular and frequently transcribed pieces. Largely modal in harmonic language, and mostly in 2/4 time like so much Hungarian peasant music, they range widely in mood and tempo. The Tanz aus Butschum, for example, is a gentle minuet while the Rumänische Polka is a lively, trenchant dance.

*Toccata from Suite Op 5
Prélude - Sicilienne - Toccata*

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

The syncopations of this piece impart a strong internal energy, restlessly moving forward over the gradually rising pedal theme. The fastidious composer, whose toccata-like pieces are often notable for their subdued nature, is much bolder here. The closing pages demand the full resources of the instrument.

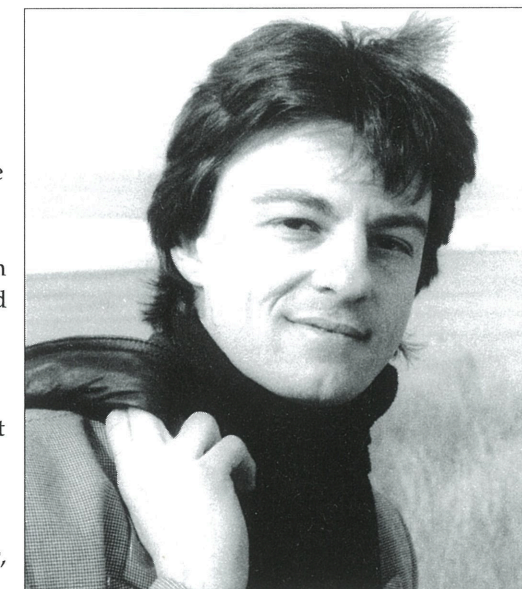
Improvisation in French style

Thierry Mechler (b.1962)


At the beginning of his recital, the artist will be given a sealed envelope which contains a theme upon which to improvise.

The Performer

Thierry Mechler, born in 1962, is the Titular Organist of the Great Organ of the Cathedral St Jean in Lyon. In 1981, he won First Prize at the Concours International de Paris. He remained in Paris to study with Marie-Claire Alain and in 1984 he won in succession a Gold Medal and First Prize of Excellence, followed by First Prize for Virtuosity in 1986. He also studied improvisation with Jacques Taddei and won the Medal of Honour at the contest for composition at Mulhouse. Thierry Mechler is highly regarded as a teacher, giving classes in France, Germany and England. He also regularly appears at Festivals throughout the world and has recorded widely.



The present Peterborough Cathedral is the Norman successor to a Dark Ages cathedral on this site. The present building started as an Abbey church about fifty years after the Norman Conquest and was largely completed by 1237, although the central tower has been rebuilt in both the 14th and 19th centuries. Of particular note are the 12th / 13th century painted ceiling in the Nave and the superb Early English west front. Both Katharine of Aragon and Mary Queen of Scots were buried in the cathedral; the presence of the body of the former is rumoured to have saved the present building from destruction at the dissolution of the monasteries when it became a secular cathedral. Note the curious painted monument to Old Scarlett, the parish sexton said to have buried both Queens.

 The Festival Club
Today
10 am to 4 pm
Bar Hours
6.30 pm to 11.30 pm