

Another Toccata Tuesday

This series of organ recitals by Leeds musician (and Conductor of Doncaster Choral Society, for whose benefit they are given) Simon Lindley goes from strength to strength. Over a hundred were present on 16 August at St Peter-in-Chains to enjoy a programme which ranged from more or less standard organists' fare – Weitz's Grand Choeur, Handel's organ concerto The Cuckoo and the Nightingale, Guimant's sensitively, chordal Ave Maria and Henry Smart's cheerful, thrusting Postlude in D – to something more obviously popular and classifiable maybe as "light music": Greensleeves, Gounod's Funeral March of a Marionette, with its overtones of Alfred Hitchcock nicely suggested here, Percy Grainger's folkly Country Gardens, wonderfully lively and robust, and In a Monastery Garden, which made Albert Ketelbey's fortune, deliciously registered in this reading.

Two less heard pieces of especial interest were the charmingly fleetfooted Scherzo for the White Rabbit by Nigel Ogden of "The Organist Entertains" and, from Doncaster, Magnus Black's Sarabande, brief but a perfect miniature, with just enough astringency to provide interest and character. Dr Lindley again showed enthusiasm for, and aptitude in, a wide range of immediately attractive music; the series, which audiences clearly like, fills a gap in two respects: their August dates are normally empty of live music of this genre in Doncaster; and the organ as a vehicle for light music is, generally speaking, now less apparent than it once was.

I look forward to the final recital in the series at All Saints Church, Arksey (23 August)

Orpheus