*MUSIC AT WESLEY*

SATURDAY LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

Wesley Church Centre, St John St, Chester CH1 1DA

May 17th 2025, 12.45pm

PETER COOKE

*FROM BAROQUE TO MODERN..........FROM GERMANY TO FRANCE*

*PART ONE: VIA DENMARK*

Toccata and Fugue in D Minor J. S. Bach (1685 – 1750)

3 Chorale-Improvisations Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877 – 1933)

          *'Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness'*

*'O Eternity, Thou Word of Thunder'*

*Antiphony 'O Come, Thou Spirit of Truth'*

'A Chain of Preludes' Carl Nielsen (1865 – 1931)

 arr. Peter Cooke

'Final' from ‘Triptyque’ Jean Langlais (1907 – 91)

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*PART TWO: VIA ENGLAND*

Fantasia on 'Come Holy Ghost, Lord God' J. S. Bach (1685 – 1750)

Canon on 'O God, Thou good God' Ethel Smyth (1858 – 1944)

Two Pieces on Gregorian Chant Themes Jeanne Demessieux (1921 – 68)

*Ornamented Chant 'Drop down, ye heavens, from above'*

*March 'Thou art Peter'*

Litanies Jehan Alain (1911 – 40)

Peter Cooke

Born on the West Coast of Scotland to parents of Welsh origin, Peter moved with his family to Cheshire at the age of nine. From the age of thirteen, he became the organist of, successively, Calveley village church, St. Peter's Plemstall and Christ Church, at that time the Parish Church of Ellesmere Port. While still a pupil at the King's School, Chester, studying organ and piano with Robert Sutton, he was awarded the two Diplomas of the Royal College of Organists, the Associateship (A.R.C.O.) at age eighteen, and the Fellowship (F.R.C.O.) the following year. After moving to Exeter College, Oxford, to study Classics, Philosophy and Theology, he frequently deputised as organist for services at his College Chapel, and at the city centre church of St. Aldates.

After graduation, Peter became a schoolteacher of Religion and Philosophy in London, ending up as Head of Department for these subjects at the well-known London Oratory School. He continued to act as an organist during this time, principally through deputising at St. Benedict's Abbey, Ealing, as well as at many other London churches. On his retirement from school teaching he was for seven years organist of All Saints' Church, Twickenham.

Moving back to Chester in 2008, Peter soon became organist for the Latin Masses held at St. Francis' and St. Clare's Churches, and gave some recitals at St. Werburgh's Church. Since the end of the Covid pandemic, Peter has taken over as Organist and Choirmaster for all the English- language services at St. Francis' Church.

In addition to performing on piano and organ, Peter has composed, and has had performed, a fairly substantial body of music for a variety of instruments, notably incidental music for theatre and cabaret, as well as items for church use, including some for choirs.

*FUTURE ‘MUSIC AT WESLEY’ CONCERTS*

Tuesday Lunchtime Concert Series, 12.45pm, Retiring collection

May 20th: Yutong Jiang (violin), Yifan Ma (piano)

May 27th: Rebekah Yinuo Tan (piano)

June 3rd: Laura Jellicoe (flute), John Gough (piano)

Saturday Lunchtime Organ Recitals, 12.45pm, Retiring collection

June 21st: Paul Carr (Birmingham)

*Publicity for this recital by* [*www.organrecitals.uk*](http://www.organrecitals.uk) *is gratefully acknowledged*

*Thank you for supporting this recital. The retiring collection (suggested minimum donation £4 per person) covers performer, performing rights and other direct expenses, with the balance in aid of Wesley Church funds. If you are a taxpayer it would be much appreciated if you would donate using a Gift Aid envelope (just add your name, address & post code).*

 