



Organ Recital

Saturday 15th February 2025

Organist

John Lyon

Programme

Handel - Overture *from* Musick for the Royal Fireworks

J S Bach - Prelude and Fugue in C minor

Brahms - Herzlich Thut Mich Verlangen

Langlais - Canzona *from* Folkloric suite

Ireland - Elegy *from* A Downland Suite

Tournemire - Improvisation sur le Te Deum

Schubert - Marche Militaire

Saint-Saens - The Swan

J S Bach - Fantasia in G

Biography

John Lyon

Director of Music - The Parish of Boston

Originally from Golborne, near Wigan, John studied Bass Trombone with Leslie Storey and Organ with Dr Graham Cummings at the University of Huddersfield, graduating with a B Mus (hons) degree in 1993. He continued his studies, gaining his PGCE a year later. Whilst at University, John ran a successful student choir known as the St Paul's Singers who gave concerts locally and worked with some famous musicians, including Rick Wakeman. John also worked as Choirmaster at St Barnabas' Church, Crosland Moor, a church with a strong choral tradition.



John moved to Lincolnshire in 1994 to take up a post as Head of Music in Spalding and continued his organ studies at that time with Colin Walsh, Organist Laureate of Lincoln Cathedral.

John has held middle and senior leadership roles in a number of schools in the county, serving most recently as Assistant Headteacher at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar, Alford and subsequently taking a position at Boston Grammar School as Director of Music and Head of Sixth Form, where he worked as a member of the Senior Leadership Team until 2022.

John co-founded the Heckington Singers, a 70 strong community choir in 2012. He is the Bass Trombonist and Organist for the Boston Sinfonia and also performs with the Lincolnshire Philharmonia (the Orchestra of RAF Cranwell). He was the Musical Director of the Swineshead Silver Band for eight years, developing the band's repertoire and building strong musical standards.

John held the position of Director of Music at St Botolph's Church from 2001-2006 and was delighted to return as Assistant Organist in November 2015. He became Director of Music in Advent 2019 and since September 2022, his position has become full time. John's work as Director of Music in the Parish of Boston involves choosing and preparing suitable music for our worship, rehearsing our choirs, teaching choristers and also leading our broad and lively community music work with adults and in local schools. John is 'Musician in Residence' at Skegness Grammar School, where he supports a number of students in their musicianship as well as leading their school choir. An exciting programme training new organists has begun as part of this residency, which is allowing young people to learn to play. He also supports local primary schools through choral workshops, and a wide range of projects. This work supports our choral tradition, and our choir has grown considerably, now consisting of 17 junior choristers, 16 teenage singers and 20 adult voices, who work together and also in separate choral units.

John served on the RSCM Lincoln area committee for a number of years, as Education and Training Officer and subsequently as Chair, working to promote church music and choral singing across Lincolnshire. He and the team organised a number of successful Diocesan choral festivals in Lincoln Cathedral, featuring singers from across the county. In his spare time, John enjoys walking his dogs, composing and arranging music and tinkering with a range of practical projects!