

Raymond Luckhurst *piano, organ*

62 Barewell Road, St. Marychurch, TQ1 4PA · 01803 324750 · raymond@scriptit.uk



Experience

2011–2017: Organist at the Parish Church of St Mary's, Brixham. Approximately 100 services p.a. + weddings & funerals. Weekly Communion services and monthly free-format worship. Weekly BCP Evensong with sung canticles and psalm. Also festival services with anthems, civic events, special occasions, children's functions, and other Mission Community services. Elsewhere: playing for Fishermen's Mission, care homes, accompanying secular music, exam candidates, etc. 2017–present: occasional deputising at St. George's Church Goodrington and non-conformist churches.

I normally play soft piano music before services begin and to accompany Communion songs – the contrast is appreciated. I use the piano for times of reflection – in Memorial services, Remembrance, Blue Christmas, funerals, wedding Registers.

I have a low-church progressive background but enjoy all kinds of discerning church music. I have been involved in inner city and evangelical churches, in worship groups playing piano and clarinet and singing.

Qualifications

- DipABRSM – Diploma in Piano Performance (2005)
Studied under concert pianists Brenda Lucas Ogdon in Chelsea (widow & duo partner of John Ogdon), and Carolyn Kotok in Finchley. Also private tutoring at the Guildhall SMD
Recital programme: J. S. Bach: Toccata in D, BWV 912; Mendelssohn: Prelude & Fugue in F minor;
Ravel: *Sonatine*; Prokofiev: four *Visions Fugitives*; John Ogdon: *25 Preludes*, No. 9
Other elements: research and writing authoritative programme notes; viva voce; quick study
Performed some of these works in concerts at UBS Bank in the City (my workplace) and at Jaques Samuel Pianos, Edgware Road
- ABRSM Grade 8 Organ – distinction (2014)
Exam taken on the Hele organ at St Mary's, Brixham. Programme:
Buxtehude: Toccata in F (with *Fuga*), BuxWV 157
Gigout: Scherzo in E (from *10 Pièces*)
Richard Proulx: Fanfare for Organ (1970)
- ABRSM Grade 6 Organ – merit (2012)
Exam taken on the Hele organ at St Mary's, Brixham
- Torbay & SW England Music Festival – distinctions in Piano Performance (2010)
for Prokofiev's *Sarcasms* No. 3 and two *Visions fugitives*, and for Dave Brubeck's *It's a Raggy Waltz*
- ABRSM Grade 5 Singing – distinction (2010)
- Trinity College of Music – Performer's Certificate in Piano – 83% (1992)
works by J. S. Bach (WTC), Schubert, Ravel
- ABRSM Grade 8 Music Theory (1992)
- ABRSM Grade 8 Piano – distinction (1987)
works by J. S. Bach, Kabalevsky, Poulenc
- BSc Electrical Engineering & Electronics (1980s) + other engineering qualifications

Recordings

I have made two amateur CDs: *Piano Odyssey* (2002) and *Piano Textures* (2005) – pieces by J. S. Bach, Chopin, Liszt, John Field, Schumann, Greig, Poulenc, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Dave Brubeck and others. Videos of organ and piano works are on my [YouTube channel](#); some piano samples are on my [website](#).

Organ Repertoire

These popular works plus many others, including trumpet tunes, marches, canons etc. and exam pieces:

- Widor: Toccata, from 5th Organ Symphony
- J. S. Bach: Toccata and Fugue in D minor; *Sinfonia*, from Cantata No. 29, arr. A. Guilmant
- Karg-Elert: *Nun danket alle Gott – Marche Triomphale* from Chorale Improvisation
- Boëllmann: Toccata and other pieces, from *Suite Gothique*
- Eugène Gigout: Toccata in B minor; Scherzo in E major, from *10 Pièces pour orgue*
- Théodore Dubois: Toccata, from *12 Pièces*
- William Walton: *Crown Imperial*
- William Mathias: Fanfare (1987)
- Einar Trærup Sark: Toccata Primi Toni (performed on the organ of Exeter Cathedral in 2015)
- Mendelssohn: Wedding March, from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; War March of the Priests, from *Athalie*
- Wagner: Bridal March, from *Lohengrin*

Music Direction

I directed Brixham St Mary's Choir for three years. I often composed simple singing parts for their limited resources and arranged anthems for choir, organ and handbells/flute. I led a 'Singing for Fun' evening course at Brixham College in 2010. Directing is not really my forte but I can provide practical support. I select music that makes for coherent worship alongside readings, church season and topical events, with a balance of old and new styles. To freshen worship I set new texts to familiar tunes and new tunes to old texts.

Related Information

I studied harmony and composition to diploma level in the '90s aiming for an ARCM teaching qualification as an external student. I use notation software (Sibelius/MuseScore) to produce arrangements for choir/organ/piano and for composing. I have taught piano to adults and children with good exam results and still do a little coaching on request. I have a good grasp of liturgy – CW and New Patterns – and have produced numerous Orders of Service booklets for special occasions and for non-eucharist services. At home I have a modern Grotrian-Steinweg piano and a 2-manual+pedals practice organ.

Professional

I am now semi-retired but still do software development from home, specialising in server-side scripting, web technologies, client-side interfaces and apps. I maintain websites for British composers Robert Simpson, Havergal Brian and John Ogdon. Past jobs include Sony, Sky, Press Association, UBS and Dresdner banks. I moved to Brixham in 1996 to work for Nortel Networks in Paignton. Other jobs include mobile phone development, telemetry systems and automotive electronics. For St Mary's in Brixham I devised a MIDI record/playback unit to play the pipe organ remotely via self-built hardware and software. See [Software CV](#).

Referees

- *Team Vicar, Brixham Mission Community*
- *Vicar, Mission Community of Goodrington and Collaton St Mary*
- *Ministers, United Reformed and Methodist churches in Torbay*
(contact details on request)