

Tayside Organists' Society

President's Night

Kinnoull Parish Church, Perth

Tuesday 14th April 2026

Review by Bryan Weir

The Society's April meeting was the President's Night hosted by our outgoing President, George Bell, to mark the end of his two year tenure. It was held in Kinnoull Parish Church, Perth, and George introduced the event resplendent in tartan for the occasion.

Firstly, George introduced us to David Griffiths who has been the resident organist at Kinnoull Church since 2015 and is also a member of the Society. David gave us a history of the church and then the current organ. There had previously been a pipe organ but this was removed after it became too costly to repair. A façade of one of the two organ pipework cases had been retained and housed



the speaker installation for the new organ. At the time of the installation, the minister, Rev. David Souter of the famous Stagecoach Souter family, was an enthusiastic proponent of the new organ and had considerable say in the design of the sound system. Also, the organ was endowed by Ian Souter, father of David. The organ is a Makin Westmorland and they regarded it as one of their finest installations when it was installed in 2008. Despite this, the initial voicing was not regarded as ideal and was revoiced in 2017 which proved a great success making the sound softer but richer.

David then demonstrated the range of sounds of the organ by playing six pieces. The first was "Trumpet Tune in G major" by Sitali C. Sitali which was a rousing piece highlighting the solo trumpet. The second was an Improvisation on "Ellers" by Graham S. Morrison which was a real contrast to the Trumpet Tune, being a lovely quiet piece and illustrated a different aspect of the organ. It highlighted the lovely solo clarinet and the salicional. The third piece, "Cantabile No. 151" by Enrico Pasini, highlighted the lovely solo flute and clarinet. Next was "Chorale and Variations" by Tim Attride which demonstrated some more combinations of stops. After this, the mood changed with "Organ and vacation and Ice Cream" with the organ doing its best imitation of a theatre organ. Finally, David played "Three Dances from the Cathedral Suite" by Gordon Young comprising "Allemande", "Sarabande" and "Rigaudon".

The first two pieces again illustrated the quieter aspects of the organ and the third revealed the power of the organ, especially the pedal section.

All in all, this was a very convincing demonstration of the range and quality of the organ installation and David is to be congratulated for his quality of playing and for his very appropriate and entertaining choice of programme.



Following David's programme, George introduced us to Euan Wilson who is a recent graduate from the University of Aberdeen with a Bachelor's degree in music with honours. Although much of his studies concentrated on the marimba, Euan entertained us on the vibraphone. Euan began by describing the vibraphone as a hybrid between a glockenspiel and a xylophone. The first piece he played was "Suomineito" by Nebojsa Zivkovic. This was a very haunting melody, very gentle with a lot of sustain. It demonstrated a very unexpected technique on a percussion instrument, that of playing a melody and accompaniment at the same time.

The second piece was "Clair de lune" by Debussy and arranged for vibraphone by Gillian Maitland. This was played with great feeling and demonstrated an amazing technique. It was a really different take on such a well-known piece, absolutely beautiful with so many different colours.



Following this we had the opportunity to see the organ and vibraphone close up then received refreshments from members of the church. Sincere thanks go to members of the church who gave us a warm welcome, and a warm church, and helped with sound as well as to David and Euan who entertained us so well. A very enjoyable evening and thanks to George for organising it. (Pun intended)

Our Vice President, Alison Malcolm, gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Society.