

**Lunchtime  
concerts  
(Recorded)**

**MUSIC AT**  
  
**ST JOHN'S**  
a community project

[www.masj.org.uk](http://www.masj.org.uk)

Fridays at 12:30pm

**21<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

*(Recorded 14<sup>th</sup> May  
at St John's Church)*

---

## Organ recital

---

### Ken Martlew - *Organ*

**Tocatta and Fugue in D minor BWV 565**      Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

*Perhaps the best-known organ piece of all time*

**Prelude (1937)**

John Sykes (1909 -1962)

**Rhapsody (1932)**

John Sykes

*Two improvisations for organ.*

*John Sykes was Ken's music teacher at Kingswood School, Bath*

**Massa's in de Cold, Cold Ground (1940)**

John Sykes

*An organ arrangement of the song by Stephen C. Foster*

**Chorale No 3 in A minor (1890)**

César Franck (1822 - 1890)

*A major organ work based around a recurring chorale-like theme*

\*\*\*

See next page for biographical details of the performer.

This concert is the third to be published in the present series

*If not already on our mailing list, please give us your email address so that we can keep you informed –  
email it to us on [masj@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk](mailto:masj@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk)*

## **Ken Martlew – organ**



Ken Martlew started learning the piano at the age of 5 with his mother in Kenya. After coming to the UK aged 8 he took to the organ, playing for church services from the age of 12. He had lessons at Kingswood School in Bath, shared playing for the chapel services with the music staff and accompanied a performance of the Bach St John Passion. The school offered many other musical opportunities, and Ken also played violin and viola in the Bath Symphony Orchestra.

He went to Oxford reading music but changed direction to study medicine in London.

While at medical school he gained his organ diploma, was organist and choirmaster of a North London Church, conducted several choirs, and wrote an opera.

Ken came to Hemel Hempstead as a GP in 1971. On-call duties made it difficult to take on full church music commitments, but for 11 years he was assistant organist and choirmaster at St John's, Boxmoor, at a time when the choir numbered 40, and regularly deputised at St Albans Abbey. He then took on the post of organist and choirmaster at St Mary's, Hemel Hempstead for 7 years, whilst also conducting the Hemel Hempstead Singers in an ambitious concert schedule.

During the 1990's Ken became increasingly involved with Scottish Country Dancing, playing for it and teaching it countrywide, and indeed in many other countries. Organ playing became more sporadic, but often included accompanying choral society concerts. However, following the terminal illness of his first wife, Bar, he cut down on Scottish dancing commitments. Recently he has enjoyed returning to his first passion, the organ, and especially this lovely instrument at St John's. Ken is very grateful to his wife, Petula, for her encouragement and help in this.