

*Brisbane City Council*

**WILLIS ORGAN SERIES**

Brisbane City Hall

**Tuesday 10 May 2016, 1.15pm**

**MICHAEL FULCHER** (Melbourne)

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PROGRAMME

<b>Largo</b> from <i>Xerxes</i>	<b>George Fredrick Handel</b> 1695-1759
<b>Salut d'amour</b> , op.12	<b>Edward Elgar</b> 1857-1934
<b>Imperial March</b> , op.32 (1897)	
<b>Crown Imperial</b> (1937/53)	<b>William Walton</b> 1902-1983
<b>Pièce Héroïque</b>	<b>César Franck</b> 1822-1890
<b>Fugue in Eb</b> , BWV 552/ii	<b>Johann Sebastian Bach</b> 1685-1750
<b>Carmen Fantasy</b> (arr. Edwin H. Lemare)	<b>Georges Bizet</b> 1838-1875

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*Upcoming FREE ORGAN CONCERTS:*

**Tue 12 July @ 1.15pm – Kurt Ison (Sydney)**

**Tue 16 August @ 12-noon – Christopher Wrench & John Coulton**  
*Organ & Trumpet*

Since June 2013, **MICHAEL FULCHER** has been Director of Music at Christ Church, South Yarra in Melbourne where he oversees the Parish choir of adult mixed voices, the Christ Church Grammar School Chapel Choir (which he formed in 2013), an organ scholarship programme, a substantial music library and the music activities of the church. He is also founding Artistic Director of Polyphonic Voices (chamber choir).

After completing his BMus in Organ Performance at the University of Queensland, he studied with the late David Sanger in London. He later studied orchestral conducting with John Curro (QYO), David Porcelijn (ABC Young Conductors Mastercourse), and Robert Rosen (Opera Australia).

In 1997 Michael relocated to London, where he studied conducting Sir Charles Mackerras and Sir Mark Elder, and vocal coaching, working for 3 years in Janice Chapman's international singing studio. He has also studied and worked in Paris and Milan for significant periods of time. He has conducted Productions for Opera Queensland, the Guildhall School of Music (London), Victorian College of the Arts, and the Queensland Conservatorium Opera School (*L'elisir d'Amore*, *Elijah the Opera*, *Pilgrim's Progress*, in the presence of Ursula Vaughan Williams). He conducted performances of *Billy Budd* (1993 Brisbane Festival), and *Don Giovanni* (1996 Victorian State Opera season).

In 2008 he toured the Wellington Cathedral Choir to England and Paris, singing at venues including Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral, St John's College Cambridge and Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris.

As an organist Michael has given recitals at the town halls of Wellington, Dunedin and Brisbane, in the Anglican cathedrals of Brisbane, Melbourne, Wellington, Auckland and Dunedin and in the churches of St George's and La Madeleine in Paris. Recent recital engagements include St John's Southgate, Melbourne, St Andrew's Brighton, and St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney.

Positions held include Organist St John's Cathedral Brisbane 2011-2013; Organist & Director of Music, Wellington Cathedral, NZ (2004-2011); Music Director, Wellington Orpheus Choir (2004-2011); Organist, St George's, Paris (2003-2004); Repetiteur, English National Opera (2000-01); Young Artist Conductor, Opera Queensland (1998); Young Artist Conductor, Victorian State Opera (1996); and Director of Music, Trinity College, Melbourne, (1994-1996).

### **'Father' Willis Organ**

Brisbane's 'Father' Henry Willis (1821-1901) organ was built in 1891-92 in London for the Brisbane Exhibition Building (now the 'Old Museum') in Bowen Park. Purchased by the *Brisbane City Council* in 1900, it was removed in 1927 for rebuilding, enlarging and installation in the new City Hall, which opened on 8 April 1930. A complete restoration was undertaken by Pierce Pipe Organs of Brisbane from 2010-14. This English Romantic style organ has 5 manuals, a pedal keyboard and 80 speaking stops.

Read more **about the WILLIS ORGAN:**

<http://www.ohta.org.au/organs/organs/BrisbaneTownHall.html>

Keep up-to date with **WILLIS ORGAN CONCERTS:**

[www.christopherwrench.com/willis-organ-concerts.html](http://www.christopherwrench.com/willis-organ-concerts.html)

Book a **GUIDED TOUR** of the Willis organ

<https://www.museumofbrisbane.com.au/whats-on/organtours>