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BARCLAYS

Jesus Church, Oundle - 7.45 pm

Thursday 21 July

Wim Viljoen - Organ Recital

The Programme

Passacaglia in D minor

Johann Kaspar Kerll
(1627-1693)

The composer was renowned in his own day as an organist. He improvised on the organ to enormous acclaim at the coronation of Emperor Leopold I in 1658. His compositions are marked by an innovative approach to traditional forms.

Voluntary in D Op 6 No 6

John Stanley (1713-1786)

Adagio - Andante - Adagio - Allegro moderato

The composer, blind from the age of two, was in 1729 the youngest person ever to take the Oxford BMus. He is principally remembered for his three published volumes of organ voluntaries, most of which have two movements. This piece, however, includes four, one of which features a solo reed stop.

Voluntary in D minor Op 6 No 1

Samuel Wesley
(1766-1837)

Adagio - Allegro moderato - Spiritoso

Samuel Wesley was undoubtedly the most accomplished organist of his day. Some dubbed him the "English Mozart". His music has a buoyant classical flavour. This piece ends with a lively fugue.

Sonata No 3 in A

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Con moto maestoso - Andante tranquillo

This is probably the finest of Mendelssohn's organ sonatas and one of the first significant pieces of 19th century organ music to be associated with England. The opening is regal, triumphant in its surety. It is followed by an angular fugue, underpinned by references in the pedal to the chorale theme *Aus tiefer Noth*. A swifter passage brings the piece hurtling to a thrilling return of the opening theme. All passion spent, the second movement is tranquil and meditative.

Three Chorale Preludes

Psalm 86 -

Henk Temmingh (b.1939)

Gesang 252 (Awake you that are asleep)

The composer, born in Holland, now heads the Music School at the University of Pretoria. These pieces show the old Protestant tradition of embellishing simple hymn tunes. The stark old melodies are surrounded by witty new patterns.

Grosser Gott, wir loben dich

John Coulter (b.1958)

The composer is a lecturer in organ, harpsichord and theory at the University of Witwatersrand. The work is a toccata which imitates the effect of a sound whirl through a recurring semiquaver ostinato.

Pastorella in F (BWV 590)

J S Bach (1685-1750)

Some doubt exists as to the original form of this work. Most performances use a version of four sections of which only the first is actually entitled Pastorale. It is a charming section with a pedal drone. The second section is a graceful dance; a melancholy aria and a mercurial gigue complete the piece.

Tocatta, Adagio and Fugue in C (BWV 564)

J S Bach

This famous work is an invigorating, youthful composition. The brilliant opening movement, with its prolonged and exhilarating pedal solo is nicely contrasted with the Italianate central *adagio* with its richly ornamented melody. A chordal passage leads to a spritely fugue.

The Performer

Wim Viljoen is senior lecturer in organ and head of the organ department at the School of Music of the University of Pretoria, where he earned his Doctoral degree with a dissertation on the Fitzwilliam Virginal Book. He also studied in Paris with Marie-Claire Alain who described him as "one of the finest young organists of his generation". In 1974, he won the Prix Mention d'Interpretation in Chartres. Since then, he has been a prominent recitalist in both South Africa and abroad, performing in Switzerland, the Netherlands, France, Germany and the USA. He has also made recordings, notably of Bach, Mendelssohn and Messiaen.



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The Festival Club Today
10 am to 4 pm

Bar Hours
12.30 pm to 2 pm
6.30 to 11.30 pm