

# Simon Gledhill

Simon was born in Halifax, UK and showed a keen interest in music from an early age. He started learning to play the piano accordion at age six and continued with that instrument for 11 years, winning several competitions along the way. When he was 10 years old, his parents purchased a small electronic organ. After initially teaching himself to play it, he began formal studies with Michael Woodhead, who also gave him tuition in classical organ and piano.

Simon's first 'live' experience of the theatre pipe organ was seeing and hearing Ernest Broadbent play Britain's most famous Mighty Wurlitzer at the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool. A short time afterwards he discovered a privately-owned instrument close to his home, and was soon making weekly practice visits.

In 1981, he entered and won the UK's Northern Young Theatre Organist of the Year competition. Nigel Ogden, presenter of the long-running BBC national radio programme *The Organist Entertains*, was in the audience, and invited him to record for the programme on the BBC Theatre Organ.

The resulting broadcasts generated a flurry of concert offers, and Simon has since given concerts at all the major UK theatre organ venues, as well as touring in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and North America. He has performed many times for the American Theatre Organ Society, and was named ATOS Organist of the year in 1997 and inducted into the Society's Hall of Fame in 2015.

Simon's music has won high praise from his peers. Lyn Larsen described him as: 'That rare combination of flawless technique, impeccable phrasing and an unerring sense of musical good taste', while Nigel Ogden said: 'Here is someone who was born to be a theatre organist. His ability has rightfully earned him the genuine admiration of both audiences and colleagues alike.'

Simon combines his concert and recording activities with work for the Cinema Organ Society and a full-time career in finance, based in London, UK.