

## MARTIN RENSHAW

brief CV as at end January 2017

Born 20 April 1945, Leicester ; father priest in Church of England (d. 1955)

### *Education :*

Primary schools in Ellistown (near Coalville) and Leicester.

St Paul's cathedral choir school, January 1955 - Easter 1959.

St Edmund's (clergy orphan) school, Canterbury, 1959-1964.

Christ Church, Oxford, 1964-7 ; BA/MA in English Language and Literature.

### *Music (as singer) :*

St Paul's cathedral chorister, 1955-9 (up to 13 services a week)

Cantoris tenor lay-clerk, Canterbury cathedral, January 1970 - January 1976

(six days a week, many broadcasts, major services).

Kent Opera chorus tenor and Equity representative, January 1976 - April 1977.

Founder member of Canterbury Clerkes (trio), 1973-2002 (six recordings, tours for National Trust etc., concerts throughout England, and in Germany, Holland and France, TV and radio).

Ensemble Vocal de Nantes, 1990-2005 (including tours and broadcasts, Folles Journées).

Maitrise de Bretagne, Rennes, 1993-2003.

Ensemble Raspiev, Rennes (Russian liturgical and folk music), 1998-2004

Freelance soloist in oratorio, chamber groups, etc. to date ; most recently in Italy and London.

### *Concert and tour organisation :*

Five organ restoration study weekends, with concerts, in Leicestershire and Yorkshire, 1980s.

Two organ and cultural study tours, with concerts, in northern Brittany, 1998 and 2005.

Work with René Martin, concert organiser in Nantes, since 1991 to date, including work for the Folles Journées festival (Nantes, Bilbao, Lisbon) since its inception in 1995, including heading organisation/tuning of up to 60 'baroque' keyboard instruments since 2000.

Work for other festivals in France : Lanvellec, La Chabotterie, Fontevrault etc.

### *Teaching:*

Secondary school, 1969-70 ; teaching O-level English, History and Music - and putting on performances of 'Pirates of Penzance' by pupils.

Workers' Educational Association and Kent County Council adult education throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

Lecturing at conferences at (e.g.) Nantes, Oxford, Cardiff and Birmingham since 2000.

Chorus-master and repetiteur, Shepway Youth Opera, mid-1970s to 80s.

### *Publishing:*

Many articles on organological matters since 1969.

Co-author of *The Life and Work of John Snetzler* (Ashgate/Scolar, 1994) and copy-editing and design work for several books for Ashgate in the 1990s, now being revised for a second edition.

Creator of 160-page book on John Marsh and the organ, now being revised for 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Assistant editor of the international organological journal *The Organ Yearbook*, 1992-8.

Other shorter works and contributions to journals, symposia, etc.

Currently writing first of three books based on current research for publishers in Kent and South Wales.

### *Organ restoration and making:*

About 195 organs restored or made in England, Wales, Holland, Norway, France (34 organs to date), Spain, Switzerland (and two exports to USA) since setting up his workshop in October 1967. First English organ maker to put into practice now-current restoration ethics and first to make (four) new 'restored copies', in this case of the oldest-surviving English-made keyboard instrument, the c1590 organ in the private chapel of Knole House, which he has looked after since 1975. Workshops in Kent and near Nantes, France, and in association with colleagues in England and France. Still working on restoring organs, but not completely full-time because of research and writing-up work. Recordings with e.g. DG Archiv (Handel and Mozart), BBC (documentary), etc., including the reference versions (1983-4 and still on sale) of Handel's complete organ concertos, recorded on two organs restored by MR.

### *Current research:*

Since 2008 : documentary research into later-medieval musical infrastructure in churches in England and Wales. Since 2012, with Dr Victoria Harding (recently

retired senior clinical physiotherapist, co-founder of INPUT clinic, St Thomas's Hospital) : on-site survey, measuring and photographic research in 850 selected churches, with expenses bursaries awarded by The Society of Antiquaries over three years. This work is due for completion at Easter 2017, and is now being written up ; further work, filming etc. is under discussion. Results of the research are already being disseminated, and a web-site ([soundsmedieval.org](http://soundsmedieval.org)) has been set up, with recent lectures and writing published on it. The research has proved to be original and, as an assessor said, 'progenitive'.

*Residence :*

In England : North Lyminge, near Folkestone, 1967-1993 ; daughters born 1975 and 1978 ; widower since 2014.

In France, from 1993 onwards : Abbaretz 44170 (in restored house and workshops) and then at nearby La Meilleraye de Bretagne 44520 (in new house, built by MR, 2007-8), both about 45 km north of Nantes.

Also at Hampstead, London NW3, since 2015.

*Other skills :*

Fluent in French, organist, experienced public speaker.

One-man show based on current research now under development.

MR