

ORGAN RECITAL

given by

KATHERINE DIENES-WILLIAMS

Tuesday 16th September, 2025
4.30pm

Prep School Hall

St Catherine's will always be hugely indebted and grateful to Mrs Evelyn Greaves who contacted the School in early 2015 with the offer of her most generous donation of her beloved three-manual Vincent Woodstock organ. It was the late Dr Jennifer Bate OBE, a great friend of the School after whom our Organ Scholarship and Organ Academy are named, who introduced Mrs Greaves to St Catherine's. We were honoured that Dr Bate and Mrs Greaves gave the Inaugural Recital on this beautiful instrument in October of that year. Since its installation, the Prep School Hall has been redecorated to match the organ's style and provide it with a fitting home into the future. It will without doubt inspire generations of young organists, as both Dr Bate and Mrs Greaves hoped.



The organ is regularly used for teaching as well as for assemblies and concerts, including our annual Keyboard Section Concert. It is much loved by the School's many young organists, and a source of inspiration, awe and wonder to girls of all ages across the whole School. It is also one of the principal instruments used by the annual Jennifer Bate Organ Academy, and features each year in the Concerto Masterclass, which was taught by the great Dr Bate herself.

Today's retiring collection will be in aid of the Young Organ Scholars' Trust (Registered Charity No. 1163480), a charity working to train and support the next generation of young organists, with the aim of widening access to organ education, and ensuring the survival of the UK's unrivalled church music tradition.

For further details, please see: https://www.yost.org.uk/.

We are grateful to organrecitals.uk for their help in advertising this afternoon's concert.



Katherine Dienes-Williams, MA, BMus, FRCO, LTCL, Hon. FRSCM, Hon. FGCM was appointed Organist and Master of the Choristers at Guildford Cathedral in January 2008 following six years as Director of Music at the Collegiate Church of St. Mary, Warwick. In May 2022 she was appointed the first ever female President of the Cathedral Organists' Association.

Katherine was born and educated in Wellington, New Zealand, where she was Organ Scholar at Wellington Cathedral from 1988 to 1991 when she was appointed Assistant Organist.

Katherine came to England in 1991 to take up the post of Organ Scholar at Winchester Cathedral and Assistant Organist at Winchester College. She has held posts as Organist and Assistant Director of Music at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, Assistant Organist and Director of the Cathedral Girls' Choir at Norwich Cathedral and Director of Music at the Collegiate Church of St. Mary, Warwick.

She is Chair of the Royal College of Organists, a trustee of the Organists' Charitable Trust and YOST (Young Organ Scholars' Trust) and is regularly asked to be a guest choral workshop leader for the Royal School of Church Music in the UK, South Africa, the USA, Canada, and Australia. Katherine is also a Patron of the Society of Women Organists. She has given several organ recitals in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Germany, U.S.A., Bermuda, the Netherlands, South Africa, Australia, Spain, and Singapore. She has performed as organ soloist with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hallé, the City of London Sinfonia, Britten Sinfonia and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Katherine holds a Master of Arts in Music and Liturgy from Leeds University. She features both as organist and choral conductor on several recordings. She is in demand as a choral workshop leader in the UK, the USA, and several other European countries. She directed a Rodolfus Foundation senior choral course in summer 2025 and taught on the Oundle for Organists course. Forthcoming engagements include adjudicating a hymn festival in Mombasa, Kenya in October and an organ recital in Magdalen College, Oxford on Monday 17 November.

Dietrich Buxtehude (c.1637-1707)
Prelude, Fugue, and Ciacona in C BuxWV 137

Jean Langlais (1907-1991)
American Suite:
iii. Scherzo – Cats

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Variations on ‘Wie Groβ ist des allmächt'gen Güte’

Iain Farrington (b.1977)
Animal Parade:
viii. Penguins

Kate Westrop (1840-1923)
Four Short Voluntaries:
Two Pieces

Nico Muhly (b.1981)
The Revd Mustard his Installation Prelude

Cecilia McDowall (b.1951)
Church Bells Beyond the Stars