

SIXTEENTH
SERIES

AYR ARTS GUILD
PRESENTS

THE ORGANIST ENTERTAINS 2026

THE VOICE OF AYRSHIRE

In 1902, the Organ Sub-Committee of Ayr's Town Council were unanimous in their resolve to once again engage Lewis & Co. of Brixton to provide a worthy replacement to the celebrated instrument they had completed in 1881, only to perish in the devastating Town Hall fire of 1897.

Complete by the Autumn of 1904, the Lewis firm created an instrument of considerable musical resources from a modest twenty-seven speaking stops, and as an unaltered example of Edwardian organ building these qualities continue to be appreciated by players and listeners alike. The organ's significance was further recognised in 2013 with the awarding of a Grade I Historic Organ Certificate by the British Institute of Organ Studies.

After over one hundred and twenty years at the heart of music making in Ayrshire, the time is now approaching when this outstanding instrument will require thorough and painstaking restoration, however emergency repairs have been undertaken in 2024 and 2026, with financial assistance from Ayr Arts Guild, Ayr Common Good Fund, and a Private Donor. In this, the sixteenth series of *The Organist Entertains*, we take the opportunity of introducing audiences to instruments from our diverse local pipe organ heritage, through a kaleidoscopic breadth of repertoire, and once again featuring performers from the United Kingdom and beyond.

G Michael Hitchon MBE
Ayr Arts Guild SC005562

Matthew Hynes BA(Hons)
Royal Burgh of Ayr Organist



Mondays at 12 noon
featuring the Lewis Organ in
AYR TOWN HALL

ADMISSION
£6.00

AYR
ARTS
GUILD

Arranged by Ayr Arts Guild
Scottish Charity Number: SC005562

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Destination
South Ayrshire

South
AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Deas
Making a Difference Every Day



APRIL & MAY

Mondays at 12 noon in three venues:

- St Nicholas Parish Church, Prestwick, KA9 1LH
- Holy Trinity Church, Ayr, KA7 1UB
- St Columba Parish Church, Ayr, KA7 2SE

APRIL

- 13 Apr Alan Kitchen**, Wellington Church, Glasgow St Nicholas PC, Prestwick
- 20 Apr Robin Bell**, Cupar St Nicholas PC, Prestwick
- 27 Apr Organ Students**, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland St Nicholas PC, Prestwick

MAY

- 4 May Andrew Thom**, Holy Trinity, Ayr Holy Trinity Church, Ayr
- 11 May Frikki Walker**, St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow St Columba PC, Ayr
- 18 May Hans Uwe Hielscher**, Wiesbaden Marktkirche Lutheran Cathedral St Columba PC, Ayr
- 25 May John R. Turner**, Glasgow St Columba PC, Ayr

JUNE to NOVEMBER
Mondays at 12 noon featuring the Lewis Organ in Ayr Town Hall, KA7 1JX

JUNE

- 1 Jun Bill Hutcheson**, Paisley
- 8 Jun Ronan McQuade**, Glasgow
- 15 Jun Tiffany Vong**, Jordanhill Parish Church, Glasgow
- 22 Jun Alan Ireland**, All Saints Parish Church, Hove
- 29 Jun Philip Crozier**, Montreal, Canada

JULY

- Sun 5 July Alessandro Bianchi**, St. Columba's Church, 7pm (*Retiring collection*)
- 6 Jul Alessandro Bianchi**, St. Edward's Anglican Church, Lugano, Switzerland
- 13 Jul Jonathan Dimmock**, San Francisco, USA
- 20 Jul Kamil Mika**, St. James Episcopal Church, Aberdeen
- 27 Jul James Gough**, Southwark Cathedral, London

AUGUST

- 3 Aug Dr. Raymond McCluskey**, St. Joseph's RC Church, Kilmarnock
- 10 Aug Chris Nickol**, New Kilpatrick Church, Bearsden
- 17 Aug Eilidh Harris**, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- 24 Aug Ian Hare**, Grasmere Parish Church, Cumbria
- 31 Aug Iain McGlinchey**, Helensburgh

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Sep Leonard Sanderman**, St. Peter's & St. Leonard's Church, Horbury
- 14 Sep Nicky Fraser**, Church of the Sacred Heart, Edinburgh
- 21 Sep David Hamilton**, University of Strathclyde
- 28 Sep David Pipe**, Huddersfield Town Hall

OCTOBER

- 5 Oct Dr. John Kitchen MBE**, Edinburgh City Organist
- 12 Oct Morley Whitehead**, Morningside Parish Church, Edinburgh
- 19 Oct Dr. Peter Wakeford**, Glasgow

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER SILENT FILM CLASSIC

Aaron Hawthorne presents the 1920 Silent Film Classic:
The Cabinet of Dr Caligari in association with Ayr Film Society.
Doors open 6.45pm, Film 7.15pm, admission £9.00.
Two-course pre-movie special at The Sugar Cube £18.00.
To book phone 01292 618824 or 07960 882874, E: thesugarcube@btinternet.com
26 Oct Will Briant, Glasgow

NOVEMBER

- 2 Nov Calum Robertson**, Edinburgh
- 9 Nov Alan Tavener BEM**, St. Bride's Episcopal Church, Glasgow
- 16 Nov Gordon Cree**, Darvel
- 23 Nov Prof. Malcolm Sim**, Glasgow Cathedral
- 30 Nov Matthew Hynes**, Royal Burgh of Ayr

For further information
✉ organistentertainsayr@gmail.com 🌐 www.organrecitals.uk