

CELEBRITY ORGAN RECITAL

20 JUNE
5 PM

St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



ASHLEY GROTE

MASTER OF THE MUSIC,
NORWICH CATHEDRAL

PROGRAMME

Celebration

Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

Chorale-Phantaisie über
'Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott' Op 27

Max Reger (1873-1916)

A Fantasy Op 39

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Prelude and Fugue 'The Spitfire'

William Walton (1902-83)
arr. Tom Winpenny

Elegy

George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)

Andante "Choeur de Voix Humaines" Oo 122 no 7

Louis Lefébure-Wély (1817-1869)

Carillon de Westminster Op 54 no 6

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)



ABOUT THE PERFORMER

Ashley Grote has held the post of Master of the Music at Norwich Cathedral since 2012. He is responsible for the running of the Cathedral music department, directing the boys' and girls' choirs in their busy programme of choral services, concerts, broadcasts and recordings. He also directs Norwich Cathedral Chamber Choir, who perform frequent concerts alongside period instrument ensemble Norwich Baroque.

Ashley was both a chorister (1990-95) and an organ scholar (2001-04) at King's College, Cambridge, under the late Sir Stephen Cleobury, whose influence did so much to shape Ashley's musical development. As organ scholar at King's, he performed internationally with the world-famous choir and accompanied numerous recordings, radio and television broadcasts including the annual 'Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols'. Ashley has subsequently held posts as Organist-in-residence at Tonbridge School (2004-05), Assistant Organist of Westminster Abbey (2005-08) and Assistant Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral (2008-2012). Ashley has also been involved in the Edington Music Festival of Music within the Liturgy, first as Organist (2007-09) and then Festival Director (2010-12).

Ashley studied the organ with David Goode and Nicolas Kynaston. As a recitalist, he has performed throughout the UK, USA and Europe with recent concerts in Italy, Germany, Finland and Sweden. During the COVID-19 pandemic, his regular online recitals from Norwich Cathedral have attracted many listeners from around the world. Ashley's first solo disc, of organ symphonies by Louis Vierne, was described by Gramophone magazine as a 'top-notch recording', and his recording of popular organ works from Norwich Cathedral is heard frequently on Classic FM. His most recent recording, of major organ works by J.S. Bach from Selby Abbey, was released in December 2019 to critical acclaim. Ashley has performed alongside the BBC Singers in recording and broadcast projects, most recently in a live radio broadcast of Messiaen's solo Christmas cycle for organ, 'La Nativité du Seigneur' in December 2020. As a composer and arranger of organ and choral works, his work has been published by Oxford University Press, Stainer & Bell, and Encore publications.

Away from music, and thanks to the generosity of many friends and supporters, Ashley has raised nearly £90,000 by running five London Marathons for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital where his daughter is a patient. He will run again in October 2021 with the aim of reaching £100,000 - visit www.justgiving.com/teams/emilygrote for more details. A keen cook, he also appeared in the 2018 series of BBC MasterChef.

