



## Richard Hills

Richard Hills was born in 1980 and, having shown an early interest in the organ, commenced piano studies at the age of six. Having heard the Wurlitzer organ of the Thursford Collection in Norfolk, England at the age of seven, Richard became hooked on the sound of these instruments and began to study both theatre and classical organ with John Norris.

In 1995 at the age of 14, Richard was the over-all winner of the A.T.O.S. international Young Theatre Organist of the year competition in Detroit, Michigan. He returned to the United States the following year to perform at the 1996 A.T.O.S. convention in Pasadena, LA. Since then, he has been a featured artist at five international A.T.O.S. conventions, giving his debut concert in 1998 at the Oakland Paramount Theatre in California at the age of 17.

In addition to these and other performances in the US, Richard has played throughout the British Isles, in Holland and Germany, and undertaken a four-week concert tour of Australia in August and September, 1999. He has appeared many times on national and international radio and TV and has several recording credits.

In 1994 Richard was awarded the Organ Scholarship at King's School in Rochester, England, and studied the classical organ at the Cathedral there with William Whitehead. Following this, Richard became the Organ Scholar of Exeter College at Oxford University where he studied the classical organ with David Sanger. Having completed his studies at Oxford, Richard spent a year as the Organ Scholar of Portsmouth Cathedral before being appointed to the Organ Scholarship of London's Westminster Abbey, where he performed regularly on the five-manual Harrison & Harrison organ and worked with the world-famous Abbey choir.

Richard left Westminster in September 2004 and is now pursuing a career as a freelance musician. In addition to his theatre and classical organ performances, Richard serves as Assistant Director of Music at St Mary's Bourne Street - a central London church in the Anglo-Catholic tradition.

When not on the bench, Richard continues to spend time furthering his interests in, amongst other things, Classic Cars and Organ Building. He has recently been appointed Musical Advisor to the UK's Cinema Organ Society in whose work he has taken an increasingly active role.

Richard's playing has generated a great deal of excitement both among A.T.O.S. audiences and his fellow artists. This is not a concert to miss.