

# Raymond Luckhurst *piano, organ*

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## Church Experience

January 2011 – March 2017: Organist at the Parish Church of St Mary's, Brixham. Approximately 100 services p.a. plus weddings and funerals. Weekly Communion services with monthly free format worship. Weekly BCP Evensong with sung canticles and psalm (Parish Psalter; set chant). Also festival services, civic events and special occasions, often with anthems, children's events, and at other Mission Community churches.

Elsewhere: the Fishermen's Mission, care homes, accompanying secular music, exam candidates, etc.

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' background but I 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 (certificates on request)

- 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 (2 marks short of distinction)
- Torbay & SW England Music Festival – distinctions in Piano Performance (2010)  
for Prokofiev's *Sarcasms* No. 3 and two *Visions*, 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. YouTube videos of organ works are in the planning; 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 St Mary's Choir for three years. With limited resources I often composed simple singing parts. I arranged anthems for choir, organ and handbells/flute. I led a 'Singing for Fun' evening course at Brixham College in 2010. Directing is not my forte but I can offer applied music support. I select music that makes for coherent worship alongside readings, church season and topical events, with a balance of old and new styles. Today new texts to familiar tunes and new tunes for old texts abound; I use them to freshen worship.

## Related Interests

I studied harmony and composition to diploma level in the late '90s aiming for an ARCM Teaching qualification as an external student. I use music notation software (Sibelius) to produce arrangements for choir/organ/piano, and for composing. I have taught piano to adults and children on and off 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 exclusively for the monthly non-eucharist services.

## Professional

I run a small software house from home: Scriptit Ltd. providing IT support locally and record label software – digital downloads, dynamic PDFs, automation. I developed and maintain websites for British composers – Robert Simpson, Havergal Brian, John Ogdon. I specialise in server-side scripting, Web technologies, client-side interfaces and apps. Jobs include UIs for Sony, Sky, Press Association, UBS and Dresdner banks. I came to Devon 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 facility for the pipe organ using self-built hardware and software. See [Software CV](#).

## Referees

- Revd. Ian Blyde  
*Team Rector, Brixham Mission Community*  
The Rectory, Holwell Road, Brixham TQ5 9NE · 01803 851340 · [ihblyde@btinternet.com](mailto:ihblyde@btinternet.com)
- Mr Ralph Bell  
*chorister; ex-Treasurer of St Mary's Church, Brixham*  
The Vineries, Dashpers, Brixham, TQ5 9LH · 01803 856241 · [belldashpers@aol.com](mailto:belldashpers@aol.com)