

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church  
Shaftesbury Ave, LONDON WC2H 8EP

# ORGAN DAY

## 2026

*(Patron: Dame Gillian Weir)*

Saturday 31 January  
12.30 pm - 7.30 pm

*RCO Academy Organ School*

*Philip Norman*

*Pascal Bachmann*

*George Allan*

*Hamish Wagstaff*

## *Loreto Aramendi*

Promoted and Organised by

### Music in Bloomsbury

[www.bloomsbury.org.uk](http://www.bloomsbury.org.uk)

### Organists Online

[www.organistsonline.org](http://www.organistsonline.org)



## PROGRAMME

- 12.30** Light refreshments available
- 12.55** A Call to Order and the briefest of introductions
- 1.00** **The RCO - People to watch out for by 2030**  
Simon Williams and students - Page 2
- 1.30** **Presentation 1: Philip Norman**  
Welsh Church Music - Page 3
- 2.00** **Interval** for refreshments and viewing the displays
- 2.30** **Recital 1**  
Pascal Bachmann - Page 3
- 3.00** **Presentation 2: George Allan**  
The Sleeping Beauty Project - page 4
- 3.30** **Interval** for refreshments and viewing the displays
- 4.00** **Recital 2**  
Hamish Wagstaff - Page 4
- 4.30** **Presentation 3: Loreto Aramendi**  
Spanish Organs and their Music - page 5
- 5.00** **The Bloomsbury Buffet (£7)**  
If you haven't booked, check availability
- 6.00** **Celebrity Recital: £10**  
Loreto Aramendi - page 6  
If you haven't booked, best to do so now
- 7.20/7.30** **END**

**Don't forget to visit the various displays  
and book/music/CD sales**



**RCO Academy 1.00 - 1.30 pm**

### **Programmes to be Announced**

Selected students from the RCO Academy showcase the work being carried out by the Academy.

Through RCO Academy, the Royal College of Organists delivers educational opportunities for organists and choral directors of every age and level of attainment, with an extensive programme of study days, workshops, courses and classes.

There's something for everybody. You'd have to think very hard to say that there is nothing in their smörgåsbord of opportunities that suits you.

Check out what they have to offer at

**[rco.org.uk](http://rco.org.uk)**

## **ONGOING COLLECTION**

Some aspects of this Organ Day are, pretty well, paying for themselves. The accumulated £7 paid for each 5 pm Buffet meal will cover the cost of the provisions and (assuming that some of you stay) the ticket sales for the Celebrity Recital **might** cover the expense of this.

HOWEVER, that leaves us with four hours of recitals and presentations which you are able to attend without charge and for which we have no predictable income. If you had chosen to go and see the *Phantom of the Opera* this afternoon it would have cost you £61.

Some of you will already have made a donation via a card payment - so thank you for that. On the other hand, the ubiquitous orange buckets will be out and rattling, so if you feel able to contribute towards the overall expenses of today ... you know what to do.

In other words, please give generously to the ongoing collection. If we can cover our basic costs, and pay the church something for the use of their facilities, it's much more likely that there will be a 2027 Organ Day.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES AVAILABLE**



Presentation 1: 1.30 - 2.00 pm

### WELSH CHURCH MUSIC

with

**Philip Norman**

Last year, based on his five years in Norway, Philip Norman spoke about Norwegian church music. This year, based on just short of five years in Wales, he turns his attention to the music west of Offa's Dyke. Is it all Cwm Rhondda, Blaenwern and chapel, chapel, chapel? Is the Archbishop of Wales a Druid? Are all the services in Cymraeg? Do the Welsh burst out in hymn singing whenever and wherever at the drop of a hat? These questions will be answered and an overall picture of the music at parish and cathedral level will be drawn.

This is a Saesneg's snapshot view of the subject.

\*Saesneg = Saxon. That is, English.

## ORGANISTS ONLINE

**organistsonline.org**

### PHILIP NORMAN

**Organists Online** was set up by Philip Norman in 2000 to help churches, choirs and funeral directors find organists. Although only intended to serve London north of the Thames, successive generations of the site have enabled the service to be rolled out across the world and **there are now over 1,500** Registered organists. There is an untold number of churches, choirs, singers and non-listed organists using the site, which also offers downloadable information about video fees, statistical surveys of fees in general, and serves as a co-ordinating place for a variety of professionally related questions as they are posed. Nothing is charged for using most of **Organists Online's** facilities.

Philip organises music for the North Monmouthshire Ministry Area, a consortium of seventeen parishes near Abergavenny, Wales.

He also runs **Philip Norman Music Services:**  
**www.pnms.co.uk.**

Recital 1: 2.30 - 3.00 pm

### PASCAL BACHMANN

*Limpus, Frederick Shinn, and Durrant Prizes (FRCO)*

*Organ Scholar - St John's College, Cambridge*

**Nicolaus Bruhns**

(1665 - 1697)

Prelude and Fugue in E minor 'The Great'

**Maurice Duruflé**

(1902 - 1986)

Suite, Op 5

Prelude, Intermezzo, Toccata

In 2025, Pascal attained Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists (FRCO), winning the prizes listed above and the Coventry Cathedral Prize. Additionally, he was Highly Commended at the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition. The previous year, Pascal participated in the Young Talents Class at the Haarlem International Organ Festival, and in December 2024, he was awarded First Prize at the London Organ Competition.

As a composer, Pascal was a winner of the BBC Young Composer Competition in 2023, leading to performances of his works by the BBC Concert Orchestra and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. The same year, he received a commission from the Murten Classics Festival, where his music was performed by the Hilaris Chamber Orchestra.

Pascal continues his studies in conducting with Roland Melia and piano with Gareth Owen. Recent performances include Ravel's Piano Concerto in G major with the Brandenburg Sinfonia, and conducting repertoire such as Strauss' Metamorphosen.

*(This information is from the St John's College site.)*







Presentation 2: 3.00 - 3.30 pm

## THE SLEEPING BEAUTY PROJECT

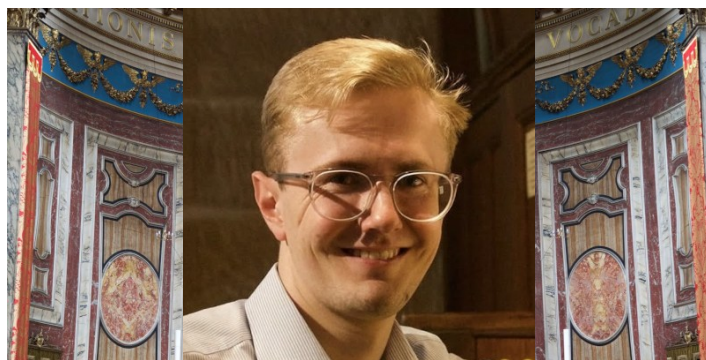
with

**George Allan**

Last year, George Allan spoke to us about *Pipe Up for Pipe Organs* in general. This year, he looks more specifically at the *Sleeping Beauty* project. There's a plan to save six organs in 2026.

The project has four key words: restoration, relocation, reinstallation, and preservation. This presentation can be linked to Presentation 1 as, in the next few years, there's a good chance that up to half of Welsh churches and chapels will close, with the consequent loss of instruments.

[www.pipe-up.org.uk](http://www.pipe-up.org.uk)



Recital 2: 4.00 - 4.30 pm

## HAMISH WAGSTAFF

*Organ Scholar, St Paul's Cathedral*

**Kenneth Leighton**

(1929 - 1988)

Paeon

**JS Bach**

(1685 - 1750)

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Her

BWV 676

**Jean Langlais**

(1907 - 1991)

Suite Breve

*Grands Jeux | Cantilène*

*Plainte | Dialogue sur les mixtures*



Before joining St Pauls', Hamish was organ scholar of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. A prizewinning graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, he completed postgraduate study under David Titterton, graduating with Distinction and the coveted DipRAM. Alongside his studies, he served as Organ Scholar of All Saints, Margaret Street, and became a prizewinning Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. Prior to emigrating to the UK in 2022, Hamish completed undergraduate studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

He maintains an active schedule as a recitalist, with recent appearances at Westminster Abbey and St Alban's Cathedral as part of the International Organ Festival.

(This information is from the St Paul's Cathedral site.

[www.stpauls.co.uk](http://www.stpauls.co.uk))

American Public Radio devised a two hour radio programme, broadcast earlier this month, celebrating **Dame Gillain Weir's** birthday. You can access this via

[www.pipedreams.org/episode/2026/01/12/there-is-nothing-like-a-dame](http://www.pipedreams.org/episode/2026/01/12/there-is-nothing-like-a-dame)



Presentation 3: 4.30 - 5.00 pm

**SPANISH ORGANS AND  
ORGAN MUSIC**

with

**Loreto Aramendi**

We all tend to get a bit stuck on the standard repertoire, wearing the grooves ever deeper in the German Baroque and French Symphonic world, with some brave souls venturing out into the less well known fields of French Baroque or, maybe, the easy-to-play contemporaries of John Stanley and Maurice Greene. But how many of us get to grips with the rich offerings of the Iberian peninsular?

Well, Loreto Aramendi will challenge our near-sighted obsession with what we already know.

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Buffet: 5.00 - 6.00 pm

**BLOOMSBURY BUFFET (£7 )**

**It's essential to book this as places are limited. If you haven't booked, but want a meal, check for availability NOW.**

If you are staying for the Celebrity Recital, but don't want to partake of the Bloomsbury Buffet, the surrounding area is richly provided for with restaurants, cafés and pubs.

As this interval last a whole hour, there's lots of opportunity to visit the various displays.

And don't forget to look at the list of *Last Saturday* organ concerts here in Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church. Where else can you get so much good music and good food for so little?

**MUSIC IN BLOOMSBURY**

**www.bloomsbury.org.uk**

**PHILIP LUKE**

**Music in Bloomsbury** is generally overseen by Philip Luke. In the church services, flexible musical patterns ensure a wide range of traditional and contemporary musical styles involving singers and instrumentalists of many nationalities.

Philip was born in Pembrokeshire, South Wales, receiving his first organ lessons at Llandaff Cathedral as a teenager. He studied singing at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama before entering London University for organ diplomas and research degrees. As a concert organist, Philip has played at numerous cathedrals including St Paul's, Southwark, Llandaff and St David's, and has participated in various festivals including the City of London. He has toured extensively in the USA and Europe, performing annually in the Czech Republic. In East Anglia - where he is based - Philip has an established reputation as a choral conductor in addition to regular appearances as recitalist at Wymondham Abbey; St Andrew's Hall, Norwich; and the Wymondham Festival.





**Celebrity Recital: 6.00 - 7.20 pm (£10)**

**LORETO ARAMENDI**

*Santa Maria Basilica, San Sebastián, Spain*

**Diderik Buxtehude**

(1637 - 1707)

Toccata - BuxWV 156

**Franz Liszt**

(1811 - 1886 )

Funérailles

(Harmonies poétiques et religieuses -1849)

(transcription: Louis Robilliard)

**Camille Saint-Saëns**

(1835 - 1924)

Danse Macabre

(transcription: Louis Robilliard)

**Gabriel Fauré**

(1845 - 1924)

Pelléas and Mélisande - Sicilienne

(transcription: Louis Robilliard)

**Karen Tanaka**

(1961)

Magma - Wind Energy

(From Our Planet Earth)

Techno Étude no. III

**C. Franck**

(1882 - 1890)

Rédemption (Interludio Sinfónico)

(transcription: Louis Robilliard)

**Charles Tournemire**

(1870 - 1939)

Choral Improvisation "Victimae Paschali"

**Loreto Aramendi** is an international concert artist and main organist of the Cavaillé-Coll organ ( 1863) of the Basilique of Santa María del Coro.

She has given numerous recitals at international festivals in USA, Japan, Canada, Argentina, Chile, Moscow and most of European countries, performing in places like Opera City Hall of Tokyo,

National Auditorium of Madrid (Bach-Vermut), Nôtre Dame of Paris, Hallgrímskirkja in Reykjavik, Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York, Moscow Cathedral, Stavanger concert hall, Berlin Cathedral, Radio France...

She also participates as a jury member in various international competitions and teaches master-classes at multiple international festivals.

In 2015 she published a double CD recorded on the Cavaillé-Coll organ (1863) of the Basilique of Santa María del Coro with works by C. Franck, F. Liszt, J. Brahms and Ch. Tournemire, which received the 4 stars award from "Choir & Organ" Magazine, and was acclaimed by "The Sydney Organ Journal".

In 2017 she brought out another double CD recorded on The Cavaillé-Coll of the Saint Ouen of Rouen Abbey with Louis Robilliard transcriptions acclaimed by the critics (Choir & organ, Resmusica, Journal für die Orgel).

In 2019 another double CD was recorded at the Cathedral of Salamanca and Sainctanyí (Mallorca) with European Baroque music.

Interested in the pipe organ building process, she has collaborated and participated since 2014 in several works of organ restoration in France and Spain.

She started her studies at the Conservatoire of San Sebastian where she obtained higher degrees in piano, harpsichord, organ and chamber music with Loreto F. Imaz, Esther Mendiburu and Cristina Navajas.

She studied organ at the National Regional Conservatoire of Bayonne with Bernadette Carrau and Esteban Landart, receiving the Gold Medal and the First Prize upon completing the Advanced Degree course.

Entering into the National Higher Conservatoire of Lyon (C.N.S.M.D), she worked with Jean Boyer, Louis Robilliard and J. Von Oortmersen, obtaining the First Prize with "Mention très bien" and her National Diploma of Advanced Studies with specialisation in the organ.

She was awarded scholarships from the local government of Guipuzkoa for two years, as well as from the Lartundo Foundation.

She then furthered her studies over a period of five years at the National Regional Superior Conservatoire in Paris with



Noelle Spieth, receiving the First Prize upon finalizing her Advanced Degree in the harpsichord and her General Music Studies Diploma. At the same time, she worked with J. Rouvier, on piano specialization.

She studied the piano for three years in Barcelona with Edith Fischer and Jorge Pepi. She has completed advanced courses with professors such as M. Radulescu, J. Oortmersen, W. Jansen, D. Moroney, R. Requejo, Roberto Szidon and Sakharov, amongst others.

She has collaborated with the Basque Symphony Orchestra for many years, with whom she has recorded two discs. She gives concerts as a soloist and as part of different groups as an organist, pianist, and harpsichord player, embracing all periods and styles into her repertoire. At the same time, she has a degree in Psychology from the University of the Basque Country (UPV).

She is currently a professor at the F. Escudero Conservatoire in San Sebastian.

Her future commitments include recitals in Japan, USA, France, Spain, Netherlands, Poland, Italy, Germany, England, Switzerland, Israel, Denmark, Estonia, Serbia, Russia, Luxembourg and Finland.



[loretoaramendi.com](http://loretoaramendi.com)

[contact@loretoaramendi.com](mailto:contact@loretoaramendi.com)

Follow Loreto Aramendi  
on Facebook



## **St Alphage**

**Montrose Avenue, Burnt Oak  
Edgware, Middlesex HA8 0DN**

*Organ built 2002 by BC Shepherd & Sons  
incorporating Father Willis pipework from 1857*

### **SATURDAY ORGAN RECITALS 2026**

**Organists of St Alphage,  
past and present**

**6th June**

**ROSEMARY EVANS**  
(St Alphage)

**11th July**

**ANTHONY HALLIDAY**  
(International Organ & Piano recitalist,  
Organist: St Francis Church,  
Melbourne, Australia)

**12th September**

**SAMUEL AUSTIN**  
(Director of Music, Pocklington School &  
The York Oratory)

Admission £10  
followed by refreshments £5  
Cash or cheques only  
**07774 827 872**

**All at 3.00 pm**





**Bloomsbury Central  
Baptist Church  
Shaftesbury Avenue  
London WC2H 8EP**

**ORGAN  
CONCERTS**

**Last Saturday of  
the month at 4pm**

The recitals are **FREE** with a retiring collection to help defray expenses (£5 suggested donation). Light finger buffet refreshments are served in the Friendship Centre after each recital.

## Organ Day Sponsors

Christopher Babcock

Dr John Beynon

Dr Alan Dronsfield

Michaela Cottee

Dr Julian Fulbrook

Evelyn Greaves

Adrian Gunning

Alan Hodgetts

Peter Rawlins

Graham Scott

B C Shepherd and Sons

David Wakefield

Stuart Whatton

**And a whole host of other contributors**

### Recitals in Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

Last Saturdays at 4.00 pm

February 28th

**Francesca Massey**  
(Concert Organist)

March 28th

**Paul Greally**  
(Westminster Abbey)

April 25th

**Claudia Grinnell**  
(Director of Music, St Edmundsbury Cathedral)

May 30th

**Daniel Greenway**  
(Westminster Cathedral)

Sunday 8 March 2.30 pm

**Celebration 41+ years concert**  
Philip Luke (organ) and musicians from  
Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

**Catch up with other organ recitals**

[www.facebook.com/New.London.Organ.Concerts.Guide](https://www.facebook.com/New.London.Organ.Concerts.Guide)

Maintained by John Morris

[www.organrecitals.uk](http://www.organrecitals.uk)

Maintained by Roger Willcocks



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## The Organ in Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

The present organ was originally built by Brindley & Foster in 1914 at the front of the church. It was rebuilt and moved to the rear gallery by Hill, Norman & Beard in 1964-8. J H Males rebuilt it in 1990. In 2006-8 B C Shepherd & Sons replaced most of the pipes with pipes by J J Binns of Leeds, mainly from Beechen Grove Baptist Church Watford, with a few stops from St Augustine's Tonge Moor, Bolton. Several extra stops were added including a 32ft reed, the Tuba and Vox Humana. At this time John Males refurbished the console, fitting new stop jambs. The tonal work was carried out by John & Eric Shepherd.

GREAT	SWELL	CHOIR (Enclosed)	PEDAL
Bourdon 16	Geigen Principal 8	Salicional 8	Sub Bass 32
Open Diapason 8	Lieblich Gedact 8	Gedact 8	Open Diapason 16
Stopped Diapason 8	Viol d' Orchestre 8	Principal 4	Bourdon 16
Flauto Traverso 8	Voix Celeste 8	Wald Flute 4	Dulciana 16
Dolce 8	Geigen Principal 4	Piccolo 2	Principal 8
Principal 4	Lieblich Flute 4	Larigot 1 1/3	Bass Flute 8
Harmonic Flute 4	Fifteenth 2	Flageolet 1	Fifteenth 4
Octave Quint 2 2/3	Mixture 3rks	Sesquialtera 2rks	Octave Flute 4
Fifteenth 2	(15, 19, 22)	(12, 17)	Twenty Second 2
Mixture 4rks	Bassoon 16	Sharp Mixture 3rks	Sackbut 32
(15, 19, 22, 26)	Horn 8	(22, 26, 29)	Trombone 16
Double trumpet 16	Clarion 4	Clarinet 8	Bassoon 16 (Swell)
Trumpet 8	Oboe 8	(Unenclosed)	Trumpet 8 (Great)
Clarion 4	Vox humana 8	Trompette 8	Clarinet 4 (Choir)
		Tuba 8	
Swell - Great	Swell Octave		Swell - Pedal
Choir - Great	Swell Sub-Octave	Swell - Choir	Great - Pedal
	Swell Unison Off	Choir Octave	
		Choir Sub-Octave	
		Choir Unison Off	

### Accessories

Solid State Action | Two balanced Swell Pedals | 8 general thumb pistons | pistons to each manual, Reversible thumb pistons for: Sw to Gt, Sw to Ch, Ch to Gt, Sw to Ped, Gt to Ped, Ch to Ped, Setter thumb piston | General Cancel thumb piston | 3 Sequencer + pistons (one on each manual), 8 toe pistons to Swell | 8 toe pistons to Pedal | Reversible toe pistons for Gt to Ped, Sw to Gt, + and - sequencer toe pistons | Gt & Ped Combs coupled (drawstop) | Gens to Sw Toe pistons coupled (drawstop), The piston capture system has 12 channels for the divisional pistons and 256 channels for the general pistons.

**This information has been edited from the National Pipe Organ Registry - [www.npor.org.uk](http://www.npor.org.uk)**

**Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church** is an inclusive church in the heart of London. We welcome you from whatever walk of life you come. As a community we are made up of individuals from a great variety of backgrounds, lifestyles and countries.

We gather in a spirit of friendship and acceptance to worship Jesus. We maintain an openness to different points of view, we search together for a better understanding of life and a deeper awareness of God. We hold that no one has a monopoly on the 'right' way and each of us travels by his or her own path. We are committed to our local area in all its diversity, from the homeless and vulnerable to businesses and community groups.

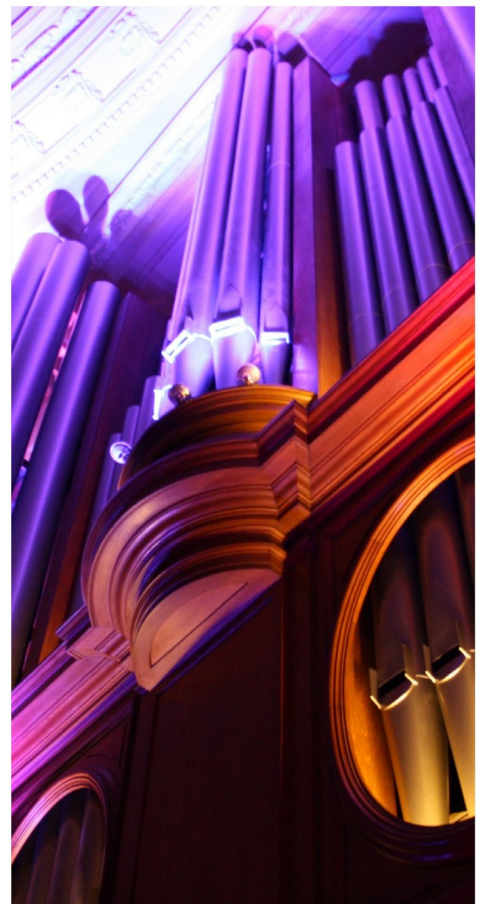
We would love to welcome you. Our main Sunday service is at 11am. Please browse our website for other meetings and activities: [www.bloomsbury.org.uk](http://www.bloomsbury.org.uk).



# ORGAN MATINÉES 2026

SUNDAYS AT 3PM  
ADMISSION FREE  
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

A year-long programme of music in the beautiful surroundings of the Great Hall, featuring the magnificent **Concert Organ** (Hill 1912, Harrison & Harrison 2011, 66 stops, four manuals)



Full programme details as they become available can be found at [mchw.live/calendar](https://mchw.live/calendar)  
See also [organrecitals.uk](https://organrecitals.uk)

Methodist Central Hall  
Storey's Gate, Westminster SW1H 9NH  
Tel. 020 7654 2000 W. [mchw.live](https://mchw.live)



**JAN 18**  
**GERARD BROOKS**  
Methodist Central Hall  
Westminster



**FEB 15**  
**DARIUS BATTIWALLA**  
Leeds



**MAR 15**  
**PAUL GREALLY**  
Westminster Abbey



**APR 19**  
**STEPHEN BANFIELD**  
Canterbury



**MAY 17**  
**ADRIAN GUNNING**  
London



**JUN 21**  
**ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC STUDENT SHOWCASE**



**JUL 19**  
**JOHANNES GEFFERT**  
Germany



**AUG 16**  
**IMOGEN MORGAN**  
Edinburgh



**SEP 20**  
**GERARD BROOKS**  
Methodist Central Hall  
Westminster



**OCT 18**  
**ANTHONY GRITTEN**  
Royal Academy of Music



**NOV 15**  
**ANDREW FURNISS**  
Methodist Central Hall  
Westminster





## Small Choirs Solutions from Scandinavia

The problem of what to do with a choir with few or no men is not one restricted to the UK, nor just to the 20th and 21st centuries. It's obviously been a conundrum which has taxed other nations at other times, so in Norway and Denmark composers were ready with solutions which we could use today.

For instance, in 1820, Hartenack Zinck, in Copenhagen, published:



Chorale Melodies

.....  
Arranged for Two, three, or four voices

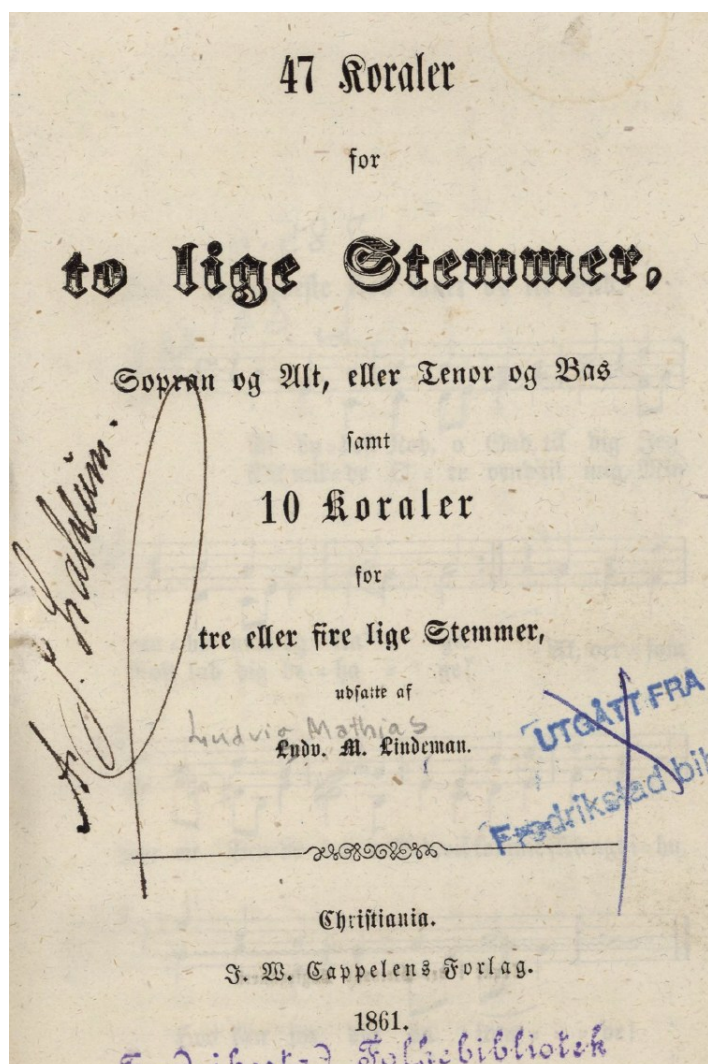
In the context of this page, the four part settings don't have a lot to offer us but for every chorale there is a two part and a three part version for (more or less) equal voices.

Here are Zinck's two and three part versions of the melody a lot of us sing to *How Brightly Beams the Morning Star*:



In total, there are sixty four of these useful little settings.

In a similar mode, but this time from Norway, are Ludvig Lindeman's settings, published in 1861:



47 Chorales for Two similar voices  
Soprano and Alto, or Tenor and Bass  
also 10 Chorales for  
Three or four similar voices

The two part settings are similar in style to those of Zinck, but here is an example of the first phrase of the same melody set for four (more or less) equal voices (first alto/bass is optional):



So what do they offer us today? Well, with a little bit of searching round Google and imslp.org, and a little bit of work with some manuscript paper, you have a large set of easy-to-learn motets for your man-free choir. Even if you have a man or two, they could sing the lower part in their own octave without damaging the harmony.

And don't forget: [www.small-choirs.org.uk/downloads](http://www.small-choirs.org.uk/downloads)





# PIPE UP

— FOR PIPE ORGANS —

## Will you give Britain's sleeping beauties the kiss of life?

Today, Pipe Up is re-launching its successful crowdfunded grants for pre-1915 tracker organs. Hundreds languish silently in churches all over Britain, but could be fixed with two days' work by a local organ builder. The grant pays 100% of this.

With your support we will make 26 of them playable in 2026. And accessible to visiting organists.

Every pound you donate until 31st March will be generously matched by the Dalglish Trust up to £13,000. Please visit our Justgiving site and give generously.



<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sleepingbeautyscheme>

Know of such an organ? Tell us about it via our website at [www.pipe-up.org.uk](http://www.pipe-up.org.uk).

Charity registered in England & Wales no. 1199597

