



PRESS RELEASE



The Royal College of Organists
Patron HM The Queen

Subject: Local schools get ORGAN-ised with NEW Cathedral organ
Venue: Worcester Cathedral
Date: Tuesday 3rd to Friday 6th March 2009, 10am to 2.15pm

Worcester Cathedral's new four-manual 53-stop Quire organ will be the centre of attention for 250 local children in March as part of a massive educational event, Organ-ise.

Based around the design, construction and commissioning of the new organ, the four-day event from 3rd to 6th March 2009 will see students from schools in and around Worcester taking part in a range of learning activities based on the curriculum requirements of science, technology and music.

All students, irrespective of musical experience and expertise, will have an opportunity to try their hand at playing this brand new organ.

Organ-ise has been devised by Worcester Cathedral Arts, Music and Education departments with support from Worcestershire County Council, The Kings School and the Royal College of Organists (RCO).

Head of Education and Outreach at the RCO Simon Williams said: "Organ-ise has been designed to take advantage of the wonderful versatility of the pipe organ as a teaching resource. The organ's range, flexibility and complexity make it a unique instrument for the teaching of music of course, but what many people don't realise is how much science and technology is involved in its construction and operation. This can help students gain practical hands-on experience and an understanding of concepts ranging from traditional crafts and materials; through the physics of pressure, waves and electromagnetism; and right up to date with modern electronics and computer control systems."

Organ-ise is aimed at Key Stage 3 and 4 students who are studying any or all of music, physics and design and technology at school. The students will work in groups and on their own to solve problems, make connections and improve their knowledge and understanding of the curriculum.

As well as working with teachers and the Cathedral's musicians, they will have opportunities to meet and learn from the craftsmen who have worked on the construction of the organ.

Included in the day will also be sessions using the Woofyt, a remarkable hands-on working model of a pipe organ which helps students to explore the science and technology of the real thing.

Canon Alwyn Pettersen of Worcester Cathedral said "We have thousands of school children visiting the cathedral each year, but Organ-ise will be a first. To have so many coming to use our brand new pipe organ as a 'classroom artefact' is very exciting. We hope they will have a great time, exploring the science of the organ, meeting the musicians, and organ builders, and using the wonderfully named Woofyt".

Schools Participating :

Bishop Perowne CE High School
Haybridge High School
Dodderhill School
Bowbrook House School
Dyson Perrins CE High School
St Egwins Middle School Evesham

Blessed Edward Oldcorne RC College
Hanley Castle High School
Malvern St James
The Chase Technology College
Abbey Park Middle School, Pershore
King Charles I High School

- ends -

Photocall & Media Opportunities

Journalists, photographers and film crews are welcome to attend Organ-ise on Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th, Thursday 5th or Friday 6th March.

Please call to arrange a time.

Susan Macleod, Operational Manager, Worcester Cathedral - 01905 732903

SusanMacleod@worcestercathedral.org.uk

Or Sue Adeney Education officer - 01905 732919 / schools@worcestercathedral.org.uk

Marc Sanderson (Leader Communications) – 01564 796200 /: ms@leader.co.uk m: 07879 600803

Notes for Editors

1. The **Royal College of Organists** is an educational charity whose first objective is to "promote and advance the arts and practice of organ playing and choral direction; to set and maintain proper standards and to educate and promote study and research in such arts." As well as having some 2,700 members based in 40 countries, it is the only organisation in the United Kingdom with a Royal Charter to be dedicated to the promotion and advancement of a single instrument, the pipe organ. Described by Mozart himself as "the king of the instruments", the organ holds a unique place in world music with a tradition stretching back nearly two thousand years. Visit www.rco.org.uk for more information.

2. Ever since the creation of the Diocese of Worcester in 680 and aided by the founding of a Benedictine monastery over a thousand years ago, **Worcester Cathedral**, dedicated to Christ and the Blessed Mary the Virgin, has been a place of worship and prayer, and a centre for teaching and the arts, including the composing and making of music. Like so many historical institutions, however, the Cathedral does not receive any direct government funding and is therefore largely reliant upon the generosity of individual donors and grant making trusts to ensure the future not only of the bricks and mortar, but also of the core elements of its ministry and mission. In 2005 a capital fundraising campaign, *The Worcester Appeal for Music and Light*, was launched to raise £5m with an emphasis on securing its musical tradition via two projects: to replace the worn out Quire Organ; and to establish a £4m Choral Foundation. With the first of these two projects now completed, the Cathedral is turning its attention to securing funds for the Choral Foundation. For further information, contact Lucinda Wray-Wear on 01905 732912 or LucindaWray-Wear@WorcesterCathedral.org.uk.
3. The **new Quire organ** was the Cathedral's first new organ for 150 years. Built by Kenneth Tickell and Company, the instrument blends centuries-old pipe making and wood-working skills with state-of-the-art computer control systems. The organ, which cost nearly £1m, was funded as part of the Cathedral's Appeal for Music and Light. It was completed in July 2008, and first used at the 2008 Three Choirs Festival with a recital by Dame Gillian Weir.