

# St. Albans International Organ Festival

## Meet the Recitalist: Anne Page



### **Please tell us a little about your concert programme**

It's one that Crispian and I have performed together many times and is designed to show how music from a particular period sounds on instruments of the time. Crispian has an amazing collection of historic trumpets which he's restored himself and an incredible gift of communication with the audience. As well as accompanying Crispian I'll be playing pieces by Jehan Alain, whose music I have loved since I first heard it as a student, and

Carl Rütli who is a good friend and a wonderful composer. Both composers have a strongly individual styles with influences from plainsong to jazz.

### **What first attracted you to your instruments and how old were you when you started playing?**

A chance hearing of Lionel Rogg playing Bach on an LP record sealed my fate at the age of about 15. I already loved playing Bach at the piano but this was something else...

### **Who (or what) has had the greatest influence on you as a player?**

Since Lionel, my teachers Annette Goerke (in Perth, Australia), Marie-Claire Alain (Paris), Peter Hurford (Cambridge), Jacques van Oortmerssen (Amsterdam). Working with Crispian has been an eye-opener to me about how to bring historic instruments to a wider public.

### **What would be a typical day in your life?**

There is no typical day! My ideal day would be to practice a lot (at home on my pedal piano) and take short breaks for gardening. But in reality there is always too much email in the mix.

### **What have been the highlights of your recent schedules?**

Playing recitals and making recordings on the historic organs of Thaxted and Framlingham churches. They are beautiful instruments and have an important place in our organ heritage.

### **Which piece of music most recently made a big impression on you?**

Bach's Art of Fugue – one of the most comprehensive and profound explorations of the art of music.

### **Which book would you recommend all musicians and music lovers to read and why?**

The New Bach Reader is a wonderful resource for knowledge about the life and times of Bach in English translation. Of course, there have been many commentators and learned people writing books about Bach but the original documents are an essential starting point. In particular, the obituary and Forkel's biography, the first ever about the composer are most interesting to read.