

O R G A N M U S I C S O C I E T Y
O F S Y D N E Y

the YOUTH *news*

WINTER 2010 EDITION

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*Junior Whizz-Quizz*

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SSOA

~~~~~  
*Elke Voelker  
Masterclass II*

~~~~~  
Party Time
OMSS turns 60

~~~~~  
*What's On*

Dear organ students

My attention has been drawn to the fact that there are quite a few primary school students learning to play the organ. How good is that! I decided to set up a Junior Whizz- Quizz that I hope they will enjoy.

Elke Voelker said she had a wonderful time here in Sydney with the four masterclass students at St Patrick's Church Hill on 25th March. This newsletter has her second article on Sigfrid Karg-Elert and I hope that you will be able to get some of his scores and explore his music a little more. You can hear these pastels being played - on one of the world's most renowned organs St Bavo in Haarlem - by Arjen Leistra.

(What a small world. Jacques who wrote our first 4 masterclasses teaches there . . .)

An then there is the [60th anniversary party](#) AND the [Sydney Summer Organ Academy](#) supported by the Royal College of Organists, five days of total bliss. Come and be part of the academy! Feel inspired!

Keep up the practice!

Godelieve

President of OMSS

## Junior Whizz Quizz

Here is a list of famous organ composers.

Match each composer with their correct dates.

Match the face to the correct composer?

Can you match the three tunes to the composers who wrote them? See next page.

| Dates       | Composer              |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1870 - 1937 | Cesar Franck          |
| 1756 - 1791 | Johann Sebastian Bach |
| 1809 - 1847 | Louis Vierne          |
| 1822 - 1890 | Dieterich Buxtehude   |
| 1668 - 1733 | Charles-Marie Widor   |
| 1844 - 1937 | Felix Mendelssohn     |
| 1877 - 1933 | Sigfried Karg-Elert   |
| 1637 - 1707 | Olivier Messiaen      |
| 1908 - 1992 | Amadeus Mozart        |
| 1685 - 1750 | Francois Couperin     |



## Junior Whizz Quizz and YouTubes



Chorale No 1 in E

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPt1VkBiI8>

Jean Guillou plays the Van den Heuvel , St Eustache, Paris. Unfortunately they only give a picture of Jean all the way through, but it is beautifully played! For this theme you have to listen for about 4 minutes before you will hear it.



Sonata No 1 in Eb

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDCR7Dt3Ff4&feature=related>

Matteo Imbruno plays the Sonata in Eb on the St Walburgis Church, Zutphen in the Netherlands.



Joie et Clarte Des Corps Glorieux

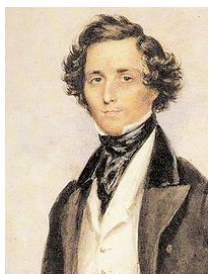
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-cJyrgix7s&feature=related>

Again you will have to listen for about 4 minutes and 12 seconds (Force et Agilité des Corps Glorieux) before you hear the theme from Joie et Clarté des Corps Glorieux.

Olivier Latry plays l'orgue de Notre-Dame de Paris.



| Composer              | Dates       |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Francois Couperin     | 1668 - 1733 |
| Dieterich Buxtehude   | 1637 - 1707 |
| Johann Sebastian Bach | 1685 - 1750 |
| Amadeus Mozart        | 1756 - 1791 |
| Felix Mendelssohn     | 1809 - 1847 |
| Cesar Franck          | 1822 - 1890 |
| Charles-Marie Widor   | 1844 - 1937 |
| Louis Vierne          | 1870 - 1937 |
| Sigfried Karg-Elert   | 1877 - 1933 |
| Olivier Messiaen      | 1908 - 1992 |



How did you score?





# Sydney Summer Organ Academy

supported by

The Royal College of Organists

Shore School

Wed. 29th December 2010  
to Sunday 2nd January 2011

Will you be joining us?



**Will you be joining us? UK Tutors, Local Tutors, Organists  
& students . . . all together, right here in Sydney!**

We are developing a course with James Parsons and Oliver Brett (UK) and Top Local Tutors that will give you an exciting opportunity to learn amongst friends and leave you inspired.

*Have you thought about joining in?*

It would be a great way to spend a few days after Christmas, especially doing something with others who share your passion!

*The Cost of the course is \$495. Accommodation costs are \$500.*

*If you would like to register your interest,*

*I need your contact details, age, level of playing ability.*

*Please send me an email, or give me a call:*

*[godelieve@notjustnotes.com.au](mailto:godelieve@notjustnotes.com.au) (02) 9871 0825*

We will shortly be issuing a brochure giving more details about the course as well as a booking form. The form, together with a minimum deposit of \$100 payable by the 31st July, will secure your place on the course. The balance will be due on the 1st December 2010.





The name Sigfrid Karg-Elert" written with Jugendstil ornaments

## How to enter the musical cosmos of Sigfrid Karg-Elert?

Let's look at some important keys to open the door....

In the last issue of the masterclass, we have spoken about the Choral Improvisations op.65. This was the very first important collection for organ by Karg-Elert. I just want to emphasize this again quoting the famous Leipzig organist Karl Straube: "The intrinsic value of these works [op.65] is so great that they deserve to be performed under any circumstances. Very faithfully, Your humble servant! Karl Straube."

To illuminate now the individual importance of Sigfrid for the history of early 20th century music we go on in a further step.

In Karg-Elert's style was something "unusual", something not easy to understand at once. And he repeatedly felt the need to defend it. On 8 June 1907 he argued to his publisher Carl Simon: "Behind [the] incomprehensibility [of the musical structure] there lies a very specific, logical system, then they [the listeners] would gradually find their way in and be able to understand my entirely subjective language. I don't write in the ' Sturm und Drang' tradition; I revise and sort out much too much for that! ... but, when the mind thinks clearly and logically so [...] not a single note is superfluous and unjustifiable ... unfamiliar but never illogical ...".

Karg-Elert was a real child of his time, of the synthesis of arts at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Have a look at the amazing "Jugendstil" or Art Nouveau output of these years. This "total" style of Art Nouveau – characterized by decorative "whiplash" motifs, formed by dynamic, undulating and flowing lines in a syncopated rhythm - is found throughout the architecture, painting, sculpture and other forms of design.

Although no significant artists in Australia are linked to the Art Nouveau movement, many buildings throughout Australia were designed in the Art Nouveau style. In Melbourne, the Victorian Arts Society, Milton House, Melbourne Sports Depot, Melbourne City Baths, Conservatorium of Music and Melba Hall, Paston Building, and Empire Works Building: all reflect the Art Nouveau style.

*The colour of my soul is iron-grey and sad  
bats wheel about the steeple of my dreams:*

([Claude Debussy](#), letter to [Ernest Chausson](#):  
Karg-Elert speaks of "Harmony of the soul").

Aubrey Beardsley (1872-1898):  
Illustration to Oscar Wilde's  
'Salome', 1894

Arthur Mackmurdo's book-cover  
for *Wren's City Churches*  
(1883), with its rhythmic floral  
patterns, is often considered the  
first realisation of Art Nouveau.



As music example, I would like to introduce you to Karg-Elert's "floral" description  
of the landscape at the Lake of Constance.

## Seven Pastels from the Lake of Constance, op. 96 (1921)

Every one has a duration of 4-5 minutes. They are difficult to play but a marvelous example for his mature and "modern" musical language.

The dedication of the manuscript of the Lake Constance Pastels to the Melbourne organist Arthur Nickson, whom Karg-Elert had in fact never met, was doubtless meant as thanks for Nickson's constant support, which included financial backing. It was also Nickson who gave the work its Australian premiere on March 23, 1924, in Saint Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne.

As programme notes we find:

*" 'The Seven Pastels' ... are tone poems, requiring for appreciation a power to convert sensations of physical beauty into the mysteries of sound. As impressions, there is necessarily a full colour scheme, set in a rhythm of atmospheric changes with naturalistic echoes running into delightfully novel tonal effects.*

*As Poets at times take pleasure in a fanciful onomatopoeia, disguising their technique and vitalising their Art, so our composer seems to have devised a similarly ingenious construction for many of his chords and figures, in subtle transfiguration of a spontaneous music heard in the order of Nature alone. But Karg-Elert is not content with painting, however varied and tinted his light and shade. The sense gives immediate place to the symbol, and the symbol in turn is sacramentally elevated by the artist's prerogative into that of which it speaks – the Reality that true mystics ever seek. For the mind of the artist refracts all through his temperament, and changes much that the eye sees, and that the ear hears, until, from the suggestiveness of sense perception he finds his solution of the problem of natural beauty and of existence."*

How close the Pastels already are to the technical limits of the organ was remarked by Karg-Elert a little later:

*"They are certainly not ideal in terms of organ style, as much of it lies beyond the nature of the organ... Anyway, I studied and repeatedly played these seven pieces on a tiny two-manual organ [!!] in Radolfzell on the shores of Lake Constance. They may be beautiful, but they must be corrected here and there as need be according to the organ's characteristics and resources. [...] Still, these seven Pastels have been given a whole series of performances in America and Australia and have brought me an astonishing amount of appreciation."*

This only large scale impressionist piece by Karg-Elert really takes the expressive potential of the organ to its outer limits - thanks to its exceptionally detailed notes on registration. This, even more than his other works, suggests how successful he would have been had he turned his talent to orchestral composition.

In **The Soul of the Lake**, Karg-Elert's leitmotif of the semitone tetrachord is omnipresent. It leads to a BACH climax which then resolves in a Quasi niente finale.

Op. 96, N° 1

*Andantino soave.*  
Sw. Liebl. Ged. 8' Fugara 4'

Ch. Dulc. Salicional 8'

Harmonica 16' Sw. coupled

**Landscape in Mist** draws on a characteristic pendulum movement of thirds and a motif of fourth chords which alternate with constantly varying melodic sections.

Op. 96, N° 2

*Quieto e indeciso*  
Sw. (Stopped 8')



**The Legend of the Mountain** can be compared to a study on whole tone tetrachords, ninth chords, and whole tone scales.

Notice the jazz-like rhythmical line in bar 2-4.

The **Reed-grown Waters** gives free play to the pentatonic scale and is reminiscent of Messiaen's rhythms and melodies in the solo parts. The ensemble of brief motifs are constantly associated with a particular registration. The Pastel ends with a twelve-voice chord that is divided into four (!) levels of tone colour.

Bars 7 - 9

**The Sun's Evensong** is a cantabile sarabande that gradually develops into a *fff* agitato tempestuoso that then fades to a quiet four-voice indeciso pedal chord. The Impression concludes with a peaceful, atmospheric epilogue.

The absence of cantus firmus in **The Mirrored Moon** means that the BACH motif returns in strength to structure the movement. Fourth chords echo the second Pastel, while Scriabin-like motifs add touches of colour.

**Hymn to the Stars** is a march in A B A' C form, concluding with a final *fff* apotheosis that melts away into a *ppp* of heartfelt solemnity.

Whether or not the work as a whole can be spoken of as a fantasia on BACH, semitone tetrachords are one of the main building blocks of all seven Pastels, and this is far from exhausting the multiplicity of intertwined structural elements.

During his tour to America in 1932, Karg-Elert was once again overwhelmed by this music:

***“...visionary, ecstatic, bewitching music in a thousand overlapping colours of bewildering beauty... I grew ice-cold and dizzy...”***

Now, that's a lot for today.  
Listen to the Pastels! You will love them.

And don't forget to take the “keys” with you when playing Karg-Elert!

Lovely greetings from Germany  
Yours  
Elke Voelker



#### YOUTUBES:

Arjen Leistra plays the Seven Pastels on the St Bavo Organ, Haarlem, Netherlands on June 14th 2008  
Arjen Leistra is organist at the Grote Kerk St Janskerk, Schiedam (Flentrop)

His website is <http://home.kpn.nl/arle27>

No 1 The Soul of the lake <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFVsnCnR3U8&feature=related>

No 2 Landscape in Mist <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-5z-5DPzjw&feature=related>

No 3 The Legend of the Lake <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uIXVkq7TDo&feature=related>

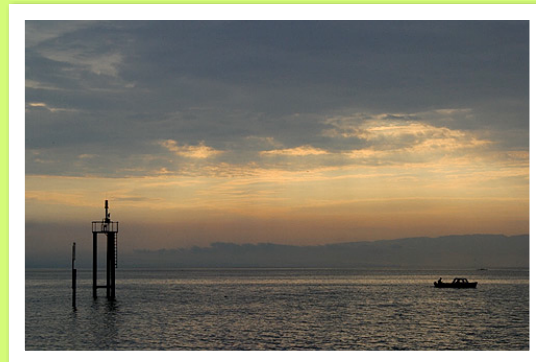
No 4 Reed-grown Waters <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0qAz0Pc5lg>

No 5 The Sun's Evensong [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y\\_L9l3WKB\\_s&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_L9l3WKB_s&feature=related)

No 6 The Mirrored Moon <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53z2e-56Utk&feature=related>

No 7 Hymn to the Stars <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xJ57Odo7L4&feature=related>

**Lake Constance** (German: *Bodensee*) is a freshwater lake on the Rhine at the northern foot of the Alps in Switzerland. It was formed by the Rhine Glacier during the ice age.



Roland Zumbühl <sup>a</sup>Picswiss)

## PARTY TIME

**14 Saturday**

6.30 pm sharp! #



1 pm - 6 pm



**15 Sunday**

2.00 pm

### OMSS 60th Anniversary Celebration Banquet

1950 - 2010

St Stephen's Uniting Church, Sydney Chorale Fantasia (Leonard Bell)

**Guest of Honour: Dr Gordon Stewart (UK) Celebrated organist, conductor and raconteur  
Ferguson Hall**

RSVP (31st July)

Book Online \$55pp (incl.wine/soft drinks)

<http://www.trybooking.com/FDH>

*Special Umbrella Event celebrating  
the 200th Birthday of SS Wesley.*

Come and sing *Wesley in E* and *The Wilderness* at  
**St James' King, Street Sydney.**

1pm Rehearsal

3.15 pm "The musical Wesleys: From Charles to Samuel  
Sebastian"

with Guest Speaker Professor M Horsburgh

4 pm Afternoon Tea

5 pm Evensong

Booking is essential

Contact Warren [music@sjks.org.au](mailto:music@sjks.org.au)

(02) 8227 1306

Then come along to the OMSS Celebration Dinner just around the  
corner at St Stephen's.



**Hymn Festival** with organ, brass, choir and congregation  
directed by **Dr Gordon Stewart**

(of BBC "Songs of Praise" fame )

St Stephen's, Macquarie St, Sydney

Retiring offering and afternoon tea.

## YOUNG ORGANISTS

**20 June Sunday**

**1.30 pm**

**Selected HDOMS students  
perform at the Sydney  
Opera House as part of  
the Suzuki Anniversary  
Gala Concert.**

**24 June Thursday**

**1.10 pm**

**St Andrew's Cathedral  
Andrej Kouznetsov**

**30 June Wednesday**

**1.15 pm**

**St James' King Street  
Andrej Kouznetsov**

**8 July Thursday**

**1.10 pm**

**St Andrew's Cathedral  
Frank Tamsitt**

**25 July Sunday**

**3 pm \$\$**

**Wesley Uniting Church  
Forrest, ACT  
Jessica Lim  
Victor Matthews  
Marko Sever  
Edith Yam**

**29 July Thursday**

**1.10 pm**

**St Andrew's Cathedral  
Jonathan Hope  
Organ Scholar RCM  
London**

**27 August Friday**

**1.10 pm**

**St Stephen's  
Macquarie St Sydney  
David Tagg**

## Competitions and concerts

[www.sydneyorgan.com](http://www.sydneyorgan.com)

**Download the latest  
complete concert  
schedule**

**Finals of the OMSS  
Sydney Organ Competition**

**Friday 13 August**

**St Patrick's Cathedral  
Parramatta 7pm**

**Junior and Intermediate  
Competition**

**Sat 9 October**

**Junior Section - 10.30am  
Sydney Grammar School**

**Intermediate Section  
Pitt Street Uniting Church  
Starting time depends on the  
number of entries  
in the Junior Section.**

**Sarah Kim  
is in town!**

**5 Thursday August 7 pm**

**Our Lady of the Rosary, Waitara  
Students \$10**

**15 Sunday August 3 pm**

**Wesley Uniting Church, ACT \$\$**

**22 Sunday August 2pm**

**Christ Church St Laurence**

**25 Wednesday August**

**1.15pm**

**St James' King Street \$5**



## Join In!

If you have a concert or  
event that you'd like to  
advertise, or have an idea  
for an interesting article,  
please let us know.



Download entry forms and  
rules for the Sydney Organ  
Competition

[www.sydneyorgan.com](http://www.sydneyorgan.com)

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[godelieve@notjustnotes.com.au](mailto:godelieve@notjustnotes.com.au)

**SSOA**

**Sydney Summer  
Organ Academy**

**Don't miss out!**

