

# Adrian Lucas



*“Organ Extravaganza”*

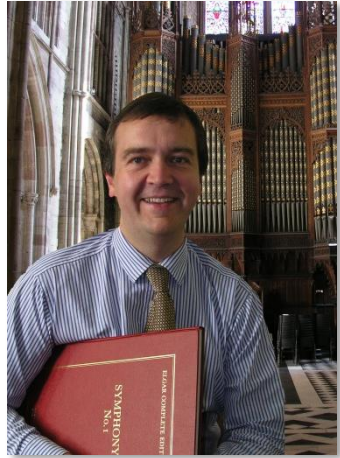
Southend High School for Boys  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014, 7:30pm



**The Old Southendian  
Organ Society (OSOS)**



**Adrian Lucas** first played the organ at the age of 10 and studied with Nicholas Danby at the Royal College of Music and with Dr George Guest at St John's College, Cambridge. He went on to hold a sequence of postings in Cathedrals, including Salisbury, Norwich, Portsmouth and Worcester, before leaving to enjoy the more varied experience of freelance playing and conducting. During this time, he was also Artistic Director of the Worcester Three Choirs Festival, external examiner for the Royal Academy of Music and the Birmingham Conservatoire, and a regular contributor to BBC radio and TV.



Over the course of his career, he has performed across most of Europe, much of the United States and Australia, appeared on international television and given live and recorded performances on radio. UK venues have included St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey in London, the Royal Festival Hall and the Royal Albert Hall, Symphony Hall, Birmingham and the Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool, while abroad the great churches of St Ouen, Rouen, France, St John the Divine, New York, and Melbourne Cathedral in Australia sit alongside the Sydney Opera House. In 2014, he has started to work with *Cor Videns*, an inspirational choir of youngsters rescued from life on the streets of Medellin, Colombia and will be returning there again in 2015.

As well as running his own recording company, *Acclaim Productions Ltd*, Adrian now maintains a busy life as a conductor with the City of Birmingham Choir, and an international examiner for ABRSM, both for classical and jazz studies. He plays in orchestral and chamber music, directs singing and orchestral workshops and summer courses, and thoroughly enjoys exploring as wide a range of music as possible.

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*Refreshments will be served this evening in the Pavilion (out the east side of the Main Hall) during the interval.*

*If you are interested in more information on the organ, including specification and historical detail, or would like a tour of the organ and the organ chamber, do speak with one of us and we would be happy to help.*

## Programme

*Processional* - William Mathias

*Two Medieval Dances* - Thomas Tomkins

I. A Sad Pavane (for these distracted times) – 2. Worcester Brawls

*Deux chansons* - Edward Elgar

transcribed for organ by Patricia Bird

I. Chanson de nuit – 2. Chanson de matin

*Fantasia in F minor and major* - W.A. Mozart

*Suite from Henry V* - William Walton

transcribed for organ by Robert Gower and Henry Ley

I. March – 2. Passacaglia – 3. Touch her soft lips and part – 4. March

Interval (20 minutes)

*Toccata and Fugue in D minor* - J.S. Bach

*Mozart Changes* - Zsolt Gardonyi

*Vocalise* - Sergei Rachmaninov

transcribed for organ by Patricia Bird

Movements from *Fiesta* - Iain Farrington

Conversations – Nocturne – Finale

*Novelette in fourths* - George Gershwin

transcribed for organ by Adrian Lucas

*Final (from Symphonie I)* - Louis Vierne

## About The Old Southendian Organ Society

The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS) was set up to protect and enhance the future of the War Memorial Organ at Southend High School for Boys.

We aim to assist the School, alongside the Old Southendian Association, in supporting current pupils with their organ endeavours, and further enhance the opportunities available to them through the friendly community of past organists of the School and Old Boys. Our first appearance was in September in the OSA Arts Club Showcase, and tonight marks our first solo appearance, in which we are delighted to have our President Adrian back to perform.

## The Southend High School for Boys War Memorial Organ

The organ was gifted to the school in 1923 by the Old Southendians in memory of staff and ex-pupils lost in the Great War. Installed in the Victoria Circus building, it was transferred here in 1938 but blown to pieces two years later by a World War Two bomb, having to wait until 1953 before restoration by its builders, Hill Norman & Beard, who added a Pedal Open Diapason to the nine original stops.

Maintenance over the next 45 years remained with that company, whose long-serving tuner, Reg Lane, substituted a Fifteenth for the Great Dulciana and added a Mixture to the Swell. When Hill, Norman & Beard closed in 1998, the school invited Gerald Usher (Music staff) to take care of the instrument, tune it and service it. In 2002 pupils Jonathan Roberts and Greg Tucker persuaded the school to acquire two redundant church organs, bringing a vast store of pipes, mechanisms, spare parts - and an incentive to use them!

Since then Gerald, assisted by senior pupils, has added five ranks of pipes, which now number 900 (almost double the original tally of 497), providing many extra tone colours and a substantial increase in power. Not only is the instrument regularly used by staff, pupils and ex-pupils, they also maintain it and have formed the Old Southendian Organ Society to safeguard its future. Pipe organs in schools are rare in Britain but ours is totally unique in being cared for exclusively by generations of student players.



## Join OSOS Tonight for Free

Please do sign up tonight at one of the tables indicated to receive your membership card and regular updates on OSOS activities and events. Visit [www.osos.org.uk](http://www.osos.org.uk) for more information, and like **The Old Southendian Organ Society** on Facebook!