



# LEEDS LUNCHTIME ORGAN MUSIC 2025/26

Mondays at 1.15pm  
Leeds Cathedral

# LEEDS LUNCHTIME ORGAN MUSIC



Darius Battiwalla

A very warm welcome to the 2025/26 Leeds Lunchtime Organ Music series. This is the fifth series kindly hosted by Leeds Cathedral. We're hugely grateful to them for all their help, support and warm welcome over the last few years.

Our 2025/26 series welcomes recitalists from the USA, Norway, and France, as well as superb musicians from our own minster and cathedral here in Leeds. Repertoire highlights include landmark pieces by Franz Liszt and Maurice Duruflé, alongside much lighter music and jazz-influenced pieces too.

We value your support enormously, both as enthusiastic audience members and through your donations, which play a huge part in supporting this series. Help us spread the word and keep live music accessible to everyone!

**Darius Battiwalla**  
Leeds City Organist

All concerts are on Mondays, 1.15pm at Leeds Cathedral. No booking required, simply turn up and enjoy the music!



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### MON 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

**DARIUS BATTIWALLA**  
Leeds City Organist

**Johann Sebastian Bach**  
Fantasia & Fugue in G minor, BWV 542

**Alfred Hollins** Intermezzo  
**Cécile Chaminade** Pierrette (Air de ballet)

**Alexandre Guilmant** Sonata No 1

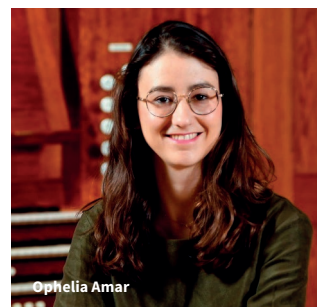
Many organists would pick Johann Sebastian Bach's 'great G minor' as perhaps his outstanding organ work, with its richly chromatic Fantasia followed by a fugue which brings all his ingenuity to a tuneful and memorable subject. After lighter pieces by Alfred Hollins and Cécile Chaminade, the recital ends with Alexandre Guilmant's energetic and colourful first sonata.

### MON 22 SEPTEMBER 2025

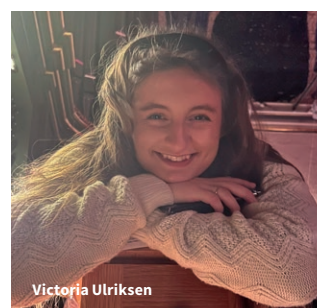
**JAMES MITCHELL**  
Organist and Head of Keyboard Studies, Sheffield Cathedral

**Louis Vierne**  
Symphonie I (complete)

Originally from Devon, James Mitchell was appointed organist of Sheffield Cathedral after holding posts in Cambridge and Gloucester. An award-winning composer as well as a busy recitalist, his programme provides a rare chance to hear a complete performance of Louis Vierne's *Première Symphonie*. More of a suite than a symphony, a varied sequence of movements precedes its famous finale.



Ophelia Amar



Victoria Ulriksen

### MON 29 SEPTEMBER 2025

**VICTORIA ULRIKSEN**  
Oslo

**Johann Sebastian Bach**  
Concerto in the Italian Style, BWV 971

**Edvard Grieg** 4 Norwegian Dances: *Allegro moderato*

**Gerard Bunk** Legende, Op 29

**Maurice Duruflé** Suite for Organ: *Toccata*

Although still a student in Leipzig, Victoria Ulriksen already has a busy schedule of international recitals. She gave her debut recital aged fifteen in Oslo Cathedral and has opened the Salzburg festival four times. Her programme includes a Johann Sebastian Bach arrangement by her teacher, Martin Schmeding, and finishes with one of the landmarks of 20th century French repertoire, Maurice Duruflé's *Toccata*.



James Gough

### MON 6 OCTOBER 2025

**OPHELIA AMAR**  
London

**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor**  
Impromptu, Op 78, No 1

**Johann Sebastian Bach** Prelude & Fugue in D minor, BWV 539

**Joséphine Boulay** 3 Pièces: *Prélude, Andante, Fugue*

**Gaston Litaize** 12 Pièces: *Lamento*

**Franz Liszt** Prelude & Fugue on BACH

Ophelia Amar is a French-British musician based in London and is an active performer both in France and the UK. A recent graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, where she won several prizes, she has performed recently at King's College Cambridge, St George's Hanover Square, and St Albans Cathedral. Her programme reflects her interest in music from the early to mid-20th century, finishing with one of the most popular organ works of the 19th, Franz Liszt's showpiece homage to Johann Sebastian Bach.

Please note, there is no recital on Monday 13 October

### MON 20 OCTOBER 2025

**JAMES GOUGH**  
Assistant Organist, Southwark Cathedral

**Gustav Holst** The Planets: *Mars*  
**Camillo Schumann** Sonata No 6: *iii Andante Cantabile*

**Johann Sebastian Bach**  
The Musical Offering: *Ricercar à 6*

**César Franck** Fantaisie in A  
**David Bednall** Fantasia on *Thaxted*

James Gough has recorded and performed extensively both in the UK and abroad, including a recent recording of Johann Sebastian Bach's complete Trio Sonatas. He is particularly committed to performing new works and has given premieres of pieces by several composers, including David Bednall whose fantasia on Gustav Holst's hymn tune *Thaxted* finishes this programme in grand romantic style. Holst opens the programme with *Mars*, perhaps his most immediately recognisable piece.

### MON 27 OCTOBER 2025

**DARIUS BATTIWALLA**  
Leeds City Organist

**Mikhail Glinka** Overture: *Ruslan and Lyudmila*

**Johann Sebastian Bach**  
Trio Sonata No 5 in C, BWV 529  
**Edward Elgar** Organ Sonata No 1

Today's concert includes a complete performance of Edward Elgar's *Sonata in G*; originally composed for the organ of Worcester Cathedral, its orchestral style is perfectly suited to the Romantic colours and voicing of Leeds Cathedral's organ. Mikhail Glinka's exuberant overture and Johann Sebastian Bach's most joyful trio sonata complete the programme.





**MON 3 NOVEMBER 2025**

## JAMES HICKS USA

**Peeter Süda** Prelude  
**Páll Ísólfsón** Burlesca  
**Väinö Haapalainen** Uni (Dream)  
**Sigrid Karg-Elert**  
 Partita retrospectiva III:  
*Finale alla Solfeggio*  
**Andrzej Szadejko** Passacaglia  
 con thema Buxtehude  
**Fredrik Sixten** Three Preludes  
 from Nordic Organ Book  
**Andreas Willscher**  
 Orgelsymphonie No 10 *In Blue*:  
*No Name Bossa*;  
*Blues Melancolique*  
**Mons Leidvin Takle** Who Can Tell  
**Oscar Peterson** Hymn to  
 Freedom

James Hicks has performed in the USA, Europe, New Zealand, and Australia and has made sixteen recordings over the last 20 years. He's acclaimed for his performances of Nordic organ music, and today presents a wide-ranging and varied programme drawn from that repertoire. His concert falls into three parts: first romantic and impressionistic pieces, then much newer music, finishing with music inspired by jazz and blues styles.



**MON 17 NOVEMBER 2025**

## DARIUS BATTIWALLA Leeds City Organist

**Richard Wagner** Overture:  
*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*  
**Charles-Marie Widor**  
 Bach's Memento: *Pastorale*  
**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**  
 Adagio & Fugue, K 546  
**Felix Mendelssohn**  
 Organ Sonata No 6

**Franz Schmidt** Hallelujah  
 Prelude & Fugue

The German organ tradition is featured in today's concert, though here Johann Sebastian Bach is seen through the eyes of a Frenchman. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Adagio and Fugue*, originally for piano duet, is a contrapuntal tour de force to rival Bach; it's followed by Felix Mendelssohn's final organ sonata, with its serene and lyrical conclusion, and Franz Schmidt's *Hallelujah* Prelude and Fugue.



**MON 10 NOVEMBER 2025**

## SHANNA HART

Director of Music,  
 St Botolph-without-Aldgate

**Franz Liszt** Two Legends:  
*St Francis of Assisi Preaching to the Birds*

**Rachel Laurin** Five Short Pieces:  
*A Bird in the Church (Prayer to St Francis); The Talkative bird*  
**Camille Saint-Saëns**  
 Carnival of the Animals:  
*The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods*

**Franz Liszt** Fantasia on *Ad nos, ad salutarem undam*

Shanna Hart, Director of Music at St Botolph-without-Aldgate, London, and Assistant Organist at Homerton and Selwyn Colleges, performs regularly as a recitalist and recording artist. The main work in the programme, Franz Liszt's monumental Fantasia on *Ad nos* is preceded by three pieces with an ornithological connection, including her own arrangement of Camille Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*.

**MON 24 NOVEMBER 2025**

## ALEXANDER WOODROW

Organist and Director of Music,  
 Leeds Minster

**Charles Villiers Stanford**  
 Prelude & Fugue in C minor

**Andrew Carter** Aria  
**Aleksandr Glazunov**  
 Fantaisie, Op 110

**Amy Beach** Prelude on an  
 Old Folk Tune

**Simon Lindley** Echo Rondel  
**Jean Langlais** Triptyque

Alex Woodrow is a distinguished recitalist who has broadcast regularly on BBC radio and television. Before taking up the post of Director of Music at Leeds Minster in 2020, he worked at the cathedrals of Guildford, St Albans, and Bradford. It's a particular pleasure to hear him include a piece by his predecessor at Leeds Minster and long-standing Leeds City Organist, the late Dr Simon Lindley.

**MON 1 DECEMBER 2025**

## RNCM BRASS

InSlide Out Trombone Quartet

Join InSlide Out Trombone Quartet from Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music for virtuosic brass music and seasonal items for organ, including carols for all to sing.

**MON 8 DECEMBER 2025**

*Please note the later start time of 1.30pm*

## DARIUS BATTIWALLA Leeds City Organist

**Joseph Jongen** Sonata Eroïca

**Gaston Litaize** 12 Pièces:  
*Intermezzo Pastoral*

**Charles Gounod** Funeral March  
 of a Marionette

**Hedwige Chrétien** Offertoire  
**Marcel Dupré** Variations sur  
 un Noël

Joseph Jongen's Sonata *Eroïca* has one of the most arresting and dramatic openings in the organ repertoire, with its long introduction followed by variations on a folksong-style theme. This mainly French programme concludes with Marcel Dupré's *Variations sur un Noël*, with its short and varied movements providing a kaleidoscopic tour of organ sounds and writing styles.

**MON 15 DECEMBER 2025**

## CHOIRS OF LEEDS CATHEDRAL

(Senior Boys Choir, Senior Girls Choir, Choral Scholars)

**Thomas Leech** conductor  
**Benjamin Newlove** organ

The Choirs of Leeds Cathedral perform Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, together with favourite festive music and audience carols, featuring wonderful young soloists from the choir, harp, and the cathedral's magnificent organ.



**MON 12 JANUARY 2026**

## DR GORDON STEWART

Organist Emeritus,  
 Huddersfield Town Hall

**Noel Rawsthorne** 36 Miniatures:  
*Marche Triomphale*

**Johann Sebastian Bach**  
 Trio in G, BWV 1027a  
 Passacaglia in C minor, BWV 582

**Joseph Haydn** arr **Harry Wall**  
 Scherzando

**Helen Leach** Prelude for a  
 Royal Swan

**Marco Enrico Bossi** Giga

**Andrew Carter** Song Without  
 Words

**Marco Enrico Bossi** 10 Pieces:  
*Toccata di Concerto*

Gordon Stewart returns for his ever popular new year recital. Johann Sebastian Bach's *Passacaglia* forms the centrepiece of a programme which shows the wide range of pieces that always make his programmes so popular and entertaining, from the rousing opening march by Noel Rawsthorne to the final *Toccata* by the Italian virtuoso Marco Enrico Bossi.

**MON 19 JANUARY 2026**

## DARIUS BATTIWALLA Leeds City Organist

**Percy Whitlock** Plymouth Suite  
**Fela Sowande** Kyrie

**Herbert Howells** 6 Pieces:  
*Paean; Master Tallis's Testament*  
**Alfred Hollins** Concert Toccata  
 in B flat

Percy Whitlock's *Plymouth Suite*, composed for an organists' conference in 1939, is one of his most popular works. Like Herbert Hollins' *Toccata*, which closes the recital, it belongs firmly in the concert hall tradition of English organ music. The other works in the programme are more reflective of the church organ tradition, including Fela Sowande's *Kyrie*, based on a Yoruba church melody, showing the influence of his time as organist of Kingsway Hall in London.

**MON 26 JANUARY 2026**

## GEORGE HERBERT London

**Nadia Boulanger** Three pieces

**Kenny Wheeler** Sweet Time

Suite, Part I: *Opening*  
**Julius Reubke** Organ Sonata  
 in C minor (*The 94th Psalm*)

George Herbert is a choral conductor, professional singer, and piano accompanist as well as a prize-winning and widely-recorded organist. He also plays jazz trumpet, an interest reflected today in his own arrangement of a piece by the Canadian trumpeter Kenny Wheeler. The final piece in the programme, the dark and dramatic Sonata on the *94th Psalm*, is one of the most significant organ works of the 19th century.



Simon Hogan



Peter Holder

## MON 16 FEBRUARY 2026

### PETER HOLDER

Organist, Christ Church, Oxford

**William Harris** Flourish for an Occasion

**William Byrd** Pavan and Galliard  
Sir William Petre

**Edward Elgar** Sospiri

**Ralph Vaughan Williams**  
English Folk Song Suite

**Judith Weir** The Tree of Peace

**Iain Farrington**  
Raggle Taggle Tunes

This entirely English programme spans nearly 600 years from William Byrd's *Pavan and Galliard* to Iain Farrington's *Raggle Taggle Tunes*, with its jazz-folk influences. Peter Holder was Westminster Abbey's principal organist from 2017 to 2024, playing for daily services and state occasions. He has given recitals at cathedrals and concert halls across the world, including a solo concert at the 2021 BBC Proms.

## MON 23 FEBRUARY 2026

### DARIUS BATTIWALLA

Leeds City Organist

**César Franck** Choral No 1  
in E major

**Rachel Laurin** Sweelinck  
Variations

**Elfrida Andrée** Organ Symphony  
No 1: *iii Cantabile*

**Percy Grainger** Blithe Bells  
(*Sheep may safely graze*)

**Healey Willan** Introduction,  
Passacaglia and Fugue

Music in the grand Romantic style begins and ends this recital which has a definite international flavour, with music by composers from Canada, Australia, Belgium, and Sweden, where Elfrida Andrée was the first woman to lead a professional orchestra. Rachel Laurin and Percy Grainger provide two very different takes on music by Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck and Johann Sebastian Bach.

## MON 2 MARCH 2026

### DR THOMAS TROTTER

Birmingham City Organist

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**  
Fantasia in F minor

**Percy Whitlock** Five Short Pieces

**Errollyn Wallen** Tiger Collection

**Rudolf Friml** Chanson

**Gioachino Rossini** Overture:  
*The Thieving Magpie*

Thomas Trotter's annual appearances in the Leeds Lunchtime Organ Music series are always keenly anticipated, and this year features a typical mixture of virtuoso showpieces and some interesting lesser-known repertoire, from the charming Chanson of Czech composer Rudlof Friml to Master of the King's Music Errollyn Wallen's ferocious *Tiger Collection*.

## MON 9 MARCH 2026

### BENJAMIN SAUNDERS

Director of Music, Leeds Cathedral

**Benjamin Britten** Simple

Symphony: *Playful Pizzicato*

**Georgi Mushel** Samarkand Suite

**Philip Glass** Mad Rush

**Dick Hyman** Variations on  
Shenandoah

It's a particular privilege to have resident Leeds Cathedral Director of Music Benjamin Saunders playing in the series this year. Benjamin oversaw the design of the cathedral's organ and knows it better than anyone. His recital features a major work by Georgi Mushel, the Soviet composer who became fascinated by the culture of his adopted central Asian home, and begins with Benjamin's own arrangement of Benjamin Britten's *Playful Pizzicato*.

## MON 16 MARCH 2026

### YOUNG PERFORMERS CONCERT

RCO education programme

Our showcase featuring young performers from across the north of England, in conjunction with the Royal College of Organists education programme, has become a regular and popular feature of the lunchtime concerts.

For full programme details please visit [leedsconcertseason.co.uk](https://leedsconcertseason.co.uk).

RCO

## MON 23 MARCH 2026

### WILLIAM FOX

Director of Music,  
St Alban's Cathedral

**Johann Sebastian Bach**  
Nun Danket alle Gott, BWV 657

**Cecilia McDowall** Wo Gott der Herr nicht bei uns halt

**Lionel Rogg** Partita sopra  
Nun freut' Euch

**Paul Spicer** Dreams of Derry  
**Maurice Duruflé** Prélude, Adagio  
et Choral varié sur le thème du  
*Veni Creator*

William began his musical education as a chorister at York Minster. After becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists as a teenager, he was organ scholar and a prizewinning academic scholar at Magdalen College, Oxford. Before taking up his current post at St Albans, he spent six years at St Paul's Cathedral, first as Sub Organist and then as Assistant Director of Music. His programme starts with three chorale-based works and concludes with one of the greatest plainsong-based organ pieces, Maurice Duruflé's *Veni Creator*.



Dr Thomas Trotter



William Fox

## MON 30 MARCH 2026

### DARIUS BATTIWALLA

Leeds City Organist

**Max Reger** Hallelujah!  
Gott zu loben

**Augusta Holmès** Clair de lune

**Johann Sebastian Bach**  
Prelude & Fugue in C minor,  
BWV 546

**Sigfrid Karg-Elert** Rondo alla  
Campanella

**Gerald Finzi** 5 Bagatelles:  
*Forlana*

**Norman Cocker** Tuba Tune

Our final concert concludes exuberantly with Yorkshire composer Norman Cocker's famous *Tuba Tune*, well suited to the cathedral organ. Gerald Finzi's *Forlana*, originally for clarinet and piano, and *Clair de lune* by Augusta Holmès – César Franck's favourite pupil – provide a couple of calm interludes after the grand opening piece, Max Reger's final choral fantasia.

## MON 2 FEBRUARY 2026

### CAROLYN CRAIG

USA and Assistant Director  
of Music, Wells Cathedral

**William Walton** Orb and Sceptre  
**Ad Wammes** Miroir

**César Franck** Choral No 2 in B  
minor

**Jeanne Demessieux**  
7 Méditations sur le Saint Esprit:  
*Lumière*

**Naji Hakim** Gershwin's

Originally from Tennessee, Carolyn Craig is assistant Director of Music at Wells Cathedral, having held organ scholarships at Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral. Her programme presents a wide range of musical styles, from the minimalism of Ad Wammes' *Miroir*, to William Walton's version of Edwardian self-confidence and Naji Hakim's reimagining of George Gershwin. At the centre of the concert is César Franck's *Choral No 2*, an intensely personal and dramatic work with a hushed and serene ending.





## Leeds International Organ Festival 2026

Leeds International Organ Festival's weekly recitals return in summer 2026, featuring the magnificent sounds of Leeds Cathedral's four-manual Klais organ.

Since 2018, Leeds International Organ Festival has brought international artists and diverse music to Leeds. The festival also supports young talent through masterclasses as part of the Diocese of Leeds Keyboard Studies Programme.

For full programme details please visit [leedsiof.org](https://leedsiof.org) or call **0113 244 8634**.

Festival information:

### LEEDS CATHEDRAL

**11 May – 13 July 2026 (excl 25 May)**

Mondays, 1.15pm–2pm

## VENUE ADDRESS

### Leeds Cathedral

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**Wednesdays, 1.05pm  
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Brighten up your Wednesdays between October and April with our free Lunchtime Chamber Music concerts. Drop in for a midweek musical pick-me-up, no ticket required, just great live music from talented chamber musicians.

For more information please contact us or visit [leedsconcertseason.co.uk](https://leedsconcertseason.co.uk).

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