

10 Famous Cathedral Organs

St. Paul's
York Minster
Westminster
Winchester
Salisbury
Cambridge
Hereford
Guildford
Coventry
Wells
+ *bonus*

Royal Albert Hall

alto

10 FAMOUS CATHEDRAL ORGANS

The Organ of Coventry Cathedral played by Noel Rawsthorne		
1	Verdi: Grand March from <i>Aida</i>)	5:14
The Organ of Salisbury Cathedral played by David Halls		
2	Elgar: <i>Imperial March</i>	5:03
3	Sousa: <i>The Liberty Bell</i> (BBC "Monty Python" theme)	3:04
The Organ of Westminster Cathedral played by David Hill		
4	Saint-Saëns: <i>Fantasie in E-Flat Major</i>	5:01
5	Vierne: <i>Carillon de Westminster</i>	6:40
The Organ of Winchester Cathedral played by David Hill		
6	Whitlock: <i>Scherzo & ...</i>	1:47
7	<i>... Paean</i>	2:39
The Organ of York Minster played by Francis Jackson		
8	Cocker: <i>Tuba Tune</i>	4:42
9	Boellmann: <i>Toccata</i> from Suite Gothique	4:08
The Organ of St Paul's Cathedral played by Christopher Dearnley		
10	Trad arr. Dearnley: <i>Londonderry Air "O Danny Boy"</i>	4:24
The Organ of Kings College Chapel, Cambridge played by Stephen Cleobury		
11	Prizeman: <i>Toccata</i> (BBC "Songs of Praise" theme)	4:27
12	Widor: <i>Toccata</i> from Symphony No. 5	6:04
The Organ of Hereford Cathedral played by Roy Massey		
13	Lemare: <i>Andantino "Moonlight and Roses"</i>	4:15
The Organ of Guildford Cathedral played by Barry Rose		
14	Clarke arr. Rose: <i>Trumpet Voluntary</i>	2:44
The Organ of Wells Cathedral played by Andrew Nethsingha		
15	Bach: <i>Sleepers Awake</i>	4:40
16	Elgar: <i>Nimrod</i> from Enigma Variations	4:37
17	Lefébure-Wély: <i>Sortie in E-Flat Major</i>	4:08
BONUS!		
The Organ of Royal Albert Hall, London played by Simon Preston		
18	Bossi: <i>Etude Symphonique</i>	5:00

Recorded 1973-93; Compiled by **Paul Arden-Taylor** and **Robin Vaughan**
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On 14 November 1940 an incendiary bomb destroyed much of the fourteenth-century **Coventry Cathedral** including its 'Father Willis' organ which dated from 1886. A new Cathedral, designed by Basil Spence, was eventually built beside the ruins of the old one, its foundation stone being laid in March 1956. By then, the firm of Harrison & Harrison had been commissioned to build the organ for the new Cathedral. **Noel Rawsthorne** was born in Birkenhead on Christmas Eve, 1929. He was a chorister at Liverpool Cathedral and later studied the organ at the Royal Manchester College of Music and with both Fernando Germani in Italy and Marcel Dupré in Paris. From 1949 he assisted Henry Goss-Custard at Liverpool Cathedral, succeeding him as Organist in 1955, a post he was to hold until 1980.

It was again 'Father' Henry Willis who, in the mid-1870s, was responsible for building the organ at **Salisbury Cathedral** and his grandson, Henry Willis III, who made modifications to it in 1934 by creating a detached console on the south side of the Cathedral. More recently the instrument has been restored by Harrison & Harrison. **David Halls** was still a pupil at Harrogate Grammar School when he was appointed Assistant Organist at St Wilfrids' Church in that town. He later won an organ scholarship at Worcester College, Oxford, and was subsequently Organ Scholar at Winchester Cathedral. He became Director of Music at Salisbury Cathedral in 2005.

It was Henry Willis III himself, who built the organ for the Roman Catholic **Westminster Cathedral**. Marcel Dupré inaugurated the first section of it in 1922 and Louis Vierne gave a recital on it two years later but work was not completed until 1932. In 1985 it underwent a complete restoration and was re-opened by **David Hill** who was Master of Music at the Cathedral from 1982 to 1987. Prior to that he had been Organ Scholar at St John's College, Cambridge, and Sub-Organist at Durham Cathedral. From 1987 until 2002 he was Organist at Winchester Cathedral before moving back to Cambridge as Director of Music at St John's. He has also been Chief Conductor of the BBC Singers and the Southern Sinfonia, Musical Director of the Bach Choir and Associate Conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

Another of the organs designed by Henry Willis I was intended for the Great Exhibition of 1851 but, at the suggestion of Samuel Sebastian Wesley, it was re-installed three years later in **Winchester Cathedral** at which he had recently been appointed Organist. It was rebuilt by Willis in 1897 and has since then has been reconstructed by Harrison & Harrison.

After a fire had destroyed the organ at **York Minster** in 1829, a new one was constructed by the firm of Elliot and Hill. Thomas Elliot died in 1832 and it was William Hill, who was married to Elliot's daughter Mary and had taken over the business, who carried out more work on the organ in 1859. In 1903, a new instrument was built in the same case by J.W.Walker & Sons. Following another fire in 1984 more restoration was carried out by Principal Pipe

Organs of York under the supervision of one-time Assistant Organist at the Minster, Geoffrey Coffin. **Francis Jackson**, who died in January 2022 at the age of 104, was Director of Music at York Minister from 1946 to 1982, having taken over the post following the death of the previous incumbent, his teacher, Edward Bairstow.

Built in 1695, the organ in **St Paul's Cathedral** was the work of German-born 'Father' Bernard Smith. The Cathedral's architect, Christopher Wren, designed the case which was decorated with carvings by Grinling Gibbons. This case, originally situated on the choir screen, was divided in two when Henry Willis I created what was essentially a new instrument in 1870 and re-positioned against the pillars on either side of the choir. Since then more changes have been made by Henry Willis III and by the company founded by Noel Mander. Born in Wolverhampton in 1930, **Christopher Dearnley** was another to become Organ Scholar at Worcester College, Oxford. In 1957 he was appointed Organist at Salisbury Cathedral and then, in 1968, moved to a similar post at St Paul's Cathedral. He emigrated to Australia in 1990 and it was there that he died ten years later.

The screen on which the organ of **King's College Chapel, Cambridge**, now stands was created as a gift from King Henry VIII to his then Queen, Anne Boleyn. However, it was not until 1605 that Thomas Dallam built a new organ for the chapel. Since then much rebuilding and restoration has been undertaken, notably by the firm of William Hill and, in 1934, by Harrison & Harrison in consultation with the organist at that time, Boris Ord. Having been a chorister at Worcester Cathedral, Organ Scholar at St John's College, Cambridge and Sub-Organist at Westminster Abbey, **Stephen Cleobury** was to become the first Anglican Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral. In 1982 he was appointed Director of Music at King's College, Cambridge, and was to remain in that post until he retired in 2019, the same year in which he was knighted and, on 22 November, died.

It was in 1892 that Henry Willis I built the organ at **Hereford Cathedral**, replacing the one created some thirty years earlier by the London-based firm of Gray and Davison. It was modified in 1909 by Henry Willis II, who included more stops, and then in 1933 by Henry Willis III who carried out a more substantial restoration. Since then it has been the firm of Harrison & Harrison who has been responsible for maintaining the organ. Birmingham-born **Roy Massey** studied at the University in that city and later held the posts of Organist at St Philip's Cathedral there and also that of Director of Music at King Edward's School. From 1974 until 2001 he was Organist and Master of the Choristers at Hereford Cathedral, returning in 2005 to give the opening recital on its newly rebuilt organ.

Guildford Cathedral was consecrated on 17 May 1961 some twenty-five years since its foundation stone had been laid by then Archbishop of

Canterbury Cosmo Gordon Lang. The organ, much of which had originally been in use at the Rosse Street Baptist Church in the Yorkshire town of Shipley, was installed by the Liverpool firm of Rushworth and Dreaper. Various changes have been made to the organ over the years, most recently by another Liverpool-based firm, David Wells Organ Builders. When **Barry Rose** was appointed the first Organist and Master of the Choristers at Guildford Cathedral in 1961 he was, at twenty-five, the youngest cathedral organist in the country. In 1974 he moved to St Paul's Cathedral where he became assistant to Christopher Dearnley and then, three years later, Master of the Choir.

There has been an organ in **Wells Cathedral** since the early years of the fourteenth century. The current instrument was built in 1857 by Henry Willis I using some of the pipework installed by Samuel Green in the 1780s. The firm of Harrison & Harrison was to enlarge it in 1910 and then, in 1973, embarked on yet more work to improve it. **Andrew Nethsingha** received his early musical education in Exeter, at the Cathedral School and as chorister at the Cathedral where his father, Lucian, was Organist. He later held an organ scholarship at St John's, College, Cambridge, and was Assistant Organist at Wells Cathedral. After eight years as Organist at Truro Cathedral, he moved to Gloucester Cathedral and subsequently back to St John's as its Director of Music.

'The **Royal Albert Hall** of Arts and Sciences' was opened in the presence of Queen Victoria on 29 March 1871 and named in memory of her late husband, Albert, the Prince Consort. The organ, which had been built in just fourteen months at a cost of about £8000, was again the work of Henry Willis I. Over the years firms such as Harrison & Harrison and Mander Organs Ltd have added their expertise to maintaining and improving this instrument. **Simon Preston** was a chorister at King's College, Cambridge, during the time of Boris Ord, and later became a Choral Scholar there. In the 1960s he was Sub-Organist at Westminster Abbey and, from 1970, Organist at Christ Church College, Oxford. He returned to Westminster Abbey in 1981 as Organist and Master of the Choristers. On leaving Westminster in 1987, he embarked on a career as an international concert organist and was awarded a C.B.E in 2009

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