

Russell Lucas *piano, organ*

Spindrifft, 3 Church Street, Brixham, TQ5 8HG · 01803 857063 · russell@scriptit.co.uk
(*Russell Lucas is an artistic pseudonym – real name Raymond Luckhurst*)

Church Experience

January 2011 – March 2017: Organist at St Mary's, Brixham. Approximately 100 services p.a. plus weddings and funerals. Weekly Communion (*Mass for Worth Abbey* – Greening). Monthly free format worship (without Communion). Weekly BCP Evensong with sung canticles and psalm (Parish Psalter; set chant). Also festival services and special occasions, often with anthems, children's events, and at other Mission Community churches. Elsewhere: the Fishermen's Mission, care homes, secular accompanying 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
- Mr Ralph Bell
chorister; ex-Treasurer of St Mary's Church, Brixham
The Vineries, Dashpers, Brixham, TQ5 9LH · 01803 856241 · belldashpers@aol.com