

26th International Summer Organ Series 2024



Church of the Assumption, Tullamore
Tuesdays at 8.00pm

www.tisos.org





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Message from our Patron



This series of four weekly summer concerts commenced in 1999 and is now entering its twenty-sixth year and has thus become a well-established feature of the summer national cultural calendar, having survived the Covid years when public performances with live audience had to be abandoned in favour of online performances of one kind or another. Thank God we are now well back to the normal annual pattern of four weekly July recitals in the beautiful parish church which has such a special and splendid Danish-built pipe organ.

For this 26th series we are returning to our roots, with emphasises on the organ with its core repertory extending over four centuries of musical composition.

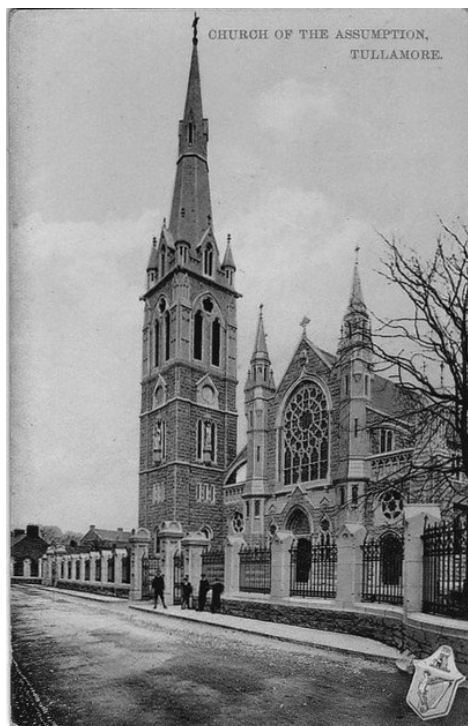
It's a real pleasure to welcome once again outstanding local talent for the first concert with a return of the award-winning Tullamore Academy Chamber Choir who will be partnered by the series founding father and artistic director, Professor Gerard Gillen, who will accompany the choir in Dutch composer Jacob de Haan's *Missa Brevis* as well as contributing a few solo numbers on the Frobenius organ.

For the second concert we welcome regular contributors to the series, organist Charles Marshall, who will share the honours with distinguished Rumanian violinist Bogdan Sofei. For the third concert we have from the University of Oxford two outstanding young musicians, Belfast-born organist Dónal McCann and English soprano Maryam Wocial. For the final concert on 23rd July we welcome one of France's most distinguished organists, Madame

Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, organiste-titulaire of the great church of San Sulpice in Paris.-

Central to each of these four recitals is our Danish-built pipe organ. Once again it is fitting to acknowledge the generosity of the Lutheran Church of Copenhagen in giving this magnificent organ to our beautiful Church in Tullamore some thirty years ago. We are reminded that we have here a world-class organ of which we are truly proud, and this series of summer concerts gives the wider public an opportunity to experience its grandeur in the hands of some of the most acclaimed international and national organists, playing solo and making music with fellow musicians and ensembles. It is my wish that this twenty-sixth annual series of concerts will bring as much enjoyment and refreshment as in previous years to all who participate and listen.

Tom Deenihan ✝
Bishop of Meath



A Word from our Artistic Director



The organ here in Tullamore was built by one of the world's leading organbuilding firms of the 20th century, Th. Frobenius of Lyngby (Copenhagen), in 1965 for the great cathedral church of Denmark's capital city.

It is a sizeable mechanical-action instrument consisting of 53 speaking stops, three manuals (keyboards) and pedals, and 3,916 pipes. By 1993 the cathedral felt it needed a much bigger organ to fill its great space with adequate sound, and so it was decided to replace the existing organ with an entirely new instrument. Instead of selling the existing Frobenius organ for the considerable sum it would undoubtedly have fetched, the cathedral board decided to donate it to an appropriate church. Tullamore's requirements for an organ at the time and their request to me to assist them in their search for an appropriate instrument, together with my recital visit to Copenhagen to play one of the last recitals on the 'old' cathedral organ and my subsequent discussions with the then cathedral organist, Niels Henrik Nielsen, constituted a remarkable series of coincidences which resulted in the organ's transference to Tullamore in the latter months of 1994.

The organ obviously needed a new case to fit the gallery dimensions of Tullamore's fine new parish church. This was designed and built by the Frobenius firm. In the transfer process, the action, pipework, keyboards, interior leatherwork and wind supply were renewed; the original 32' foot pedal flue stop was retained by the Copenhagen cathedral for incorporation into their new Marcussen instrument, and so a new replica 32' stop was made for Tullamore.

These elements apart, the organ represents a uniquely intact transplant of an

unusually large all-mechanical action organ. The condition of both pipework and action can only be described well nigh perfect, and the voicing and regulation necessary to adjust to the new acoustic conditions of the Church of the Assumption in Tullamore, were carried out by a team of three superb craftsmen from the Frobenius firm. The net result is that Tullamore can now boast of having the largest mechanical action church organ in Ireland, and the sole example in the country of the Danish firm's renowned skills and craftsmanship. The organ was inaugurated in a gala concert on 10 May, 1995.

While Covid years were challenging for all involved in the performing arts, (and we were no exception), however, due to unwavering support from Offaly County Council and the JVM Trench Trust we battled on, with two mainly online series of concerts. In 2022 we were able to resume the four weekly July recitals in the church, and this year we look forward to our 26th annual series, a series that has become part of the national summer cultural calendar. We do so acknowledging with gratitude and appreciation the continuing support of our core sponsors, the generous donations of friends and well-wishers, and the hard work of our loyal local committee of volunteers. Without this collective support our annual series of concerts would not be possible.

I must also extend warmest thanks to our loyal audience for their support over the years, and I hope that, like me, they too feel that given the special nature of this lovely organ in the heart of Co. Offaly, this series is well worth promoting and running. I have done so with pleasure and as a privilege for the past 25 years, but I feel it is time now for me to pass on the baton to younger and more energetic hands. I hope you will agree that the most important thing is that this series of very special concerts celebrating this unique instrument continues and flourishes into the future.

- *Tuesday, 2nd July* -

Tullamore Academy Chamber Choir

(Director: Ciarán Brady)

Gerard Gillen, Organ

• PROGRAMME •

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Prelude in E Flat, BWV 552i

* Z. Randall Stroope (b.1953)

In Paradisum

* Paula Meador (b.1975)

Ubi Caritas

* Moses Hogan (1957 – 2003)

My Soul's been anchored in the Lord

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

Ballo del Granduca

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

Grand Choeur in D, 'alla Handel', op.18

* Jacob de Haan (b. 1959)

Missa Brevis (2002)

- Kyrie
- Gloria
- Credo
- Sanctus
- Benedictus
- Agnus Dei

* Choral items

THE ACADEMY CHAMBER CHOIR was founded in September 2008 as part of a performing groups' initiative undertaken by The Academy of Music in Tullamore. Each choral scholar is an advanced student of voice with the Academy and has a

different and wide-ranging background in solo, operatic and competitive performance, which enhances this young choir's ability to undertake some of the more challenging choral works, and contributes to their fresh and unique sound. From the beginning the choir set its sights high, winning second prize in the Chamber Choirs Competition in the 'Navan Choral Festival' and being awarded a certificate of Distinction for Choral Excellence in the 'Bord Na Mona National Choir of the Year 2009' competition, in its first year of existence. "This young choir is a wonderful and exciting new addition to the midland regions".

These two choirs can rightfully take their place alongside the best choirs in the country.

CIARÁN BRADY is founder and director of the choirs, and is an Honours graduate in Music from Maynooth University, where he also completed his Masters degree in Vocal Performance, and undertook further advanced vocal studies in Freiburg in Germany. Ciarán's vast choral experience started at the age of 10 as a boy treble and Head Chorister of the Palestrina Choir in Dublin.

While studying Ciarán was director of the Maynooth University Chamber Choir in many acclaimed concerts, winning the International Competition at Limerick Choral festival in 1991. Ciarán is now full time vocal instructor with The Academy of Music, Tullamore where he is channelling all his energies into high calibre performing ensembles, of which The Academy Chamber Choir and Youth Choir are proving to be significant flagships in promoting choral excellence in the midlands.

GERARD GILLEN was Professor and Head of Music at Maynooth University from 1985 to 2007, and was Titular Organist of Dublin's Pro-Cathedral from 1976 to 2018. He is widely regarded as one of Ireland's leading church and concert organists. A First Class Honours graduate of University College, Dublin, Oxford University, and the Royal Conservatoire of Music, Antwerp (where he gained the Prix d'Excellence, the highest award for instrumental performance in the class of Flor Peeters), Professor Gillen has an international reputation as an organ recitalist and has given more than 1000 recitals throughout Europe, the Middle East, America, Hong Kong and Australia, performing at such prestigious venues as the Royal Festival Hall, London, King's College, Cambridge, St Thomas, New York, Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, St Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna, St Thomas', Leipzig, St Bavo, Haarlem, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, and cathedrals and major recital venues in Antwerp, Bratislava, Brussels, Bruges, Copenhagen, Freiburg, Ghent, Hamburg, Jerusalem,

Kosice, Lübeck, Luxembourg, Malaga, Stockholm, Oslo, Notre Dame and La Madeleine, Paris, Pittsburgh, Potsdam, Rome, San Francisco, Talinn, Turin, Warsaw, Zaragosa, etc. He has also been a member of international organ playing competition juries in the UK, USA, Austria and Dublin.

Gillen was conferred with a Knighthood of St. Gregory (KCSG) by the Vatican in 1984. Other honours include the John Betts Visiting Fellowship at Oxford (1992), and in December 1996 he was nominated the classical winner in Ireland's TV National Entertainment Awards, the first and only organist to be so honoured. In 2006 he was conferred with the title *Chevalier des Ars et des Lettres* by the French Government for his contribution to French Music, and in 2007 he was conferred with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy *honoris causa* by the Pontifical University of Maynooth for his services to Church Music, and he was also elected to Fellowship of the Royal Irish Academy of Music (FRIAM). In 2010 he was decorated by King Albert II of Belgium as an 'Officer of the Crown,' and was awarded the Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst (Cross of Honour for Science and Arts) by the Austrian Government. His CD of the organ music of César Franck and Flor Peeters on the LCS HiRes label was one of Norman Lebrecht's special Christmas recommendations for 2009.

He has been artistic director of the series of annual recitals since its inception twenty-five years ago in 1999.

- Tuesday, 9th July -

Thomas Charles Marshall, organ
Bogdan Sofei, violin

• PROGRAMME •

Gustav Jensen (1845-1922)	Arioso & Rondo patetico, op. 40
Léon-Edgar Saint-Réquier (1872-1964)	Deux pièces, op.95 1. Sur un vieux Noël (ii) Cantabile Serioso
Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)	Sonata no. 4, op. 153 'Sonata Celtica' 1. Allegro molto moderato 2. Tema con variazioni: Allegretto 3. St Patrick's Breastplate: Allegro maestoso
Oscar Lindberg (1887-1955)	Gammal fäbodpsalm från Dalarna
William Lloyd Webber (1914-1982)	Benedictus
Johann Severin Svendsen (1840-1911)	Romanze in G für Violine und Orgel Op. 26

THOMAS CHARLES MARSHALL lives in Westmeath. A music graduate of Cambridge University, he studied organ with Shane Brennan at the Schola Cantorum St Finian's College, Mullingar, with Peter Hurford at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and with David Adams at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. He is the Director of Music and Organist at St Ann's Church, Dawson St. Dublin as well as director of the

Dublin Male Voice Choir and Kildare Cathedral Singers. He lived in Japan for 14 years and is a recognised exponent of the Japanese traditional instrument, the Satsuma Biwa, a four string lute.

Charles has been a regular and highly valued recitalist in this series since its inception in 1999 as both solo organist and chamber music player.

BOGDAN SOFEI is the leader, violinist/founding member of Con Tempo Quartet, a celebrated String Quartet that has been RTE's Quartet in Residence since 2014 and has been Galway's Ensemble in Residence since 2003. He is also the concertmaster of Luminosa, Galway's first professional permanent orchestra, founded in 2018. Bogdan has won numerous international awards as a chamber music practitioner and has performed over 2000 concerts in major venues in 42 countries including his native Romania, the UK, USA, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Israel, Japan, etc. Bogdan became an Irish Citizen in 2011 and was awarded the degree of DMus honoris causa by the University of Galway for outstanding services to music in his adopted country. He has been a regular and much admired participant in these July concerts in Tullamore over the years.

- Tuesday, 16th July -

Dónal McCann, organ

Maryam Wocial, soprano

• PROGRAMME •

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
(from *Solomon*, HWV 67)

From *Messiah*, HWV 56:

- I know that my Redeemer liveth
- Rejoice Greatly

C. V. Stanford (1852-1924)

Postlude in D minor, Op. 105 no 6
Bible Songs, Op. 113:

- 2. A Song of Trust
- 6. A Song of Wisdom

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Les angelus, Op. 57
1. Au Matin
2. A Midi
3. Au Soir

Symphonie no 1, Op. 14, VI. Finale

Born in Belfast, **DÓNAL McCANN** is the Assistant Organist at New College, Oxford. His musical education began as a chorister at St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast, before taking up organ lessons with Professor Gerard Gillen at St Mary's Pro Cathedral, Dublin. He achieved the prestigious diploma of Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists at the age of 17, and was awarded the Limpus Prize for the

highest practical mark in the examination.

At New College, Dónal is involved in all aspects of musical life, principally teaching music and accompanying the renowned chapel choir in services, recordings, broadcasts and international tours. Before moving to New College, Dónal was organ scholar at King's College, Cambridge, where he read music, graduating with a double first. A rapidly rising star on the organ recital circuit he recently performed in Westminster Abbey, and gave the opening recital on the restored organ of St Lawrence Church, Vittoriosa in Malta. Recent collaborations include with the Instruments of Time & Truth, and he has appeared as a guest soloist with the Ulster Orchestra and Academy of Ancient Music. He is also an award-winning composer, with his music recently performed by the BBC Singers on BBC Radio 3. He will take up the position of Head of Chapel Music and Choral Partnerships at Winchester College next September.

British soprano **MARYAM WOCIAL** is a Poppy Holden Scholar at the Royal College of Music, where she is studying for a master's degree with Dinah Harris. Maryam previously read Music at Lincoln College, Oxford University, where her studies were supported by the Henrey Bursary and the Lord Crewe Scholarship. Whilst based in Oxford, Maryam performed as a solo recitalist at the Holywell Music Room and as a soloist in many other prestigious Oxford venues. She made her operatic debut with New Chamber Opera as Lisetta in their 2020 production of Haydn's *La Vera Costanza*, and later returned in 2023 as Dido in their production of Johann Pepusch's *The Death of Dido* and as soprano soloist in Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*.

In London, Maryam has performed as a solo recitalist at the Handel Hendrix House and as a soloist in several venues including the Royal Albert Hall and the Fairfield Halls. She was the winner of the 2023 Oxford and Cambridge Club Music Prize and is their musician in residence for 2023–2024. Since starting at RCM, she has performed in concerts and recitals with the historical performance faculty and has been selected as the soprano soloist for the RCM's 2024 Bach cantata project.

- Tuesday, 23rd July -

Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, organ

• PROGRAMME •

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)	Pièce d'Orgue, BWV 552 (Fantasia in G Major)
Rachel Laurin (1961-2023)	Aria (1st symphony), op.36
Gabriel Pierné (1863-1937)	Prélude in G minor, Op. 29
Dénis Bédard (b.1950)	Suite en 3 Mouvements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prélude• Lamento• Toccata
Improvisations on submitted themes	
Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)	Toccata from Symphony No. 5 in F Major

Madame **CAUCHEFER-CHOPLIN** studied organ from an early age at the École Nationale de Musique of Le Mans before entering the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris, in her teens where she studied organ with Rolande Falcinelli. She was awarded first prizes in organ, improvisation, harmony, fugue, and counterpoint, her academic success earning her a special prize from the French Ministry of Culture in 1980.

Cauchefer-Choplin was named titular of the Grand Orgue of Saint Jean-Baptiste de la Salle in Paris in 1983. In 1985, she added the position of co-titular of the Grand

Orgue of Saint Sulpice Paris with Daniel Roth. In 1990, after advanced study with Loïc Mallié, she became the first woman to win the second prize in improvisation at the Chartres International Organ Improvisation Competition.

Cauchefer-Choplin has an extensive international career, giving recitals throughout Europe, Russia, Japan, Singapore, China, Iceland, the United States, Canada, and Australia. Since 1998, she has conducted master classes in improvisation in Dallas, Chicago, New York, Washington, Minneapolis, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Melbourne, Sydney, etc.

She is considered by her peers to be one of the best improvisers of her generation. Her recordings of Bach, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Franck, Rheinberger, Messiaen, etc. along with her recorded improvisations, have gained her the highest accolades from the international community.



Previous Artists in this Series

1999

Ewald Kooiman, Netherlands
Martin Baker, UK
Niels Henrik Jessen, Denmark
Gerard Gillen, Ireland

2000

Dame Gillian Weir, UK
John O'Keeffe, Ireland
Eberhard Lauer, Germany
Massimo Nossetti, Italy

2001

Shane Brennan and Choir of the
Carmelite Church, Dublin
Maria Ziener, organ and Line Most,
violin, Denmark
Franz Lôrch, Germany
Charles Harrison, UK.

2002

Colm Carey, London/Dublin
Malcolm Proud, Kilkenny
Edouard Oganessian, Lithuania/Paris
Flemming Dreisig, Bornholm/Denmark

2003

Mullingar Cathedral Choir
(director Gerard Lillis)
Gerard Gillen, organ
Catherine Ennis, UK
Ansgar Wallenhorst, Germany
Peter Van de Velde, Belgium

2004

The Palestrina Choir
(director Blanaid Murphy)
Gerard Gillen, Ireland

Andrej Chorosinski, Poland
Peter Barley, UK/Dublin
Timothy Noon, Wales

2005

Stanislas Surin, Slovakia
Juan Paradell Solé, Spain
Andrew Johnstone, Dublin
Gerard Lillis & Schola Cantorum,
Mullingar

2006

Drogheda Male Voice Choir
(director Edward Holly)
Gerard Gillen, organ
Paul Hale, UK
Gabriel Marghieri, France
Matthias Jacob, Germany

2007

Malcolm Proud, Kilkenny
Andrzej Chorosinski, Poland
Liam Crangle, Armagh,
Vincent de Pol, Hamburg / Poland

2008

Academic Choir of the Silesian University
of Technology
Gerard Gillen, Ireland
Hana Bartosová (Czech Republic)
Kevin Bowyer (UK)
Silvano Rodi (Monaco)

2009

Tullamore Academy Chamber Choir
(Director: Ciarán Brady)
John O'Keeffe, organ

Previous Artists in this Series

Liudmila Matsyura, Russia/Spain
Stephen Hicks, Norway/UK
The RIAM Players,
David Adams, Director and organ

2010

Cantairí Avondale
(Director: Ruairí Ó Dálaigh)
Raymond O'Donnell, organ
James Taylor (Cork/UK), organ
Colette Boushell, soprano,
Andrew Boushell, tenor,
Simon Harden, organ
(Frankfurt a/M/Ireland)
Mario Duella (Italy), organ

2011

Joseph Ripka (USA)
Rolf Henry Kunz (Germany)
Johann Trummer (Austria)
Mullingar Cathedral Choir
(Director: Gerard Lillis)
Gerard Gillen, organ

2012

Ignace Michiels (Bruges Cathedral)
John Kitchen (University of Edinburgh)
Aleksandr Nisse (Dublin)
Adam Collins (Mullingar)
Paul McDonagh-Forde (Sligo)
Paul Mullen (Dublin)

2013

Peter King (Bath Abbey)
Tullamore Academy of Music Chamber
Choir (director Ciarán Brady)
Thomas Charles Marshall (organ)
Bogdan Sofei (violin)

Adele O'Dwyer (cello)
Peter Strauven (Antwerp)
Juan Paradell Solé (titular organist to the
Vatican's Sistine Chapel Choir)

2014

Tullamore Academy of Music Chamber
Choir (director Ciarán Brady)
Gerard Gillen, organ
Maria Perucka, violin
Roman Perucki, organ
Ciarán O'Connell, flute
Siobhán Kilkelly, organ
Bogdan Sofel, violin
Aoise O'Dwyer, viola
Adele O'Dwyer, cello
Thomas Charles Marshall, organ

2015

Gyula Nagy, baritone, baritone
Judit Mate, organ
John Scott, New York/London
Elmo Cosentini (Vienna), organ Maynooth
University Chamber Choir,
Conductor Michael Dawson
Stanislav Surin, (Bratislava)

2016

Jan Vermeire (Belgium), organ
Tullamore Academy Of Music Chamber
Choir, (director Ciarán Brady)
Shane Brennan, organ
Thomas Charles Marshall, organ
Adele O'Dwyer, cello
Ellen Reilly, violin
Rolf Henry Kunz (Germany), organ

Previous Artists in this Series

2017

David O'Doherty, violin
Simon Harden, organ
Juan Paradell Solé, organ
David Power, uileann pipes
Malcolm Proud, organ
Klaus Kuchling, organ

2018

Dublin Bach Singers
(Director: Blanaid Murphy)
Siobhán Kilkelly, organ
Bogdan Sofei, violin
Thomas Charles Marshall, organ
Eric Sweeney, organ
Mark Roper, poet
Donal McCann
Henry Websdale
Colm Byrne, NSO trumpeter
Gerard Gillen, organ

2019

The Choir of St James Episcopal Church,
Los Angeles; James Buonemani, Director;
David Greal, organ
Maria Perucka, violin;
Roman Perucki, organ
Maurice Clerc, organ
Thomas Charles Marshall, organ and
Satsuma Biwa;
Bogdan Sofei, violin;
Adele O'Dwyer, 'cello

2020

Music for strings and organ
Johannes Trummer, organ (Austria)
A Gift of Music

2021

Aisling Kenny, soprano;
David Greal, organ
Colm Byrne, trumpet;
Gerard Gillen, organ
Bogdan Sofei, violin;
Thomas Charles Marshall, organ
Sharon Carty, mezzo-soprano;
Judit Maté, organ

2022

Aleksandr Nisse, organ
Adele O'Dwyer, 'cello
Thomas Charles Marshall, organ
Raymond O'Donnell, organ
Michael Vignoles, uileann pipes
Robbie Carroll, organ

2023

Tullamore Academy Chamber Choir
Thomas Charles Marshall, organ
David Cassan, organ
Jonathan Dimmock, organ
Patrice Keegan, Carole O'Connor,
organ duo

We are deeply grateful to the Sponsors and Friends listed below, and to those whose donations arrived too late for publication in this programme book.

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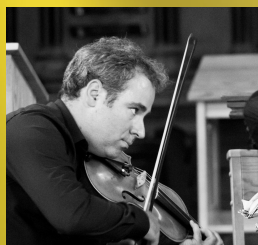
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