

The Inaugural Concert



TO CELEBRATE THE RESTORED EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Thomas Parker Organ

Parish Church of St Mary and St Nicholas

SATURDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2007



 | Heritage
LOTTERY FUNDED

The Inaugural Concert

to celebrate the restored eighteenth century



Thomas Parker Organ

James O'Donnell

Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey

The Brandenburg Sinfonia

Artistic Director – Robert Porter

David Oliver

Musical Director and Organist

**Parish Church of St Mary and St Nicholas
Leatherhead**

Saturday 24th November 2007

7.30pm

James O'Donnell

James O'Donnell is Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey and is one of the outstanding British musicians of his generation. He studied as a junior exhibitioner at the Royal College of Music and was then organ scholar of Jesus College, Cambridge, where he read music and studied the organ with Peter Hurford, Nicolas Kynaston and David Sanger. He was appointed Master of Music of Westminster Cathedral at the age of 26, and under his 12-year leadership the Choir consolidated its reputation as one of the finest choirs of its type in the world which won much praise and several awards for its many recordings.

In January 2000, James O'Donnell was appointed to Westminster Abbey, where he is responsible for the direction of the music at the daily choral services and state occasions for which the Abbey is renowned. He directs the Choir of Westminster Abbey in its full programme of concerts, tours, broadcasts and recordings, including visits in recent years to the Far East, Denmark, Germany, Spain and the United States. The Choir has just returned from its first tour to Australia, which included two performances at the Sydney Opera House.

James O'Donnell is internationally known as an organist, having appeared in concert all over the world. He has played many times in the United States, throughout Europe, in Australia, New Zealand and Japan, and has performed at the BBC Proms, the Royal Festival Hall, and at many festivals both at home and abroad. He has worked as organist and conductor with some of the country's leading orchestras and ensembles. His recent organ concerts have included St-Sulpice, Paris, Cologne Cathedral, and Tchaikovsky Hall, Moscow. He is Visiting Professor of Organ at the Royal Academy of Music and received Honorary Membership of the Academy in 2002.



picture courtesy Malcolm Crowthers

David Oliver



David Oliver has been the Musical Director and organist for Leatherhead Parish Church since September 2002.

He comes from the North East of England, and for over 30 years has worked as a professional musician and composer. He has travelled widely throughout the world as a working musician, including playing piano on the QE2 and for a time living and working as a session musician in Sydney, Australia. He has lived in Leatherhead since 1992, and for over fifteen years has worked as an independent writer and composer.

David specialises in writing for children – both for live productions and TV, including the two CBBC's series '50/50' and 'Fully Booked'. For anyone who is an early riser, David is also responsible for the theme music and songs for the children's programme 'Mole in The Hole' which can be seen occasionally on GMTV very early on Saturday mornings, featuring Geoffrey Hayes and the voices from 'Rainbow'.

He plays piano, electric piano, organ and harpsichord, as well as some flute and saxophone, but he says that most of his time now is spent in front of his computer writing. As well as his other work, he has written a succession of tunes for the church choir including three settings for communion and one for evensong, a plethora of descants and many anthems.

For over a year the restoration of the organ has been a major talking point in the church, and now it is actually in situ David is like a young boy with his first train set! We all wish him many hours of pleasure from it.

The Thomas Parker Organ



Martin Goetze - Dominic Gwynn
Tim McEwen - Edward Bennett

The organ we hear tonight was built in 1766 by Thomas Parker, a celebrated English 18th century organ builder. It was bought in that year by St. Mary's Parish Church, Watford, where it remained until they sold it in 1841. It came here in 1843 and was situated in a gallery in the tower until 1873 when parts of it were incorporated into a much larger organ placed in a specially built organ loft over a new clergy vestry behind the north transept. When this organ was dismantled in 1989, all the components of the Parker organ were stored in the hope of rebuilding it. In 2006 the Heritage Lottery Fund gave a grant of 90% of the cost of doing this, and the Friends of the Parish Church managed to raise the balance. The instrument was reconstructed by Martin Goetze and Dominic Gwynn and their team of craftsmen and installed here in October 2007.

Full details of its history can be read in 'Pipe Organs Past & Present', by Linda Heath, on sale here this evening.

Programme

In Nomine	by Richard Alwood
<i>A short piece played by David Oliver to introduce the organ</i>	
Organ Concerto in D minor	George Friedrich Handel
Concerto for two oboes	Tomaso Albinoni
Voluntary XV1	John Keble
A Trumpet Air	John Reading

Interval

Adagio for Strings	Tomaso Albinoni
Voluntary V111	John Stanley
A Fugue	George Friedrich Handel
Organ Concerto in Bb major	George Friedrich Handel

JAMES O'DONNELL

Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey

The Brandenburg Sinfonia directed by Robert Porter

1st Violins

Clare Thompson Morven Bryce Hannah Smith

2nd Violins

Rebecca Scott Helena Roques

Viola

Stephen Shakeshaft

Bass

Leon Bosch

Cello

Adrian Bradbury

Oboe

Emily Pailthorpe
Deborah Goodyer

Bassoon

Robert Porter
Rosemary Cow

The Brandenburg Sinfonia



The **Brandenburg Sinfonia** is one of the most dynamically versatile musical organisations in the country. It is renowned for its special quality of sound and poised vivacity in performance.

The Orchestra performs regularly in the majority of the major venues across the country and in London at the Barbican Halls, Royal Albert Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Fairfield Hall and St John's Smith Square.

The Brandenburg Sinfonia is also in great demand abroad and has, in recent years visited France, USA, Bermuda, the Channel Islands, Barbados, Cyprus, Malta and St Petersburg.

The varied range of activities undertaken by the orchestra include a major concert series at St Martin-in-the-Fields and a major Classical Music cruise on the QE2.

One of the recent highlights was an International Opera Gala conducted by Richard Bonyng in the presence of HRH Prince Charles.

A large number of artists of international standing have worked with the orchestra including Richard Bonyng, Yvonne Kenny, Emmanuel Hurwitz, Lesley Garrett, John Georgiadis, John Wallace, Emma Kirkby, James Bowman and Gordon Hunt.

Its repertoire ranges from Bach to Lloyd Webber and its members give over one hundred performances of orchestral, chamber choral and operatic music during the year.

The orchestras for a number of touring companies are formed from members of the Brandenburg Sinfonia including Central Festival Opera, First Act Opera, London City Opera, and English Pocket Opera.

Robert Porter

Artistic Director



Robert (Bob) Porter began studying the bassoon aged 11. By the age of 14 he had been accepted as a Junior Exhibitioner at the Royal Academy of Music, and two years later joined the National Youth Orchestra.

After studying with Martin Gatt, Roger Birnstingl and Enzo Mucetti he played with every major professional orchestra in London and was appointed Sub-Principal in the London Mozart Players in 1987.

He has taught in the Junior Department of the Guildhall School of Music since 1973, and as Head of Wind Brass and Percussion since 1985.

As Artistic Director of the Brandenburg orchestras since their inception in the early 1980's he has shaped the musical ethos of the orchestras and built a unique musical entity, recognised internationally.

In addition to regular appearances at all the major venues in London, and a monthly concert series at St Martin-in-the-Fields the orchestras have undertaken many overseas tours, including three major US tours and a residency in the Barbados Festival.

His other positions of responsibility include being a Member of the Artistic Commission of the Jove Orquestra Nacional de Catalunya, Associate Music Director of Central Festival Opera and Trustee of the Josephine Baker Trust

He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 1991 for services to music.

We would like to extend our warmest thanks to those below without whom the organ would not now be in place.

The Heritage Lottery Fund

Martin Goetze & Dominic Gwynne Limited

Michael Lewis

who made the original application to the Heritage Lottery Fund on our behalf and brought the project to completion

James O'Donnell

Bob Porter

Linda Heath - Church Archivist

**The Guildford Diocesan Advisory Committee
and Canon Nicholas Thistlethwaite, organ consultant**

The Committee of the Friends of Leatherhead Parish Church
for raising the remainder of the total sum needed

All the donors who contributed to this project
and the Revd. Canon David Eaton who had the foresight to store the organ for future restoration after its discovery by Martin Renshaw.

Please visit our website
www.parishchurch.leatherheadweb.org.uk/parkerorgan
to see the full story of the Thomas Parker organ
in the Leatherhead Parish Church





This picture courtesy Linda Hauxwell
and cover image, courtesy David Oliver

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