

Grand Opening Recital by Dame Gillian Weir Saturday, 14 June 2008

Dame Gillian Weir



New Hall School



Photo by Neil Collier

Through her unique career as an internationally acclaimed concert organist performing worldwide at the major festivals and with leading orchestras and conductors, Gillian Weir has become established as a distinguished musician known for her virtuosity and integrity, her reputation extending well beyond the world of the organ. Her renown as a performer, which has stimulated numerous young players to follow her, is backed by her scholarly reputation; she is in demand as an adjudicator for all the leading international competitions and as lecturer, broadcaster, teacher and writer, while her television appearances have reached vast new audiences.

Her repertoire is exceptional in its breadth and variety, stretching from the Renaissance to contemporary works. She has performed the complete works of Bach as well as others including Messiaen, and her pre-eminent position as Messiaen interpreter has been underlined with her CD release of his complete organ works – received universally with such plaudits as that from *Le Monde*: “This intégrale is a worthy successor to that by Messiaen himself” - and also by her contribution to Faber’s *The Messiaen Companion* and other publications.

She has received many prizes, awards and honours, and in the 1996 New Year’s Honours List was created Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of her services to music, having been made CBE in 1989. Her achievements have been marked by the reissue on CD of her famed series of Argo recordings, and her nomination by *Classic CD* magazine as one of the 100 Greatest Keyboard Players of the Century, as well as by *The Sunday Times* as one of the 1000 Music Makers of the Millennium. In December 2000, ITV South Bank Show chronicled her worldwide activities as a performer, teacher and recording artist in a highly acclaimed documentary. She has recently accepted the appointment of Distinguished Visiting Artist at the Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore USA.

Gillian’s recent schedule has included recital and concerto appearances in Berlin, Canada and the USA (including the spectacular Disney Hall in Los Angeles), the new Esplanade Concert Hall in Singapore, and festivals throughout Europe. In October she gave the first full-scale recital for several decades at the Royal Albert Hall, to an audience of over 2000. Her much praised Organ Master Series for Priory Records continued with the double-CD sets of Bach, including the Leipzig Chorales on the new organ at Bach’s own church of St Thomas, Leipzig. This was followed by the first in a new series of concert-hall recordings, celebrating the Albert Hall’s refurbished organ; the next, made in the Royal Festival Hall just before the organ was removed for restoration, followed in February, and the third in the series, from Symphony Hall, Birmingham, is just released. The re-release of her legendary Messiaen recordings have received further acclaim, being hailed by *Gramophone* as “one of the finest organ recordings ever made”.

Chapel Organ Appeal

Launched Exhibition Day 2007

Grand Opening Recital by
Dame Gillian Weir
Saturday, 14 June 2008



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History

The New Hall organ was built by Norman and Beard in 1910 and is a fine example of their work in the English romantic tradition. For some 75 years the organ was an integral part of worship in the Chapel on a daily basis and many generations of students have fond memories of singing with its sympathetic support.

We now have the opportunity to rebuild the organ in order to provide an instrument that can be used for a wide variety of chapel services, accompanying concerts, recitals and for teaching.

The Future

The plan is to restore the best of the existing instrument in its present location, use elements of a contemporary Norman and Beard instrument to provide a nave division and to locate a 3 manual console in the bow currently occupied by the electronic instrument.

The work is being undertaken by the long-established firm of Bishop and Sons and is due for completion in time for a Grand Opening Recital to be given by one of the world's leading organists, Dame Gillian Weir.



Artist's impression of the nave organ

How you can help...

The project will cost in the region of £100,000. We are seeking to raise £50,000 and the school will match this funding. By sponsoring a pipe you will be helping to ensure that the New Hall Chapel Organ is enjoyed now and by future generations. All donations will be recorded in a book of donors. Donors of £1000 or more will receive two tickets to the opening recital and an invitation to the post-concert reception.

£1000

£500

£250

£100

£50



New Hall School Chapel Organ Appeal

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- You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that we reclaim on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give)
- If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration (see note 1)
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- If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid relief, ask us. Or refer to help sheet IR65 on the HMRC website (www.hmrc.gov.uk).
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