

Robert Smith, organist and pianist

Robert Smith is currently the Assistant Director of Music at St. Wilfrid's Church (York Oratory in Formation). In 2014/2015 he served as the Assistant Organist at St. Paul's Bloor Street, the largest Anglican church in Toronto, where he regularly accompanied the church choir. Previously the organ scholar of Somerville College, Oxford, he accompanied and occasionally directed the choir of that college for their regular services and concerts.

He began musical life aged 5 on the piano, then took up the organ aged 13 and received lessons from Henry Fairs at the Birmingham Conservatoire for five years. Upon reaching Oxford Robert was taught by Stephen Farr and William Whitehead, as well as achieving his ARCO diploma, for which he also won the Sowerbutts Prize and Durrant Prize.

He has had the pleasure of participating in numerous choir concerts and tours, notably at Blackburn Cathedral, Lancaster Priory, Birmingham Cathedral, Ampleforth Abbey, Coventry Cathedral and three times at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Robert regularly performs recitals as well as participating in masterclasses led by David Goode, Guy Bovet and Thomas Trotter. He collaborated with conductor Nicholas Cleobury for a concert recorded by the BBC. Summer 2014 saw Robert take part in a choir tour of America and this has been followed by three recital tours of Germany, across Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony, Thuringia and Bavaria. His first commercial solo CD *The Franz Liszt Memorial Organ in Weimar* was released by the German record label JUBAL in 2015.

Robert also pursued piano studies with Margaret Newman, achieving a DipABRSM aged 16, winning numerous prizes in music competitions, both for his solo playing and as part of a piano trio.

Website: www.robert-smith.org.uk