

# Hereford Cathedral



## Lunchtime organ concert by Ashley Grote

Tuesday 3 May 2011  
1.15 pm

### PROGRAMME

- Fantasia and Fugue in G C H H Parry 1848–1918  
Organ Concerto in B flat Op. 4 No 2 George Frederic Handel 1685–1750  
    A tempo ordinario e staccato  
    Allegro  
    Adagio e staccato  
    Allegro ma non presto
- Prelude and Fugue in D BWV 532 J S Bach 1685–1750  
Pomp and Circumstance March No 4 in G Edward Elgar 1857–1934  
arranged by G R Sinclair 1863–1917
- Two pieces L J A Lefébure-Wély 1817–69  
    Andante in F  
    Sortie in E flat

**Ashley Grote** is assistant director of music at Gloucester Cathedral, where he plays the organ for services and accompanies the cathedral choir in their busy schedule of concerts, tours and broadcasts. He assists the director of music in the running of the cathedral choir, and conducts the cathedral's flourishing Youth Choir who sing Evensong weekly. In addition to his work at the cathedral, Ashley is musical director of the Ross on Wye Choral Society, accompanist to both Gloucester Choral Society and the Three Choirs Festival Chorus, and conductor of the St Cecilia Singers, a Gloucester-based chamber choir who celebrated their 60th anniversary last year. Ashley is also director of the Edington Festival of Music within the Liturgy, which takes place in Wiltshire every August and brings together musicians from cathedrals across the UK.

A former organ scholar of King's College, Cambridge, Ashley was assistant organist of Westminster Abbey before moving to Gloucester in 2008. During his time at the Abbey, he took part in many prestigious events that included the service celebrating the Diamond Wedding of HM The Queen.

Born in 1982, Ashley was a chorister at King's College, Cambridge where he began organ lessons with David Goode, and was subsequently top music scholar at Uppingham School. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists in 2001 and, after a year as organ scholar of St George's Cathedral, Cape Town, Ashley returned to Cambridge to study for a degree in music. As organ scholar at King's, he performed worldwide with the famous chapel choir in numerous tours, concerts and broadcasts, including the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. He was also assistant conductor of the Cambridge University Musical Society orchestras.

Described as a 'sensitive and expressive' performer (*Sunday Telegraph*), Ashley has performed throughout the UK and Europe, with recent engagements including concerts in Germany, Finland and Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, as well as Durham, Truro, Salisbury, Worcester and Westminster cathedrals and Westminster Abbey. He was a prize winner at the Dublin International Organ Competition in 2005, a semi-finalist in the St Albans International Organ Competition in 2007, and held the prestigious WT Best scholarship from the Worshipful Company of Musicians of which he is a Freeman.

*Admission to this concert is free but a collection will be taken as you leave the cathedral. A minimum donation of £3 would be much appreciated. Your gifts will enable our organ concert series to be maintained and developed, while also allowing us to give an opportunity to many young players to experience the Willis organ. Funds over and above those needed to maintain the concert series help to support the maintenance of the cathedral's three organs and its musical programme. The value of your donation will be significantly increased if you place your offering in one of the Gift Aid envelopes and supply the information requested.*

*The first concert in this year's evening series takes place on Tuesday 17 May, given by Christopher Herrick.*