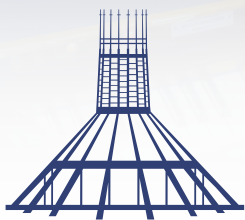


# Music at the Met 2024



**Metropolitan Cathedral  
of Christ the King Liverpool**



Archdiocese of Liverpool

**MUSIC**



## Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

One of Liverpool's two iconic cathedrals, the Metropolitan Cathedral sits at the beating heart of the city of Liverpool. Its vast circular space and spectacular lantern tower draw visitors in for an array of services, concerts and events each year. Savour the silence. Join us in prayer. Hear our music. Explore and discover. Whatever shape your visit takes, we would love to welcome you to Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King.

### Regular Choral Services in the Cathedral

**Monday – Thursday:** Sung Mass at 17.00

**Friday:** Sung Mass and Choral Evening Prayer at 17.00

**Sunday:** Solemn Mass at 11.00 and Choral Evening Prayer at 15.00

Visit [liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music](http://liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music) to view the current Order of Services and Music.

### Chorister Recruitment

Recruitment for the next generation of boy and girl choristers takes place in June 2024.

Visit [liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music/joining-the-choirs/](http://liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music/joining-the-choirs/) to find out more.

Follow us on social media:    @LpoolMetMusic

### Join our mailing list

To join our mailing list and be the first to hear about forthcoming events, scan this QR code or email [music@metcathedral.org.uk](mailto:music@metcathedral.org.uk).



### Parking

Pay and display parking is available in the cathedral underground car park. For popular events, additional parking is available at:

- University of Liverpool Pay and Display, Mount Pleasant (1 min walk)
- Mount Pleasant Car Park, L3 5TB (5 min walk)
- Paddington Village Car Park, L7 3FA (8 min walk)

### Tickets

Tickets for all paid events may be purchased from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral).

### Get in touch

Telephone **0151 708 7283** or email us at [music@metcathedral.org.uk](mailto:music@metcathedral.org.uk).



## Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to our 'Music at the Met' concert series for 2024. Music has played a vital role in the life of the Metropolitan Cathedral since its consecration in 1967, when an enviable musical tradition was set in place by Philip and Terence Duffy, respectively the first Master of Music and Organist.

Central to music-making in the cathedral is the grand organ, built by the English organ builders J W Walker & Sons, and whose distinctive façade was designed by the cathedral architect, Sir Frederick Gibberd. In 2021 work began on a once-in-a-generation refurbishment, carried out by Harrison & Harrison, organ builders based in Durham.

The organ restoration project involved the removal, cleaning and restoring of each of its 4,565 pipes, as well as modifying the location of parts of the organ. The failing winding system was upgraded and new digital electronic technology was installed, unlocking hidden potential previously unafforded to Walkers because of the restrictions of the original layout.

During 2024 we are celebrating the return of our restored grand organ with a series of concerts and events that will demonstrate the versatility of the instrument. On 12 May (the eve of the 57th anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral) we will rededicate the organ during the office of Choral Evening Prayer, which will be followed by the opening recital, played by the internationally renowned organist Martin Baker.

Throughout the inaugural season the organ can be heard in a variety of contexts. Recitals by Katherine Dienes-Williams (Organist of the Metropolitan Cathedral 1994-1997) and internet sensation Matthew Walters, sit alongside a concert given by Liverpool's two cathedral choirs with Professor Ian Tracey (Organist of Liverpool Cathedral). The instrument will also feature in Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony, played by our own cathedral organist Richard Lea.

In September we will be holding a 24-hour Musicathon in the cathedral to raise money for the cathedral choir's trip to Cologne, the German city twinned with the city of Liverpool. The day will feature formal performances, a 'come and sing' event and the participation of former choristers of the cathedral choir.

In addition to the concerts and events described in this booklet, the cathedral choir sings seven regular choral services each week during term time. Whether you attend services, concerts or simply appreciate the peace and beauty of the place, we very much look forward to welcoming you here to Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and hope that you enjoy your visit.



*Christopher McElroy*

Dr Christopher McElroy  
Director of Music

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Festival Carol Service and La Nativité du Seigneur	Sunday 22 December, 17.00	15



### Eastertide Carol Service

Sunday 21 April | 15.00

Admission free, retiring collection

The cathedral choir leads a carol service for Eastertide, including movements from Part III of Handel's *Messiah*.



## Rededication of the Grand Organ

Sunday 12 May

Admission free, retiring collection

**14.00** Illustrated presentation on the history of the cathedral organ and its recent restoration – **Terence Duffy** *Organist Emeritus* and **John Rowntree** *Organ Consultant*

**15.00** Choral Evening Prayer with the blessing of the grand organ

Dextera Domini – Cousins (b1962)

Let all the world – Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Magnificat – Andriessen (1892–1981)

A Hymn to the Mother of God – Tavener (1944–2013)

**Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Choir**

**Christopher McElroy** *Director*

**Richard Lea** *Organist*

**16.00** Opening organ recital – **Martin Baker**

Toccata quinta (Libro II) – Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583–1643)

Chaconne from Partita in D minor (BWV 1004) – Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) arranged by Wilhelm Middelschulte (1863–1943)

Salve Regina – Olivier Latry (b1962)

Improvisation – Martin Baker (b1967)



Born in Manchester in 1967, Martin Baker studied at the Royal Northern College of Music, Chetham's School of Music and Downing College, Cambridge, then held positions at London's Westminster and St Paul's cathedrals before being appointed to Westminster Abbey at the age of 24. In 2000 he returned to Westminster Cathedral as Master of Music, where for 20 years he was responsible for directing the world-renowned choir in its daily choral programme and busy schedule of concerts, tours and recordings.

Martin Baker is much sought after as an organist, playing frequent solo concerts in the UK and around the world. In addition to playing a wide repertoire, he is known for his skill in improvisation, both liturgically and in concert, and was the winner of the Tournemire improvisation competition in St Albans in 1997. His first solo organ recording has just been released on the Ad Fontes label from Buckfast Abbey, where he played the opening concert on the new Ruffatti organ in 2018. He teaches both repertoire and improvisation and has appeared on the juries of several international organ competitions.

**17.00** Reception in the Lutyens Crypt

## Two Cathedrals Messiah

Saturday 18 May | 19.30

Tickets £12 (£8 children) available from:

[liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](http://liverpoolcathedral.org.uk)

This concert takes place at Liverpool Cathedral

*Messiah* – George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Liverpool Mozart Orchestra

Liverpool Cathedral Choir

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Choir

Jennifer Lee *Soprano*

Danielle Louise Thomas *Alto*

Chris Why *Tenor*

Damian O’Keeffe *Bass*

Stephen Mannings *Conductor*

## Organ Recital: Katherine Dienes-Williams

Monday 27 May | 11.15

Tickets £10 available from:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral)

We are delighted to welcome Katherine Dienes-Williams, former organist here at the Metropolitan Cathedral (1994–1997) back to Liverpool to play the restored Walker organ. Katherine is currently the Organist and Master of the Choristers at Guildford Cathedral, she serves as the President of the Cathedral Organists’ Association and is Chair-elect of the Royal College of Organists.

Katherine will play a varied programme including music by Bach, Karg-Elert and Flor Peeters.



## Organ Recital: Matthew Walters

Saturday 1 June | 19.30

Tickets £10 available from:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral)

Matthew Walters, aka Reductio, has had a busy twelve months, gaining well over 100,000 followers across social media platforms. His unique combination of the classical and contemporary on both the organ and his own productions has gained him a fast-growing online following. His interpretations of modern music onto the organ have proven incredibly popular, and he has been relentlessly collating and posting these works online, as well as releasing his own classical compositions and electronic productions.

Matthew will play a mix of contemporary and classical music on the organ, including Bach, Zimmer, ABBA and some of his own original compositions. His performance will also feature a segment of audience participation, which will involve an audience member playing a short phrase upon which Matthew will improvise a piece.



## French Choral and Organ Music

Two Cathedral Choirs and Organist Ian Tracey

Sunday 7 July | 15.00

Tickets £10 available from:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral)

Liverpool's two cathedral choirs join together to sing Vierne's *Messe Solennelle*, with organ solos played by **Professor Ian Tracey**.

Messe Solennelle – Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

Grand Jeu (Premier livre d'orgue) – Pierre du Mage (1674–1751)

Lamento (Douze pièces Op 5) – Joseph Bonnet (1884–1944)

Litanies – Jehan Alain (1911–1940)

Communion (Triptyque) Op 58 No 2 – Louis Vierne

Improvisation sur le 'Te Deum' – Charles Tournemire (1870–1939)

transcribed by Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986)

Liverpool Cathedral Choir

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Choir

Christopher McElroy *Director*



Professor Ian Tracey has had a lifelong association with Liverpool Cathedral and its music, and with his two illustrious predecessors continues the tradition of an almost apostolic succession. In 1980 he became the youngest cathedral organist in the country, a post he has held for the past 43 years. Since his appointment, he has played most of the major venues in this country, and an increasing number in Europe; very much in demand in the USA, he has made 25 extensive tours, playing in all the major cities, and in 1999 and 2003 undertook major tours of Southern Australia, giving recitals, examining and teaching.

Ian is Organist to the City of Liverpool and curator of the historic 'Father' Willis organ at St George's Hall, Liverpool, where he plays monthly recitals and officiates at civic functions. He is also Professor, Fellow and Organist at Liverpool John Moores University, and Tonal Director for Church Organ World. He was commissioned as a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Merseyside in 2015.

## Summer Sunday Organ Recitals

All start at 14.00

Admission free, retiring collection

A series of organ recitals on Sunday afternoons, lasting 40 minutes, played by current and former organ scholars of the Metropolitan Cathedral.

**4 August** – Peter Kwater (Organ Scholar 1982–1984)

**11 August** – Dan Mansfield (Organ Scholar 2017–2018)

**18 August** – Peter Morrison (Organ Scholar 1977–1979)

**25 August** – Andrew Sharples (Organ Scholar 1980–1982)

**1 September** – Zakariya Raoudi and James Vowles-Wang (Organ Scholars 2023–2025)



## 24-Hour Musicathon

Evening of Friday 27 September  
to evening of Saturday 28 September

Join us in person or virtually for 24 hours of non-stop music to raise money for the cathedral choir's tour to Cologne in November 2024.

The day will include performances from the cathedral choir, children from the Archdiocese of Liverpool Schools' Singing Programme, organ recitals, instrumentalists and special guests.

Highlights will include:

- 11.00** – 'Come and Sing' for children
- 13.00** – Open rehearsal of the cathedral choir
- 15.00** – 'Come and Sing' rehearsal for Fauré *Requiem*
- 18.30** – 'Come and Sing' performance of Fauré *Requiem*

To learn more about the musicathon, keep up to date with the full timetable of performances or to register for one of the 'Come and Sing' events, please visit [liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music](https://liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music)



## BBC Radio 3 Choral Evening Prayer



Wednesday 9 October | 15.00 | live on BBC Radio 3

Admission free, please be seated by 14.45

The cathedral choir broadcasts Choral Evening Prayer for the Feast of St John Henry Newman live on BBC Radio 3.



## Cologne Cathedral Choir

Sunday 13 October | 11.00

Admission free

The choir of Cologne Cathedral, Germany, joins Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Choir to sing Solemn Mass for the feast of St Edward the Confessor, patron saint of our choir schools.



## Bruckner and Saint-Saëns

Saturday 19 October | 19.00

Tickets £15 available from:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral)

Symphony No 3 'Organ' – Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921)  
Locus iste – Anton Bruckner (1824–1896)  
Ecce sacerdos magnus – Anton Bruckner  
Ave Maria – Anton Bruckner  
Te Deum – Anton Bruckner

Liverpool Mozart Orchestra  
Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Choir

Barbara Ruzsics *Soprano*  
Danny Townley *Alto*  
David Lee *Tenor*  
Jonne Quint *Bass*  
Richard Lea *Organ*

Robin Wallington *Conductor*  
Christopher McElroy *Conductor*



An opportunity to hear the restored grand organ of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral featured in Saint-Saëns' popular *Third Symphony*, affectionately known as the 'Organ Symphony'. And in celebration of Anton Bruckner's 200th anniversary in 2024, the cathedral choir will sing three of Bruckner's best-known motets, before combining with the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra and soloists to complete the programme with his mighty *Te Deum*.

## ADVENT and CHRISTMAS

### Advent Sequence

Sunday 1 December | 17.00

Admission free, retiring collection

As the season of Advent begins, the cathedral choir and clergy offer a sequence of music and readings to prepare us for the liturgical journey, including choral works by Britten, Byrd and Sandström.

### Bach and Handel

Sunday 8 December | 15.00

Admission free, retiring collection

Music by Bach (Cantata 140, *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*) and Handel (selections from Part I of *Messiah*) for the Advent and Christmas season performed by Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Choir and members of the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra.

### A Celebration of Christmas

Saturday 14 December | 19.00

Tickets £10 available from: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral)

A magical night of Christmas carols and seasonal favourites featuring the cathedral choir and special guests.

### A Ceremony of Carols

Sunday 15 December | 15.00

Admission free, retiring collection

The cathedral choristers sing Benjamin Britten's famous carol sequence, accompanied by harpist Elizabeth McNulty.

### Festival Carol Service and La Nativité du Seigneur – Messiaen

Sunday 22 December | 17.00

Admission free, retiring collection

Join the cathedral choir and clergy for a mix of seasonal music, readings and congregational carols. Immediately following the carol service, there will be a performance of Olivier Messiaen's monumental organ work *La Nativité du Seigneur* given by the cathedral organist, Richard Lea. In composing the nine meditations, Messiaen was inspired by the nativity narrative, mountains, birdsong, and stained-glass windows.



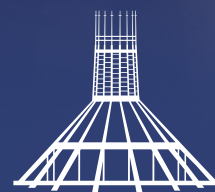




Metropolitan Cathedral  
Cathedral House  
Mount Pleasant  
Liverpool L3 5TQ

   @LpoolMetMusic

[liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk](http://liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk)



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