

YOUTH Enewsletter

Winter 2013
Edition 19

ORGAN MUSIC SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

- Youth News
- Recitals and Competitions
- Let's go English and meet Kenneth Leighton

Colin Andrew's on Kenneth Leighton at a recent lecture-recital in Sydney: "His music tends toward the cerebral; he favoured the chromatic and tonal characteristics of Hindemith's harmony and counterpoint and the poly-tonality and rhythmic invention of Bartok. His organ works are among the most skillfully crafted and exciting of all 20th C British repertoire."

Biography; AMEB; Plenty of YouTubes to get to know him . . .

- Timeline of English Organ Composers

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



Editor

Godelieve Ghavalas

OMSS Committee Member

godelieve@omss.org.au

YOUTH NEWS

Brandon Sullivan performs at French Music Festival

Brandon Sullivan (10), a student of Jan-Piet Knijff in Armidale, recently performed Charpentier's Prelude to the Te Deum at *La Française: A Festival of French Music in Australia's New England*. Brandon played the authentic Armidale Willis and, despite his young age, managed Charpentier's original bass part in the pedals, quavers and all. Brandon previously performed Dvořák's *Humoresque* at the Brahms-Dvořák in Armidale (November 2012), on which occasion he also gave a quick rendering of Bach's Toccata in D minor (BWV 565). Brandon studies piano with Deborah Griffith and violin with Sofia Debus. He won the Peter Allan Society Junior Encouragement Award for piano at the Armidale Eisteddfod 2013.



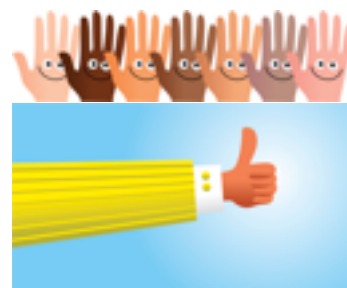
Armidale's youngest organist Brandon Sullivan (10) playing the Armidale Willis.



Jan-Piet Knijff interviews Armidale's youngest organist, Brandon Sullivan, after his performance on June 23.

Latest exam results - Congratulations, and onto the next exciting pieces!

Lauren Giddy – Grade 8 – Honours
James Horsley – Grade 8 – Credit
Qifan Xiao – Grade 8 – Credit
Yi Ern Lai – Grade 7 – Credit
Benjamin Anderson – Grade 5 – Pass
Sebastian Anderson – Grade 5 – Pass





On the 9th June the **students of David Clark at the Avondale Memorial Organ School** were given a Master class by Melbourne organist, Jennifer Chou, following her recital at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle. Photo: Jennifer with Caleb Cho at the Memorial Church organ. Photo: David Clark

Thursday, June 27, students from the Avondale Memorial Organ School and Newcastle Conservatorium gave a recital at St Andrews Cathedral as part of the Rising Stars Series. Photo: Trevor Walker

Edith Yam flies to Europe to compete

The Gottfried Silbermann organ competition is a biennial event paying tribute to the great Saxon organ builder. In the course of the three rounds, competitors play on number of significant Silbermann organs in Freiberg and Dresden. The set repertoire for the competition is mainly Baroque, with the exception of a few pieces. Learning eighteen pieces in a short amount of time is one thing, but to consistently practise each piece is definitely the challenge. I certainly was not expecting to make it past the qualifying round, so I feel very lucky to be invited to compete. My thanks go out to family and friends for always supporting me, and of course to Philip Swanton my teacher.



RECITALS

Thursday 11 July	1.10pm	St Andrew's Cathedral Andrew Bainbridge (SSOA 2010) St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart
Tuesday 16 July	12.30pm	Sydney Town Hall Oliver Brett (SSOA 2010) St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney
Sunday 21 July	2.00pm	Christ Church St Laurence Jeremy Woodside with guest artist David Tagg LEIGHTON DUET
Sunday 21 July	4.00pm	St Mary's Cathedral David Tagg
Friday 26 July	1.10pm	St Stephen's Macquarie St Jeremy Woodside
Thursday 1 August	1.10pm	St Andrew's Cathedral Joshua Ryan
Thursday 22 August	1.10pm	St Andrew's Cathedral Oscar Smith
Thursday 29 August	1.10pm	St Andrew's Cathedral Sarah Kim (Paris)

Jeremy Woodside and David Tagg Duo
Come and hear the Leighton duet "Martyrs"
Christ Church St Laurence
21 July at 2pm

See next page for their comments on the duet.

SILENT MOVIES

Saturday 20 July	3.00pm	Epping Baptist Church Cliff Bingham (SSOA 2012) - Silent Film Students \$20
Saturday 27 July	7.30pm	Marrickville Town Hall David Bailey - Silent Movie \$30 STUDENTS ARE FREE

More recitals: www.omss.org.au

Practise just three verses of a hymn and be in the running for prizes of \$100, \$200 and \$300. *Players wanted for the masterclass with Peter Jewkes.*

Saturday 3 August

Closing Date Monday 22 July

Details www.omss.org.au



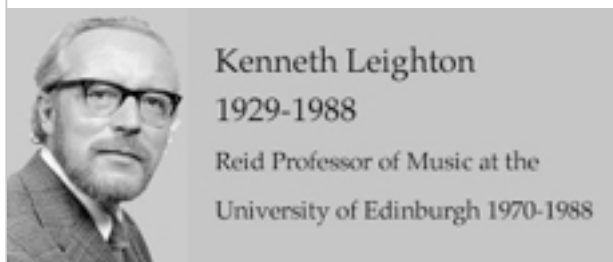
Sydney Organ Competition

Monday 7th October

Closing Date Monday 9th September

Enter on-line: www.omss.org.au

Kenneth Leighton's Organ Music



Most of the material for this article came from the website for The Reid School of Music <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/edinburgh-college-art/music/resources/kenneth-leighton-trust/biography>

Having attended Colin Andrew's lecture on British Music at St Philip's, Sydney in April, I became a little more interested in the music of Kenneth Leighton, one of the leading post war British composers. I found that he was the one composer that stood out and was interested in hearing some of the music again.

Short Biography

Born in Wakefield, Yorkshire in 1929, he became a chorister at the Cathedral in 1938. At the age of 17 he gained his LRAM in piano. He then went to Queen's College, Oxford studying a double degree in the Classics and Music. It was here that he studied the art of imitative counterpoint and fugue. In his final year he won the Mendelssohn Scholarship for his Symphony for Strings Opus 3 and a cantata Hippolytus.

The scholarship entitled him to study with Goffredo Petrassi (1904 - 2003) in Italy. Petrassi was considered to be one of the most influential composers of the 20th Century and a teacher. His works are neo-classical in style and influences of Bartok, Hindemith and Stravinsky can be seen. Here Leighton was introduced to the music of Schoenberg, Webern and Berg and Kenneth's later works became far more chromatic showing the influences of Serialism. In 1956 he won the Busoni prize for composition.

Having had an upbringing in the Anglican Choral tradition certainly influenced his style as did the music of Vaughan Williams (1872 - 1958), Britten (1913 - 1976) and (Walton 1902 - 1983).

He went back to England and worked his way up to the top at the Edinburgh University from lecturer in 1956, senior lecturer in 1963 to Reid Professor of music from 1970 until his death in 1988.

Quick Quiz: Name two other composers taught by Petrassi

- Peter Maxwell Davies
- Ennio Morricone - Famous for Gabriel's Oboe (The Mission).

Of course the very next step nowadays in exploring composers and their music is YouTube and I would like to invite you to spend some time listening to his music.

Kenneth composed a wide variety of musical forms often for specific occasions or performers, and his best known works include Anglican church music, choral music and piano music. His single most widely known piece is "Lully, Lulla, Thou Little Tiny Child," Op. 25b, his setting of the Coventry Carol which he composed as a student in 1948.

Here it is sung by King's College Choir Cambridge under the baton of **Stephen Cleobury**.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmZ83E_aIKU

Must be famous!
Shore School
Friday 2 August
7.30pm

Doing an AMEB Exam - Why not play Leighton?

Grade 5 AMEB - FANFARE (1966)

Commissioned by OUP for the album Easy Modern Organ Music Duration: c3 minutes

Publisher: OUP

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKQ_08D7yxo

Carson Cooman, organ

Grade 8 AMEB - PAEAN (1966)

Commissioned by OUP for Book 2 of Modern Organ Music Duration: 4.5 minutes

1st perf: London, Royal Festival Hall, January 25 1967; Simon Preston, at a recital to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Organ Club.

Publisher: OUP

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0Wj4cyKI2c>

Paeon performed by Lyndon Hills on the organ of Preston Minster, Lancashire UK

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiuB6Vy3RAE>

Paeon - York Minster Richard McVeigh

Phrases describing some stylistic features of Leighton's music:

- specific chords and intervals give the piece it's structure
- parallel triadic harmonies; tension between major and minor thirds; rich harmonies
- considerable use of chromaticism; grating dissonances; tone clusters
- carefully wrought counterpoint; sinuous chromatic lines
- strong passionate lyricism
- use of hymns tunes as source material
- rhythmic drive, rhythmic motifs
- variety of textures and colours



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8xmDyRiajs>

An unofficial video to mark the 20th anniversary of the death of British composer, Kenneth Leighton. And the first time his anthem '**Let all the world in every corner sing**' has appeared on YouTube! The video contains images of Leighton himself, and the church of St Matthew's in Northampton for whom this piece was commissioned in 1965. The choir singing on this recording is St Paul's Cathedral, London. It's a recording directed by John Scott and dates, I think, from the 1980's. I wasn't too sure at first, but the stupendous final blast on the '**Royal en chamade Trumpets**' at the West End, convinced me. These high pressure reeds were installed in time for the 1977 jubilee celebrations and were used for the first time at a service attended by the **Queen** to celebrate this event.

Apparently the volume was not appreciated!





Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani Op 58 (1970)

John Scott BBC National Orchestra of Wales, directed by Richard Hickox; Chandos 10461

... unobtrusively skillful balance between its language (adventurously chromatic but fundamentally tonal; sombrely, at times poignantly expressive) and its taut and ingenious but always functional, always dramatic form ... it has one of the qualities of a masterpiece; the ability to insist on further hearings ...

Gramophone: November, 1984

1. Lament

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxyqY75vErg>

2. Toccata

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-8EY70HqCo>

3. Chorale and Variations

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vs8zdd10aho>

Novello (score and parts on hire—study score on sale Cat No 090528, Solo part: 090528)



Which other composer wrote a Concerto for Organ Strings and timpani?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csP0TdyP7fQ>

Concerto for Organ, Strings, and Timpani in G Minor Francis Poulenc (1938).

Dame Gillian Weir - organist

City of London Sinfonia - conducted by Richard Hickox.

From the program notes: ... "The reawakening of his deep Catholic faith and his discovery of the poetry of Paul Eluard had given Poulenc the impetus to write, unashamedly, about the love of God and the love of man. Although the organ concerto is not, strictly speaking, a religious work, there is throughout its many changing moods a very personal fervor and commitment. The concerto is conceived in a single movement as a controlled improvisation in the manner of a fantasia by Buxtehude."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CyVm58fCyg>

K. Volostnov, organ; A. Levin, conductor

Great Hall of Moscow Conservatoire



Hear the Leighton Duet - Come to CCSL recital 21/7 2pm

Jeremy Woodside and David Tagg play Martyrs

MARTYRS (Dialogues on a Scottish Psalm-tune) Opus 73 (1976) - Commissioned by the Organ Club for its 50th anniversary with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain. Duration: c12 minutes
1st performed in Westminster Abbey, London: July 15 1976
Stephen Cleobury and Nicholas Cleobury

Stephen will be in town! In SYDNEY!!!

Come and hear Stephen play!
Shore School Chapel, North Sydney
August 2 at 7.30pm

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wdrmq0cyG_g

Barry Rose interviews Stephen Cleobury on choir training!



Kenneth was not an organist, but was a highly regarded virtuoso pianist. These skills certainly helped when writing for the organ. He was interested in the architectural possibilities of the organ and the variety of colours and textures it could create.

This is the first piece of Leighton I have played. I wasn't really taken with the piece when I first heard it but since starting to learn it I'm really enjoying it. It is based on a Scottish psalm which weaves throughout the piece. It has some great moments in it with some exciting rhythmic patterns - David

I really, really love Leighton's music - it's so stark, dramatic and energetic. I thought I'd programme it in my next recital as not many people would know it, and it's suited well to the CCSL organ. I heard it a number of years ago in a recital in the UK, and also played the last bit of it with a friend in a service in Christchurch NZ before I moved over here. I also like having "guest performers", so I thought I'd ask David if he'd like to play it with me. I have quite a bit of Leighton's music, both organ and choral - Jeremy



WOW!

... Leighton is a composer of considerable importance and appeal ... makes the unacquainted listener sit up and take notice at once ... yet there is sufficient depth to the music that repeated listening does not make the effect pall.

Hi-Fi News: December, 1989

Typical Exam question:

Which other English Organ Composers lived around the same time?

English Organ Composers

Organist	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Yes	Charles Parry 1848 - 1918																
Yes	Charles Stanford 1852 - 1924																
Yes		Edward Elgar 1857 - 1934															
Yes		Basil Harwood 1859 - 1949															
Yes		Alfred Hollins 1865 - 1942															
Yes		Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872 - 1958															
Yes		Edward Bairstow 1874 - 1946															
Yes		Frank Bridge 1879 - 1941															
Yes		John Ireland 1879 - 1962															
Yes		Healey Willan 1880 - 1968															
Yes		Harold Darke 1888 - 1976															
Yes		Herbert Howells 1892 - 1963															
Yes		Arthur Bliss 1891 - 1975															
Yes		Alec Rowley 1892 - 1958															
Yes		Gordon Jacob 1895 - 1984															
Yes		George Thalben Ball 1896 - 1987 (Born Sydney)															
Yes		Eric Thiman 1900 - 1975															
Yes		Percy Whitlock 1903 - 1946															
Yes		Lennox Berkeley 1903 - 1989															
Yes		Francis Jackson 1917 -															
Yes		Arthur Wills 1926 -															
NO		Kenneth Leighton 1929 - 1988															
Yes		Peter Hurford 1930 -															
Yes		Malcolm Williamson 1931 - 2003 (Born in Sydney)															
Yes		Alan Ridout 1934 - 1996															
Yes		William Mathias 1934 - 1992															
Yes		Peter Maxwell Davies 1934 -															
Yes		Colin Mawby 1936 -															
Yes		Philip Moore 1943 -															
Yes		Malcolm Archer 1952 -															



Herbert Howells 1892 - 1963

Most popular English composer on the AMEB/Trinity exam syllabus

Herbert Howells

Other listed composers

Hurford, Ireland, Whitlock, Thalben-Ball, Vaughan-Williams, Bridge, Mathias and Pott.

