

Organ Studies at Birmingham Conservatoire

Organ teaching at Birmingham Conservatoire is centered on the acclaimed new Walker organ in St Chad's Cathedral, where the Head of Organ Studies, David Saint, is also Organist. The Conservatoire itself is housed in superb modern premises, and is situated in the heart of this exciting city, between Symphony Hall (home of Sir Simon Rattle and the CBO) and Birmingham's famous Town Hall where Thomas Trotter gives weekly recitals.

The Conservatoire offers you:

- ~ a choice of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, leading to BMus, MA, DPS etc
- ~ a series of workshops and masterclasses - visiting tutors this year have included Douglas Hollick, Adrian Partington, Nicolas Kynaston, and Kenneth Tickell
- ~ four modern practice organs, three of them new tracker-action instruments
- ~ staff who are active in the recital and cathedral worlds
- ~ performance opportunities in the Conservatoire and elsewhere
- ~ organ scholarships at Birmingham Cathedral and other city churches
- ~ the lively, vibrant atmosphere of a leading music college which has been judged EXCELLENT by HEFCE this year

Further details and a prospectus are available from:
The Registry, Birmingham Conservatoire,
Paradise Place, Birmingham B3 3HG
Telephone: 0121 331 5901

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HOT AIR and HI-FI

Thanks to QUAD this performance
will not end up as hot air.

If it was not for the microphones suspended above the players and a certain amount of equipment in the little chapel above the south door, all that would remain at the end of this concert would be our memories and a very little hot air. The tiny vibrations of air produced by the Bingham Quartet, which we hear as music, rapidly turn into heat and silence, but since the total energy produced during the evening is equivalent to a burning match, only the emotional temperature will rise.

Patronage has always been an integral part of music performance, and while it is nice to think that signing a cheque makes a performance possible, it is much more satisfying for sponsor, performers, audience and organisers to know that tonight's performance is not going to end up as hot air. Tonight's performance is being recorded and, all being well, will be issued on CD in about three months.

Quad is the oldest independent manufacturer of high fidelity in the world. Our factory in Huntingdon, the Hi-Fi capital of the world¹ produces equipment which reproduces recordings with greater accuracy and fidelity than any other equipment. QUAD amplifiers and electrostatic loudspeakers are used by the recording engineer to make sure that the microphones are correctly positioned, and by the producer to make sure that the final master is suitable for release.

If you would like a Compact Disc of this evening's performance please contact either the Oundle International Festival office or QUAD.

The CD will cost £9.99 inc VAT.

¹(Huntingdon, once famous for Oliver Cromwell and cashmere, is home to more than half a dozen manufacturers of High Fidelity equipment, which is more than you will find in Hamamti or Nagova).



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St Mary's Church, Fotheringhay - 8.00pm Bingham String Quartet

The Programme

Quartet in C, Op 54 No 2

Vivace - Adagio - Menuetto (allegretto) -

Finale (adagio - presto - adagio)

The ninety or so string quartets of Haydn are the earliest surviving examples of the genre, and judging by variety and inventiveness the composer devoted at least as much attention to them as to his 104 symphonies. This work belongs to a group of twelve, composed in 1788-1790, that constitute the last important works written at the end of his thirty year period as Kapellmeister to the Esterházy family. All the quartets in the group have prominent first violin parts, being written for the leader of the second violins in Haydn's orchestra, a man named Tost. The third movement of this quartet, a minuet, was used as the theme for a musical clock made by the librarian at Esterháza.

Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

Gulls and Angels

Diana Burrell
(b. 1948)

Gulls and Angels was commissioned in 1993 by the City Music Society for its 50th anniversary. The composer has prefaced the score with the following note:

"The joyous dancing of the angels underpinning the cosmos. The constant movement of the atoms held in perfect and continuous balance. Order, structure, calm."

"The herring gulls have their own cycles. They wait in stillness, then suddenly, at a signal unperceived by humans, one straightens up - neck to heaven, beak open. There's a skywards shriek, and so many more join in, and the sky is full of movement, noise and wings. Then silence and peace again. Who knows what it was all about?"

"In reality our universe is only just ordered by the angels. It is so taut and finely measured, and so easily shattered by the gulls. How bad for us, how complacent we would all be if it were not so."

Adagio and Fugue in C minor, K 546 W A Mozart (1756-1791)

Mozart had, in 1783, written a fugue for two pianos, which he arranged in June 1788 for string quartet, adding a short adagio as an introduction. A glimpse of Mozart's views on fugues is afforded by a letter of 1782 to his sister: "I have taken care to write *Andante Maestoso* on it so that it may not be played too fast; for if a fugue is not played slowly, the recurring subject is not distinctly and clearly heard, and so loses its effect". The subject of this fugue, and its contrapuntal development, are very reminiscent of Bach.

Interval - drinks available

String Quartet

Allegro moderato - Piacevole (poco andante) -

Finale (allegro molto)

Edward Elgar
(1857-1934)

This is one of Elgar's last works dating, with the Violin Sonata and Piano Quintet, from two years before the death of his wife, after which he stopped composing. He had written no chamber music for more than 30 years. It was achieved between April and Christmas Eve 1918 at Brinkwells, a cottage in Sussex that the Elgars rented and that the composer loved, especially as it was surrounded by woods. These late chamber works share a

valedictory, autumnal quality, heard most explicitly in the quartet's slow movement.

The Performers

Making a welcome return to the Festival this year, the Bingham String Quartet belongs to a fine tradition of British string quartets. Formed and developed under the guidance of Sidney Griller at the Royal Academy of Music, it takes its place as one of the United Kingdom's foremost chamber ensembles, with a fine reputation for interpretation of the classical repertoire and a fresh and exciting approach to new music. Education and community work forms an important part of the Quartet's work, and in 1991 it founded its own community project in the London Borough of Waltham Forest, visiting schools and centres for the elderly and people with learning disabilities.

Diana Burrell will be present at this evening's recital, and will give a brief introduction to her work.



Sponsored by Friends of the Festival

The present St Mary's Church, Fotheringhay, was built in the mid-fifteenth century, and was once part of a magnificent collegiate church, founded in 1411. Today the only visible traces of the first parish church are the marks of a sharply pitched nave roof over the blocked 'chancel' arch, and of flatter aisle roofs. The contract for rebuilding the nave was dated 1434 and the 'new' church is typical of the period, being entirely in the perpendicular style. The stately clear glass windows, the beautiful oak pulpit, now restored to its original colouring, and the font are much-noted features.

The nearby castle, demolished c. 1635, was the birthplace of Richard III and also, on 8 February 1587, the scene of the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots.

This evening's recital is to be recorded by Quad. It would be appreciated, therefore, if members of the audience would observe the following:

Please be seated no later than ten minutes before the start of the programme.

Ensure that watches and portable phones are turned off, and that hearing aids will not make a noise.

Programme pages should be turned soundlessly.

Cough sweets available for those likely to need them! Please ask a steward.

The Festival Club today
10am to midnight
Bar Hours 6.30pm to 11.30pm