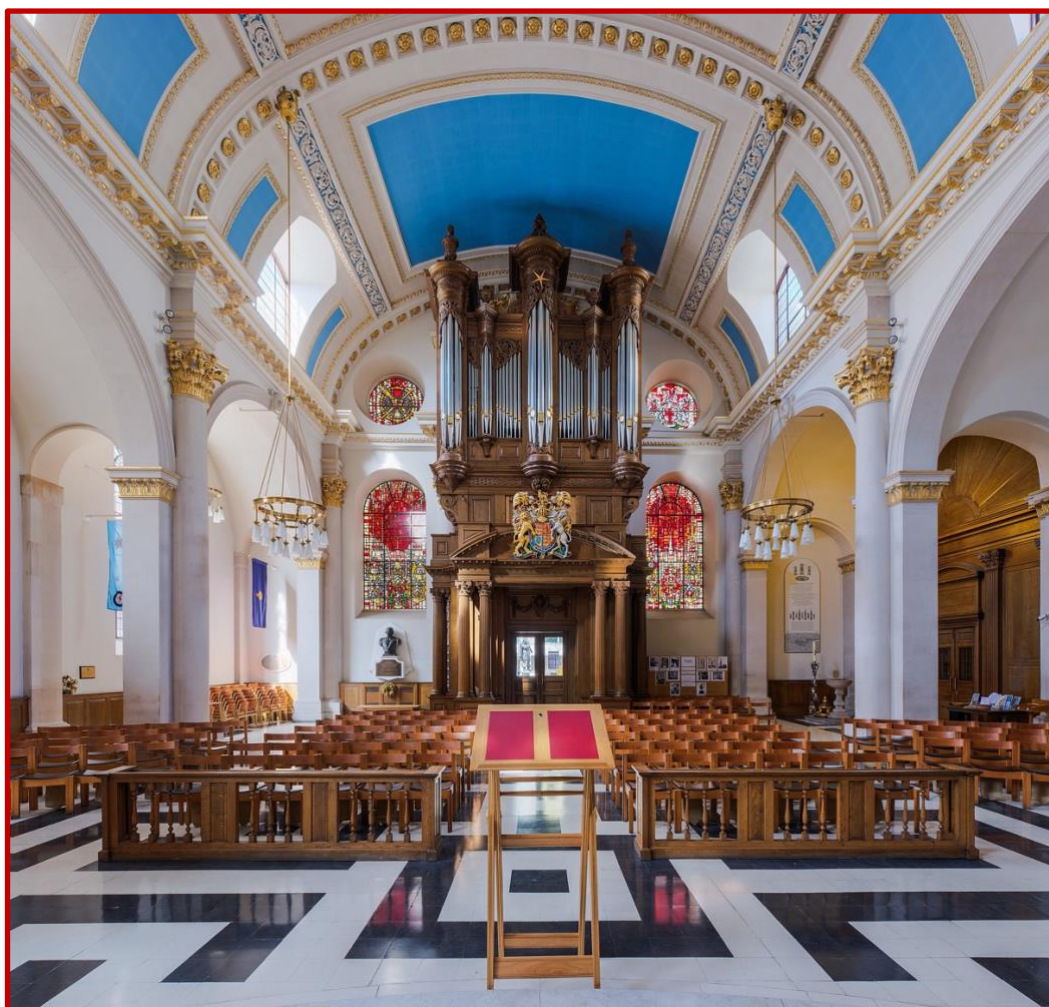


**The
Eric Thompson
Charitable Trust**

**for organists
and organ music**

Organ Recitals – October 2022

Tuesdays 1.00 to 2.00 pm



**St Mary-le-Bow Church
Cheapside, City of London**

**The Eric Thompson Charitable Trust
for
Organists and Organ Music**

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Nicolas Kynaston

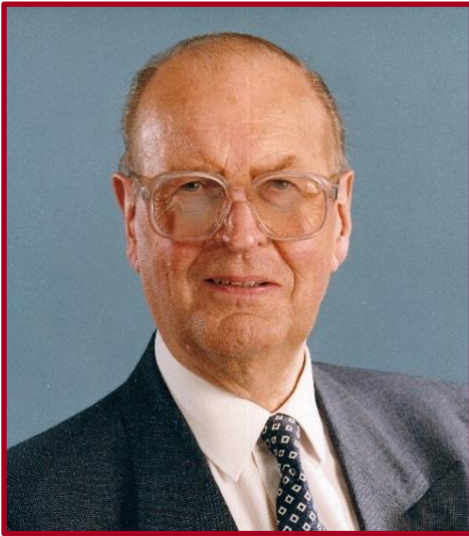
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THE ERIC THOMPSON TRUST



Eric Thompson OBE

The Eric Thompson Trust was established in memory of the late Eric Thompson OBE, who dedicated his life and work to music and musicians.

Eric's interest lay in music administration and, after a period with Boosey & Hawkes, he joined the Arts Council and established himself as a highly regarded senior manager of the Council's various musical programmes.

Always interested in the organ, Eric took care to ensure that the instrument, its players and its repertoire were properly represented in the work of the Arts Council and in concerts arranged by the British Council.

After retiring he became Honorary Secretary of the Royal Philharmonic Society, where he continued to promote the organ and its music, and to support young organists.

In collaboration with the Royal Philharmonic Society the Trust was founded jointly by Eric's widow Dinah Molloy-Thompson and Professor David Titterington. They formed the first Board of Trustees that also included: Paul Patterson, Dr Wilfred Josephs, Geraint Jones and Dame Gillian Weir. Formally launched by a Gala concert in Merchant Taylors' Hall in December 1992, the Trust's initial endowment came from the ensuing donations. The first grants were awarded in 1996.

The Trust's charitable objectives mirror Eric's interests. It provides grants to aspiring professional organists to attend master classes, summer schools, or lessons from a distinguished teacher outside regular study. Through the generosity of Flentrop Orgelbouw, an annual scholarship is also available for a young organist to stay at their Zaandam workshops, learn the rudiments of organ building and take lessons from leading Dutch organists on some of Holland's most famous instruments.

Since it was founded the Eric Thompson Trust has supported over 170 young organists – many of whom now hold prestigious positions in cathedrals, colleges, churches and schools.

The Trustees listed below meet twice a year to review grant applications and to advance the Trust's work:

Angus Baskerville
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Professor David Titterington

1.00pm TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER

Matthew Jorysz

Assistant Organist, Westminster Abbey

Prelude and Fugue in B minor BWV 544

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Pièce Héroïque

César Franck (1822-1890)

Le Jardin Suspendu

Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

Litanies

Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

Prélude et Fugue sur le Nom d'Alain

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)



Matthew Jorysz has been Assistant Organist of Westminster Abbey since January 2016, having been appointed to the position after spending a term as Abbey Organ Scholar. Along with the Sub-Organist, he is responsible for playing the organ for services in the Abbey, accompanying the Abbey Choir, and assisting in conducting the choir and training the choristers.

Before taking up his appointment at Westminster Abbey, Matthew held the Organ Scholarship at Clare College, Cambridge whilst studying for a degree in Music. At Clare, he accompanied and occasionally directed the choir in its schedule of services, concerts, tours, broadcasts and recordings. This included tours of Europe and the USA, broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and several CD recordings, most notably of Duruflé's Requiem.

Prior to commencing his studies in Cambridge, Matthew spent a year as Organ Scholar at Salisbury Cathedral.

In parallel with his work at the Abbey, Matthew is a professional recitalist, performing regularly in the UK and further afield. He is also developing a career as a pianist and chamber musician, collaborating chiefly with singers. His recently released recording of Russian art song with countertenor Hamish McLaren, Sphinx, was selected as editor's choice in *Limelight* magazine, which described him as *...the eloquent pianist throughout, a sensitive accompanist*. This was followed by an EP release of Rubinstein's Persian Love Songs. Recent performances include Messiaen *Poèmes pour Mi*, Britten *Winter Words*, Tippett *Boyhood's End* and Schumann *Dichterliebe*, as well as liturgical performances of two of Britten's *Canticles* at Westminster Abbey.

twitter.com/matthewjorysz

1.00pm TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER

Ourania Gassiou

Organist at French Protestant Church, London, and Athens Concert Hall (Megaron)

Pro Defunctis and Allegro Giocoso No 6 & 7

from Seven Improvisations Op 150

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Wohl dem, der in Gottes Furcht steht

from Orgelbüchlein Project

Simon Johnson (b. 1975)

Von Gott, will ich nicht lassen

from Orgelbüchlein Project

Stephen Hough (b. 1961)

Prelude Op 29 No 1

Gabriel Pierné (1907-1991)

Organ Sonata in C minor Op 65 No 2

1. Grave 2. Adagio 3. Allegro maestoso & vivace 4. Fuga

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1857)

Choral No 3 in A minor

César Franck (1822-1890)



Ourania Gassiou was born in Athens and studied the piano at the Nakas Conservatory and the organ at the Athens Concert Hall.

She is also a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she studied with Nicolas Kynaston.

Whilst at the Academy she received a scholarship from the Onassis Foundation and was awarded several of the major prizes and awards of the Royal Academy of Music, including the Dip RAM, the most prestigious award for an outstanding final recital.

She was also nominated Pidem Organ Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music. Aided by an Eric Thompson

Trust Grant she continued her studies with Johannes Geffert in Cologne and Susan Landale in Paris.

As a soloist and chamber musician, Ourania has performed extensively throughout the UK and Europe in recital series and at major international festivals. Recent appearances have included performances in Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral, St Paul's Cathedral, Altenberg Dom, Riga Cathedral, Copenhagen Cathedral, Basel Münster, Maria Laach Abbey, Barcelona Cathedral, Women of the World Festival (Royal Festival Hall, London), Oundle Festival (UK), and Bratislava Castle, among others.

Ourania has also been a prize winner in the International Organ Competition of Saint-Maurice, Valais, Switzerland, and in the First Mediterranean Piano Competition of Andros, Greece.

In 2011 she was appointed Organist and Curator of the organs of the Athens Concert Hall in Greece and she is also the organist of the French Protestant Church in London.

[facebook.com/ourania.gassiou](https://www.facebook.com/ourania.gassiou)

1.00pm TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER

Ivan Leung

Organ Scholar, Farm Street Church, London

Prelude and Fugue in E minor BWV 548

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Prière Op 20

César Franck (1822-1890)

Allegretto from 4 Skizzen für den Pedalflügel Op 58

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Dankpsalm from 7 Stücke Op 145

Max Reger (1873-1916)



Ivan Leung started playing the organ aged 12 after studying piano aged just 4. First introduced to the organ via the Sacred Music Commission, Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong in 2010, he has since served actively in the diocese and across continents.

In 2019 Ivan gained his Bachelor of Music (BMus) in organ performance at University of British Columbia receiving the dean's list, studying organ with Michael Murray and harpsichord with Alexander Weimann.

He studied at McGill University on an exchange semester in autumn 2018. He participated in the Alkmaar Organ Festival (Netherlands) in 2017, taking part in masterclasses with, among others, Pieter van Dijk, Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin and David Titterington. In 2018 and 2019, he also joined the St. Ouen Masterclass held by Jean-Baptiste Monnot in Rouen, France. In 2022 Ivan received his Masters (MMus) in Organ Performance from the Royal College of Music, London, where he continues to study organ with David Graham and Andy Dewar, and improvisation with Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin for the Artist Diploma.

Ivan plays regularly as a church organist in both the United Kingdom and Hong Kong. He is currently the organ scholar of Farm Street Church in London, and organist at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and Saint Benedict Church in Hong Kong. He is also principal organist of Vox Antiqua, a Catholic choir dedicated to performing quality liturgical music.

As a recitalist, Ivan has performed widely across the United Kingdom, Canada and Hong Kong. He has given recitals in Southwark Cathedral and Temple Church (London), Holy Rosary Cathedral (Vancouver), as well as Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of China Church (Hong Kong).

Ivan Leung shares his passion for the organ through playing as well as composing, for instance his Cantonese setting of Psalm 34 and Nunc Dimittis serve as a contribution to the local liturgical repertoire.

facebook.com/leungivancy

1.00pm TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER

Gabriele Agrimonti

Organist and Artistic Director, The French National Church in Rome

Chorale No 2 in B minor

César Franck (1822-1890)

Iberia Book 1

Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909)

Evocación - El Puerto - Corpus Christi en Sevilla

Organ transcription by Gabriele Agrimonti

Improvisation

Gabriele Agrimonti (b. 1995)



Gabriele Agrimonti was born in 1995 and is an Italian organist based mainly in Paris. He is also Principal Organist and Artistic Director of the French National Church in Rome, Saint-Louis-des-Français, with its historic J. Merklin organ.

His musical education began at the age of 11, graduating in 2016 with a Masters degree cum laude and honor (unanimous jury) at the Parma Conservatory under the supervision of Mario Verdicchio.

At the age of 13 he was sub-principal organist of the Basilica Magistrale di Santa Maria della Steccata in Parma, appointed by the Music Director Ugo Leoni.

In 2016 Gabriele entered the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et Danse, Paris, to study improvisation and composition (écriture) under the guidance of renowned teachers including Thierry Escaich, Laszlo Fassang, Thomas Ospital, Thomas Lacôte, Yves Henri and Olivier Trachier.

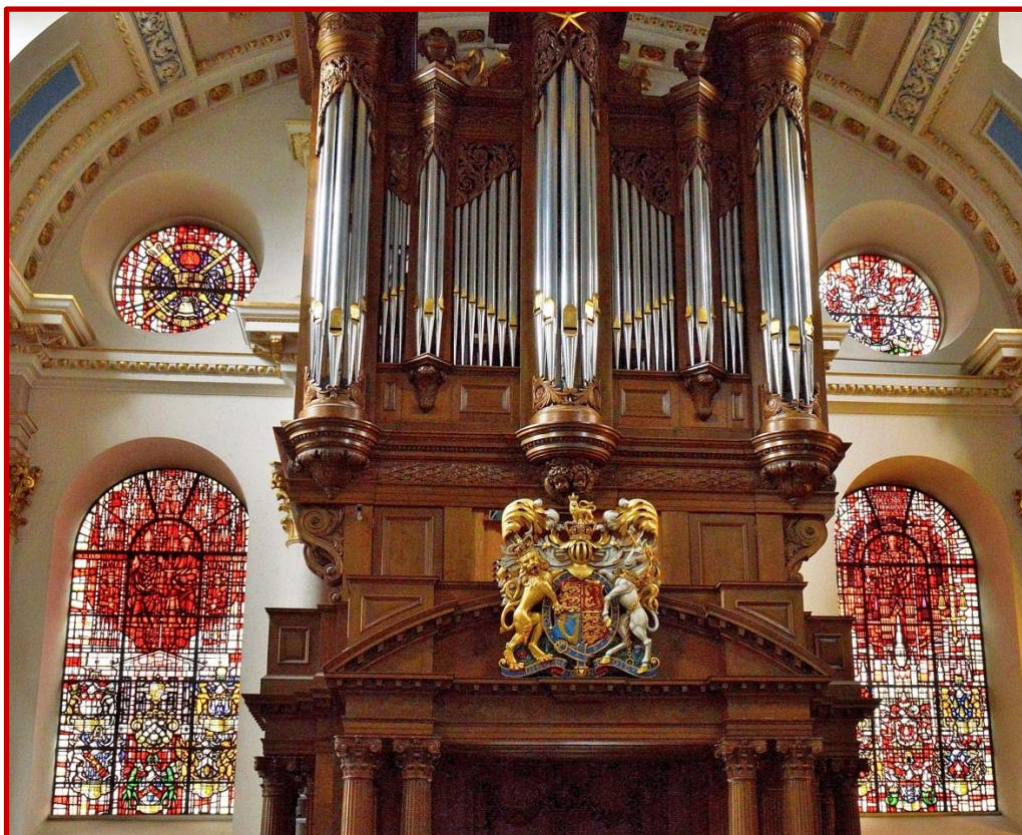
Participation in various masterclasses allowed Gabriele to benefit from the specialist tuition of famed organists such as Olivier Latry, Jean Guillou, Yanka Hékimova, Baptiste-Florian Marle-Ouvrard, Henri-Franck Beaupérin.

Gabriele has won numerous awards from international organ festivals. A unanimous jury awarded him First Prize at the International Improvisation Competition at Haarlem in the Netherlands. This was followed by St Albans (Tournemire Prize), Paris (Grand-Prix d'improvisation Marchal-Litaize) and Strasbourg (Boellmann-Gigout). He also won First Prize and Audience Prize at the Xavier Darasse International Organ Interpretation Competition in Toulouse (Symphonic Organ Category), and Audience Prize and Internet User's Prize at the International Composition Competition at Saint Sulpice, Paris, in 2021.

Gabriele Agrimonti is in the process of developing his international profile as a professional organ recitalist throughout Europe.

[instagram.com/gabriele.agrimonti/](https://www.instagram.com/gabriele.agrimonti/)

Our warmest thanks to The Reverend George R Bush, Rector of St Mary-le-Bow,
and Thomas Allery, Director of Music, for allowing us to hold recitals in this
lovely Wren church with its superb 2010 Kenneth Tickell organ.



To apply or donate to the Trust, or for news of recitals and events please visit:

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The Eric Thompson Trust
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For future recitals see OrganRecitals.uk