

Readers are encouraged to pass this Newsletter on to any interested non-members and they are in turn encouraged to join any affiliated society by contacting the Secretaries detailed below.

Secretaries of Societies affiliated to the SFO:

Aberdeen & District Organists' Association: Mr Allan Ritchie, North Tarbothill, Bridge of Don, ABERDEEN, AB23 8BS; Phone 01224 704386; e-mail allan.ritchie@btinternet.com

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SFO News

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Issue 6

Review of Glasgow Society President's Day, December 2005

Contributed by John Power

As the Glasgow punter would say, regarding the temperature at Summerlee Heritage Museum on Saturday 3rd December, "Aw man, it wiz pure Baltic!" The cold conditions did not, however, spoil the President's Day. This was a delight from beginning to end, with dazzling performances from all who took part. A great innovation for the GSO members to experience was Duncan Sinclair's tuneful, appropriate and often humorous organ accompaniment to a silent movie featuring Buster Keaton.

GSO President Rod Paton, and his daughter, Katherine, a young talented clarinettist with a lovely tone, entertained us with a couple of jazz standards. Rod then delighted us with a swinging solo spot which included the old evergreen "We'll Gather Lilacs in the Spring" performed first as a waltz, then breaking into a beguine tempo. Duncan Sinclair performed for us again with solo pieces, which included a tour of a clock maker's shop, with all the bells and chimes that could be mustered on the 3-manual Compton Cinema Organ. Bill Hutcheson helped to get the circulation going with his medley, which included that old dance favourite from the "King of Jazz" – "Happy Feet".

Finally, 15 year-old David Gray, a very competent young organist, who is being coached in theatre organ playing by Duncan Sinclair, demonstrated a level of confidence and virtuosity in his choice of music, which included a vigorous march by Ireland, as well as a foot-tapping rendition of Sidney Torch's setting of "Bugle Call Rag" (composed by Elmer Schoebel). The Editor noticed a strong resemblance to the 1931 dance band arrangement of the same piece by Jimmy Dale, as recorded by Harry Roy and his Band. David also showed off his ability to tackle the baroque toccata and fugue genres in a "white-knuckle ride" through J. S. Bach's Prelude and Fugue in Bb, from the "Eight Short Preludes and Fugues".

When we all got our breath back, the audience was invited to partake of tea coffee and biscuits, a nice warming touch that prepared us for the journey homewards. Rod thanked all who played and also gave a mention to Frank Watson who provided technical support, to Ian Macnaught, who brought along and set up the projector and screen for the silent movie, and to Bill Hutcheson for making sure that the organ was in tune.

New Salary Scales

1st January saw the publication of revised recommended salary scales. The previous scale had been effective for two years and the new one is intended to be effective until January 2008. Copies of the full document are available on the SFO website or from the SFO Secretary, Mrs Bridget Black: Tel: 01463 230588.

The scales have been compiled by the Salaries Committee of the Scottish Federation of Organists and have been endorsed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The scales are given here for information but should be read in conjunction with the notes in the full document.

a) Churches without choirs

Salary £1,320 - £2,035 Deputy Fee £45

b) Churches with choirs making an occasional individual contribution to worship

Salary £2,035 - £3,245 Deputy Fee £45 - £60

c) Churches with choirs making a substantial individual contribution to worship

Salary £3,245 - £4,345 Deputy Fee £60 - £80

d) Churches with complete and competent choirs singing full choral services

Salary £4,345 - £6,490 Deputy Fee £80 - £90

e) Churches employing a full or part time professional director of music with extensive responsibilities are recommended to consider salary scales higher than scale d).

Salary £6,490+ Deputy Fee £90+

RCO Scotland

SFO News readers and *all the members of their church choirs* are invited to attend a high profile event on Saturday 1st April - **Sing Fauré** in the Church of the Holy Rude, Stirling. Rehearse and sing two choral masterpieces in one day:

Gabriel Fauré's Requiem and Kodály's Missa Brevis, led by Stephen Cleobury (King's College Cambridge, BBC Singers) with John Kitchen (organ).

All welcome, either to sing or to observe the workshop performance at 5pm.

Rehearsal starts at 1.30pm, with an open soloists' rehearsal at 11.30am.

Discounted tickets at £13 for SFO members.

Booking forms are available from secretaries of SFO societies or direct from the College.

Also, it is planned that the **2006 RCO Scottish Recital** will take place in Glasgow University to tie in with the Festival the university plans to run on 2nd and 3rd June to mark the reinstatement of the chapel organ by Harrison & Harrison. The day will be led by Jeremy Summerly and will feature Kevin Bower. More details to follow but put the dates in your diaries now!

SFO Annual Conference

Enclosed with this SFO News is a booking form for the Annual Conference and AGM to be held in Inverness on Saturday 13th May. We sincerely hope that as many members as possible will make the journey north to join us for what is always a happy day. Those of you who would arrive on Friday evening will be welcomed with a buffet supper and Clarsach recital and events on Saturday will finish in time for convenient trains and coaches. Both train and bus stations in Inverness are situated just a convenient walk from the Conference venue.

Unusual Organs (continued)

Continuing my quest for the unusual or bizarre, I recently heard of another unusual pipe organ (if it can be called that!).

After more than six months of construction and preparation, a large concrete "sea pipe organ" begun to play about a year ago on the Zadar waterfront in Croatia. It is about 70 metres in length and plays a unique melody on the waterfront depending on the dictates of the wind and sea.

The organ consists of 35 large pipes through which air flows and thus plays unique tones that those strolling on the waterfront can enjoy.