

St Albans
IO Festival
International Organ Festival

**30th ORGAN
COMPETITIONS**
8–20 July 2019



Interpretation and Improvisation
St Albans, UK

www.organfestival.com



Welcome

I am delighted to announce the programme for the 30th St Albans International Organ Competitions, taking place from 8th to 20th July 2019.

Everything you will need to know – about the programme, the full application process, the instruments, the prizes and more – can be found online at organfestival.com. If you have any questions, please do contact the competitions team in St Albans: competitions@organfestival.com

Highlights for 2019 include:

- A new commission from distinguished UK composer Matthew Martin
- Tournemire Prize for Improvisation
- First, Second and Audience awards for Interpreters; Peter Hurford Bach Prize; Matthew Martin Prize for the best performance of the commissioned work; Douglas May Award
- Semi-final round on the restored 1735 Richard Bridge organ in Christ Church, Spitalfields, one of the most beautiful Baroque churches in the UK
- A Concerto Final in St Albans Cathedral with St James' Baroque directed by James O'Donnell
- Interpretation and Improvisation Finals on St Albans Cathedral's Harrison & Harrison organ



A very warm welcome awaits you in St Albans. For more than half a century, the very special atmosphere that surrounds the festival has become legendary – in fact, many of our supporters call us the 'friendly festival'. Our winners have gone on to become highly respected and influential organists, working around the world.

Do apply, and experience for yourself this unique competition in the wonderful city of St Albans.

David Titterington
Artistic & Executive Director

The Jury

Ken Cowan USA performs regularly at major concert venues in America, Canada, Europe and Asia, has been a featured artist at national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, and has recorded numerous acclaimed discs. He is head of organ at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University.

Maurizio Croci Italy is an international concert organist, Professor at the Haute Ecole de Musique de Lausanne and Scuola Civica in Milan and Artistic Director of the Festival International d'Orgue de Fribourg. His early music ensemble Il Pegaso has been internationally acclaimed. He has advised on restorations of historic organs and on building of new instruments.

Franz Danksagmüller Austria/Germany composes innovative works for live performers and electronics. He performs in ensembles which merge composition with improvisation, and with internationally acclaimed orchestras. He is Professor of Organ and Improvisation at the University of Music in Lübeck and Visiting Professor at London's Royal Academy of Music.

Hans-Ola Ericsson Sweden/Canada studied organ and composition, with Klaus Huber, Brian Ferneyhough and Luigi Nono amongst others. He holds positions at

the Hochschule für Künste in Bremen and Montreal's McGill University. His recordings focus mainly on 20th-century music, but also include several discs of JS Bach. He is also involved in organ restoration and building.

Christophe Mantoux France is Professor of Organ at the Pôle supérieur and the Conservatoire régional of Paris and titular organist of Saint-Séverin Church in Paris. He studied organ and improvisation with Gaston Litaize and harmony and counterpoint at the National Superior Conservatoire of Paris. In 1984 he won Chartres International Organ Competition.

Dong-ill Shin South Korea won the Grand Prix at Chartres in 2006, and has established a world-wide career as a concert organist and is one of South Korea's leading musicians. He studied at Yonsei University and in France with Olivier Latry, Michel Bouvard and Marie-Claire Alain. Following appointments in the USA, he returned to Seoul as Professor of Organ at Yonsei University.

Thomas Trotter UK is Birmingham City Organist and Organist at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey. He has won prestigious awards, has toured widely, and has played at many International Festivals. He regularly inaugurates new instruments, and has recorded extensively. Thomas won the Interpretation Competition in 1979, has been a jury member several times since, and is now a Vice-President of the Festival.



Ken Cowan



Maurizio Croci



Franz Danksagmüller



Hans-Ola Ericsson



Christophe Mantoux



Dong-ill Shin



Thomas Trotter

How to apply

Repertoire, Prizes and Organs are given at www.organfestival.com

Application deadline: **22 March 2019**

22 March 2019 Deadline for applications together with payment and recording, to be received by the Competitions Secretary (applicants must have been born after 20 July 1986)

12 April 2019 All applicants notified of the results of the Preliminary Recorded Round

5 July 2019 Arrival in St Albans for preliminary practice (Some flexibility may be possible by arrangement)

7 July 2019 Registration for all Competitors in St Albans

8–12 July 2019 Quarter-final Rounds
Including Peter Hurford Bach Prize round on 8 & 9 July

13–17 July 2019 Semi-final Rounds

19 July 2019 Interpretation Concerto Final, St Albans Cathedral

20 July 2019 Interpretation and Improvisation Finals and Presentation of Prizes, St Albans Cathedral

14 Sept. 2019 Gala Prizewinners' Concert, St Albans Cathedral



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