

ROSSLYN HILL CHAPEL  
A home for beautiful music and song

Music plays a vital part in the life of Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel. Hymns and voluntaries, played by the organist and invited soloists, are central to the services which take place in the Chapel. The Matthew Copley organ and Steinway Model D concert piano, combined with the excellent acoustics, makes the Chapel a popular venue for performances and recording.

### Chapel Choir

We have an accomplished choir that meets every Wednesday evening for rehearsal, and sings monthly in the chapel. Since 2010, Georgina Drew-Edwards has led the choir and James Drew-Edwards is accompanist and 'composer in residence'. During this time the choir has performed a wide range of music in chapel on Sunday mornings and at evening gatherings.



Examples of the choir repertoire:

**Jubilate Deo** by James Drew-Edwards, 2012 a 'world premier' to celebrate the 150 Anniversary of the building of the present chapel building.

**Petite Messe Solonelle** – Rossini

**Requiem in Blue** – by Harvey Brough.

**Armed Man** – Karl Jenkins

**Requiem** – Faure

**Requiem** (sections) – Mozart

**Traditional and modern anthems from all over the world**

**Messa di Gloria** – Puccini

**Requiem** – Rutter

**Gilbert and Sullivan evening**

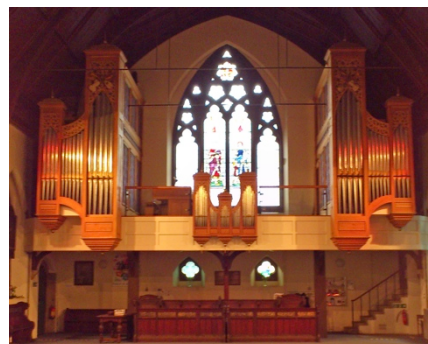
**Victorian music evening**

**Magnificat** – Pergolesi

**Gloria** - Vivaldi

### Chapel Organ

The Chapel's magnificent organ is such a striking feature of our fine building that some will be surprised to learn that it was only installed in the 1990s. Organists delight in this fine instrument, and over the years have played hymns for countless Sunday services, joyous wedding marches, sad strains for funerals and music of all kinds for hundreds of concerts. This is a precious part of the Chapel and there is an ongoing programme of maintenance.



In the 1990s the decision was taken to replace the existing organ, which needed extensive repairs with a new one. This would provide the Chapel with a magnificent asset, which would enhance the worship on Sundays and the rites of passage services and increase the attraction of the Chapel as a venue for concerts and recordings. Siting the new organ in the gallery would bring that part of the Chapel into use and removing the old one would free up an area for building toilet facilities. The project would be funded out of Lady Seton's most generous bequest of £400,000 to the Chapel. Matthew Copley, the founder of the firm 'Organ Design', was appointed to build an organ for Rosslyn Hill Chapel. The design brief stipulated that the organ should not obscure the beautiful window at the west end of the Chapel, the principal source of daylight. The organ was completed in 1995 and the official opening recital was given by renowned international recital organist, Peter Hurford in November 1997.

Some details for organ enthusiasts: the instrument has three manuals (keyboards) and a pedalboard. Each of these sets of keys controls its own 'division', consisting of several ranks of pipes which can be brought into play by drawing stop knobs.

As you look at the organ, the left hand case is divided into two levels. It contains the pipes for the Great division (the loudest and most robust) on the upper level and the Swell on the lower level. The Swell is so named because the pipes are contained in a box with a set of slats on the side, which can be opened and closed to control the volume with a pedal above the pedalboard. The small central case at the front of the gallery contains the positive division, which is almost a little chamber organ all by itself, allowing echo effects with the larger, more powerful divisions. The right hand case is taken up by the pedal division, which contains the largest pipes in the organ.

This organ contains around 2,000 pipes, some of wood and some of metal, ranging in length from sixteen feet (4.88m) to a fraction of an inch. The keys are linked by a wholly mechanical action to the windchests upon which the pipes sit, and this provides a great feeling of direct control for the player. But it is the versatility of this particular organ which distinguishes it – for a relatively small organ it can make a huge variety of sounds and indeed produce a vast dynamic range, from a whisper to a room-filling roar. Come and join our Sunday morning service (11am) and hear for yourself!

A description of the Rosslyn Hill Chapel organ appears on the 'Organ Design' website: [www.matthew-copley.co.uk](http://www.matthew-copley.co.uk). The organ is regularly maintained but after 15 years, is in need of a major overhaul. Please help us to maintain this fine instrument by donating to the Organ and Piano Fund, c/o Administrator, Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel, 3 Pilgrim's Place, Rosslyn Hill, London NW3 1NG.

