

Alex Mason was a chorister and organ scholar at Gloucester Cathedral, studied at Oxford University as organ scholar of Worcester College, the Royal Conservatory The Hague and the Royal College of Music. He was a music assistant for ENO's 'The Knack' (1995-6), Organ Scholar at St Bride's Fleet Street (1995-7), Organist of King's College School, Wimbledon (1996-2002), Assistant Organist at Lichfield Cathedral (2002-7), organ tutor at Birmingham Conservatoire (2005-7) and Organist and Master of the Choristers and Artistic Director of the Festival at St Davids Cathedral, Pembrokeshire (2007-11). He is currently Director of the Chapel Choir at Shrewsbury School where he also teaches academic music.

As a choral conductor he has directed first performances of commissions by David Bednall, Mark Blatchly, David Briggs, Francis Grier and Alexander L'Estrange including the Welsh premiere of L'Estrange's '*Zimbe!*' and worked with the Corelli Orchestra, the 'Call Me Al' jazz quintet and Natalie Clein. At St Davids he directed the Cathedral Choir on BBC Radio 3 & 4, two CDs for Regent Records and tours of Bulgaria and Germany. He has also conducted numerous works for chorus and orchestra with the Dyfed Choir and St Davids Cathedral Festival Chorus. He has set up children's, youth and adult choirs and led singing projects in primary schools and is in demand as a guest conductor and workshop leader.

As an organist he is particularly well known as an improviser. He won First Prize and Variation prize in the Grand Prix d'Improvisation, Biarritz, 2001, was runner-up in the Tournemire Prize, St Alban's, 1997 and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists aged 18 winning three prizes. He has recorded for the Signum, Decca and Regent labels, *Howard Goodall's Organ Works* (Channel 4) and *The Vicar of Dibley* (BBC 1), two solo CDs on the organs of Gloucester and St Davids Cathedrals as well as improvisations on BBC Radio 3 and Radio France. His CD of improvisations *Beyond the Score* earned a Critic's Choice in Gramophone 2001. He regularly improvises to silent movies such as *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* and *King of Kings*. He has performed as a soloist at festivals and cathedrals in the UK, Europe, Bermuda, Lebanon and the USA and as a continuo player, accompanist and ensemble musician with Ex Cathedra, Tenebrae, Voces8 and saxophonist Christian Forshaw and the Sanctuary Ensemble. He has also been an organist and tutor for the Eton Choral Courses and pianist for the National Children's Choir of Great Britain.

As a composer he has written choral and organ music some of which has been broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and recorded on the Priory and Regent labels. His Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis was performed by the choir of Bedford School in St Paul's Cathedral last year.

Recent engagements have included silent movies at Wellington College, Keble College Oxford and Ripon Cathedral, accompanying Tenebrae in Bernstein's Chichester Psalms at the Cadogan Hall, London with members of the ECO, playing the organ part in Beethoven's Missa Solemnis with Ex Cathedra and CBSO in Symphony Hall, recording a new CD 'Songs of Solace' with the Sanctuary Ensemble and appearing with them in concert at the Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester Cathedral and accompanying the Birmingham Bach Choir in Dresden's Frauenkirche.