

ASSOCIATION LES AMIS DE L'
ORGUE
DE **CINEMA**
DU COLLÈGE CLAPARÈDE, GENÈVE

L'orgue fait son cinema!

An organ in the limelight

Festival celebrating the Wurlitzer cinema organ of Collège Claparède

**Collège Claparède Aula (auditorium)
from 31 March to April 8, 2017**

**Brought to you by the
Friends of the Collège Claparède Cinema Organ Association**

www.orguedecinema.ch

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Friday 31 March 2017 20:00** Opening Night: « If the choir tells you to... »
Featuring the choirs of Collège Claparède and Collège Emilie-Gourd
Directed by Didier Bonvin
Nicolas Hafner, cinema organ
- Saturday 1 April 2017 20:00** Thriller Night featuring the silent Alfred Hitchcock film
« The Pleasure Garden » (1925) accompanied by
Thomas Ospital, Organist at St. Eustache in Paris
- Thursday 6 April 2017 17:30** Part 1: The Organ's Innards
Presentation of the instrument by Robert Balfour-Rowley,
organ builder, and Vincent Thévenaz, and accompaniment of a
short film with Valentin Villar, Organist and Composer for the
2019 Winegrowers' Festival
- 20:00** Part 2: The Heart of English Humour, or the innumerable
fantasies of the cinema organ, with British organists John
Mann, Keith Beckingham and Bernard Tilley
- Buster Keaton short film and concert
- Friday 7 April 2017 20:00** Tenderness is stronger than misery!
« The Phantom Carriage », full-length feature film by
Victor Sjöström (Sweden, 1921) accompanied on the organ by
Vincent Thévenaz
- Saturday 8 April 2017 20:00** Happy Birthday Wurlitzer!
British Night in honour of the organ's 80th birthday, featuring
Len Rawle, David Ivory, and Bernard Tilley – English
organists who played the instrument while it was in London
during the years prior to 1980 – as well as Robert Balfour-
Rowley, English organist and organ builder.
- Charlie Chaplin short film and concert

Schedule of events subject to change

FOURTH EDITION

The Wurlitzer cinema organ, which has been on site at Geneva's Collège Claparède since 1982, will celebrate its 80s birthday in 2017. It was built in the United States in 1937 for the Granada Theater Clapham Junction in London. Several organists who once played this instrument in London and who are still alive today will be special guest performers on two historic and unforgettable evenings. With ageless humour they will play the most popular classic tunes of Britain's recent past. After opening with organ music that is at once warm, youthful and powerful, the festival will close with a fireworks display on its final evening.

This Wurlitzer organ is a wonderful link between continents and generations, and has not yet breathed its last. In fact, it will accompany the students of the Collège for a choral performance of post-Renaissance to 21st century repertoire, with a detour through South America.

THE PROGRAM IN BRIEF

The 2017 edition of this film festival will feature young musicians from Geneva and France, as well as older ones from the United Kingdom.

On Friday, 31 March, « If the choir tells you to... » will provide an opportunity for festivalgoers to hear the choirs of the Collège Claparède and the Collège Emilie Gourd. Directed by Didier Bonvin, they will perform a repertoire of lively Spanish music featuring songs from different time periods and combining voice, guitars, and dance, with Nicolas Hafner on the organ.

Keeping the spotlight on the youth, Thomas Ospital was born in 1990 in the Basque Country (France). An international concert organist and a brilliant improv musician, he has been the Organist at the Church of St. Eustache church in Paris since 2015, and in 2016 was named first organist in residence for Radio France. He will accompany the dramatic Hitchcock film « The Pleasure Garden » (1925), followed by a concert, on Saturday 1 April.

Valentin Villard, future composer for the 2019 Winegrowers' Festival, will delight festivalgoers by accompanying a short film following his presentation of the inner workings of the organ at 17:30 on Thursday 6 April.

To celebrate the Wurlitzer organ's 80th birthday the festival will welcome some special guests from England – five organists from London's « Belle Epoque » prior to 1980. John Mann, Keith Beckingham, Bernard Tilley, Len Rawle and David Ivory are sure to provide festivalgoers with a wonderful listening experience and some delightful oh-so-British moments. For some of them, it will be the first time for them to play this organ in nearly 50 years! Guaranteed to be quite moving, on 6 and 8 April.

Sandwiched between these two English-infused evenings will be a screening of « The Phantom Carriage » (1921) which presents the struggles of a family plunged into despair. Will they be able to overcome their grief? This great Swedish film by Victor Sjöström, which had an indisputable impact on Ingmar Bergman, is yours for the discovering on Friday 7 April, and will be accompanied by Vincent Thévenaz on the organ.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE ARTISTS

Thomas Ospital

Born in 1990, Thomas Ospital began his musical studies at the Conservatoire Maurice Ravel in Bayonne, France, completing his studies with Esteban Landart in 2008 (Mention Très bien à l'unanimité). From 2008 until 2015 he was a student at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris where he earned five First Place prizes in organ, improvisation, harmony, counterpoint and fugue. His teachers at the Paris Conservatoire included Olivier Latry, Michel Bouvard, Thierry Escaich, Philippe Lefebvre, László Fassang, Isabelle Duha, Pierre Pince and Jean-François Zygel.



A laureate of several competitions, he was awarded First Prize at the 2009 International Competition of Organ in Saragossa, Spain, the Duruflé-Prize and the Audience Prize at the 2012 International Chartres Competition, and Second Prize at the 2013 International Xavier Darasse Competition in Toulouse. In May of 2014 he took the Grand Prize Jean Louis Florentz and the Audience Prize at the International Organ Competition of Angers under the direction of the Académie des Beaux-Arts. And most-recently, in November of 2014 he was awarded Second Prize, Audience Prize and the Florentz Prize at the International Chartres Competition.

Equally at home performing as a solo recitalist or with choir or orchestra, Mr. Ospital is also eager to perpetuate the art of improvisation in all of its forms, including the accompaniment of silent films. His performances have taken him throughout Europe, including the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Greece, Germany, Switzerland and Holland. He has also performed in Russia and in North America, where in 2012 he served for six months as Young Artist in Residence at the Cathedral-Basilica of Saint Louis King of France in New Orleans, USA.

Mr. Ospital currently serves as Titular Organist of the largest pipe organ in France; the Grand Organ at St. Eustache in Paris. He took up the post in 2015 when he succeeded Jean Guillou. Mr. Ospital is also the newly-appointed Organist in Residence at the Maison de la Radio (Radio France) where he presides over the new concert hall organ built by Grenzing.

www.thomasospital.fr

Photo : © Jean Radel

Valentin Villard

Valentin Villard was born in 1985 in Lausanne, Switzerland. He studied piano and music theory privately with H  l  ne Bolliet as well as clarinet with Michel Descloux in Morges, before being admitted to the Haute Ecole de Musique de Gen  ve for studies in Theory and Composition. Here he studied under Michael Jarrell for composition, Luis Naon for electro-acoustics and Eric Daubresse for analog and digital audio technologies.



He earned his Bachelors in Composition in 2009 and continued his musical training with two years in the Netherlands, where he obtained his Masters in Composition at the Amsterdam Conservatory under the instruction of Willem Jeths, Wim Henderickx and Richard Ayres. Over the course of his journey thus far, he has had the privilege to meet other great composers including Henri Dutilleux, Sir John Tavener, Tristan Murail, George Benjamin and Kaija Saariaho, all of whom have encouraged him in his artistic endeavours.

He has received commissions for different festivals and ensembles including the European Festival of Youth Choirs, the Swiss Youth Choir, Coro Calicantus from Locarno and Chant Sacr   from Geneva, accompanied by the Geneva Chamber Orchestra.

Recipient of multiple awards (notably First Prize at the Choir and Organ Composition Competition in England), Valentin Villard has his music played in Switzerland, the Netherlands, England, and the United States. Ablaze Records has recorded two of his pieces for vocal ensemble. (CD « New Choral series I »)

Valentin Villard has been named one of three featured composers for the 2019 Winemakers' Festival.

John Mann

Born in 1939 in Brighton, John Mann has been in show business the whole of his working life and still continues to entertain with his one-man musical show. Last year he was celebrating 60 years in the business, and still going strong.

Mr. Mann originally started as a dancer and piano performer in shows. Inspired by the magnificent sounds of the famous concert organ in the Dome Brighton he took up the organ, having church organ lessons at the Mother Church St. Nicholas Brighton. His first organ post was at the Sports Stadium playing a Hammond Organ for the skaters. Also during this period he had the opportunity to be the organist at the local Odeon Cinema Hove, which housed a 2 manual 6 rank Wurlitzer. Three years later, ABC Cinemas contracted him to play a tour of their cinemas with organs.



1968 saw John's first half-hour broadcast on BBC Radio from the Granada Cinema Tooting Wurlitzer, and he has been a regular broadcaster since then, taking part in various Radio

Programmes at home and abroad, as well as providing his own Radio Programmes for many local radio stations and the BBC's *The Organist Entertains*.

1973 saw him recording his first LP, which he followed with 11 further titles on Pipe & Electronic organs. Subsequent recordings on cassette, video, CD and DVD followed; some are still available today. Mr. Mann was featured in an hour-long BBC Television programme about his career in 2007.

President of the Cinema Organ Society and Vice President of the Theatre Organ Club, he performs at all the major venues that have Theatre Organs in the UK, as well as appearing in Holland, Germany, France, and the USA.

Classed as a veteran, he is still very active and in demand throughout the country. This appearance at the Collège Claparède Wurlitzer will be a first, but he has recorded and broadcast on this organ several times formerly in London at the Granada Clapham Junction, before it made its way to Geneva.

Keith Beckingham

Keith Beckingham has been entertaining audiences around the world for nearly sixty years.

His early interest in theatre organs led to a tour with Granada Theatres when he was only 14. He made his first broadcast for the BBC from the Granada, Tooting followed by frequent broadcasts from the Granada Theatres at Harrow, Kingston-upon-Thames and Clapham Junction.



He joined the Hammond Organ Company travelling Europe, including a tour of Switzerland for Music Hug, and later travelled round the world, including Australia, New Zealand and the Far East presenting his popular Hammond Showcase concerts.

He has made many recordings on Hammond and theatre pipe organs and continues to appear in concerts mainly in the UK. More recently he has visited Switzerland to appear in an electronic organ festival in Interlaken and has presented several concerts on Hammond in Zurich.

Keith takes a keen interest in the preservation of theatre organs and is a past chairman of the Cinema Organ Society (COS).

Keith gave his first concert on the Wurlitzer at the Granada, Clapham Junction on Sunday 8th February 1959 and is delighted to be playing it again 58 years later!

Bernard Tilley

A native of Welling in Kent, Bernard Tilley took a great interest in the Granada Theatre opposite his primary school as a child, in particular because he could hear the mighty Wurlitzer being played by the organist and then-manager Leo Rae during the morning break each day. At the tender age of 11, and already learning to play the organ at his local church, he persuaded Leo Rae to take him on as a student.

At the age of 17 he began to give concerts for the "Theatre Organ Club." Around this time, together with David Shepherd, he also played during the nightly intermissions at the Odeon Leicester Square Compton in order to keep the organ in the public eye, after the unfortunate death of Gerald Shaw, another one of Mr. Tilley's mentors.



Originally trained as an engineer, in the 1970s and 1980s Mr. Tilley worked as a demonstrator for several large organ distributors including Technics and Baldwin. Around 1986, the arrival of Casio's small keyboards for home use sounded the death knell of the home console organs, and Mr. Tilley decided it was time to change careers.

He started his own CCTV company, which he continues to expand successfully, and also became heavily involved with non-professional theatre as a musical director. He keeps his hand in playing both as a musical director and occasionally entertaining on theatre organs. He is the proud owner of an antique white and gold Allen GW 319, 3/21 digital theatre organ installed in his home, which he takes out from time to time to accompany silent films for philanthropic causes. Mr. Tilley is also engaged in the Cinema Organ Society's Troxy project.

In addition to being a dedicated businessman, organist and entertainer, he is a keen yachtsman, Masonic Provincial Grand Organist for West Kent, and a doting grandfather to his granddaughter, with whom he shares an interest in astronomy and Lego.

Len Rawle

Born in South Wales in 1938, Len Rawle is known for having built his house around the "Empire" Leicester Square theatre organ, the largest in Europe. He has made over 30 recordings and participated in numerous television and radio broadcasts. Nicknamed "Mr. Yamaha" after 17 years as Director of Yamaha for the United Kingdom, he set up 100 music schools for Yamaha, trained 400 instructors who in turn taught some 12,000 pupils each week.



Mr. Rawle's full concert diary regularly leads him to perform throughout England and abroad. His ability to produce a wide variety of sounds from the instrument at hand has earned him nicknames such as "the Rembrandt of the organ" and "the sound magician." He also acts as a consultant in pipe and electronic organ installations.

A real ambassador for 'the organ as a means of entertainment,' Len's enthusiasm always shines through with his love and fascination for the many sounds of his chosen instrument.

David Ivory

David Ivory is a versatile organist who has been performing in public for well over 40 years. Early training on the piano led to a study of the classical organ repertoire, as a teenager he worked as a church organist and choirmaster. He is highly regarded as a classical organist.

Fortunately he received a very broad musical education, which meant that he felt just as comfortable playing popular music as playing the church repertoire.

In the late 1960s David began performing on various cinema organs as well as touring the country with a Hammond organ. His first residency being at an East End bingo hall where his warm personality and tuneful playing soon made him a popular attraction. He also spent several years as an electronic organ demonstrator.

David has played for both Granada theatres and the Rank organisation and has been the resident organist of the Mechanical Music Museum, Cotton, Suffolk for over thirty years. His unique 'musically themed shows' originated at Cotton in the 1980s and have, over the years become a very popular feature at David's performances throughout the country.

In 2012 David was elected the Patron of the British Theatre Organ Club (the oldest organisation of its type in the world).



Robert Balfour-Rowley

Robert has been listening to organ music since his days in the womb, most of which he cannot now remember, but his earliest memory of music is listening to a recording of the legendary George Wright playing at the equally legendary San Francisco Fox Theatre Wurlitzer. Robert's interest in the theatre organ dwindled in his early school days, to be awoken in his High School years with a healthy interest in the classical organ to boot! With an engineering mind and love of music he was hooked, wanting to know how they worked and how to play.



Robert started playing at about 16 years old and is basically self taught, with a little guidance here and there. He gained much-needed experience and exposure to pipes when he joined the LTOT technical team at 18 years old, working on and playing the ex Gaumont Theatre Manchester Wurlitzer then installed in the Granada Studios complex in Manchester. Eventually he became one of the team of organists playing weekends to entertain the public.

Since then Robert has played at many UK theatre organ venues and some classical concerts too for good measure. He now studies classical organ with Rosemary Field when time permits.

Robert is one of the London based tuners for Harrison and Harrison Ltd Organ Builders, and enjoys a varied career tuning, voicing, restoring, and installing many of the countries most prestigious instruments. Robert is one of the few UK professional pipe organ technicians who has specific knowledge of the Theatre Organ, having worked on installations all across the UK.

Nicolas Hafner

It was in 1982, during his tenure as a student at the Collège Claparède under the direction of Raymond Jourdan, that Nicolas Hafner first discovered the magnificent Wurlitzer cinema organ to which he has remained faithfully attached to this day.

While pursuing traditional organ studies, he was also the organist at the Notre-Dame Basilica on Sundays, and passionate about jazz and other « lighter » music during the week.

An accomplished improvisationist, now he is giving the Wurlitzer a new lease on life by providing musical accompaniment for supper-clubs and presenting it to groups of primary school students who are generally completely fascinated by the organ's sound, and fall in love with the world of burlesque cinema from the first gag.

The 1937 console permits Nicolas Hafner to play a large range of music with spirit and sensuality, while combining his two passions of organ music and jazz.

www.nicolas-hafner.com



Vincent Thévenaz

Beneficiary of a thoroughly well-rounded musical education (organ, piano, jazz and classical improvisation, musicology, music theory, direction, voice, and French and Russian letters), Vincent Thévenaz is Professor of Organ and Improvisation at the Geneva Conservatory of Music and the Haute Ecole de Musique de Genève, Organist at Chêne, and official carillonneur for the city of Geneva at the St-Pierre Cathedral. He has performed in numerous European countries, as well as in Canada and India.

Desiring to broaden the horizons of his instrument, he combines the organ with more classical sounds, such as the violin and flute, as well as other less orthodox ones such as the alphorn or percussion instruments. A big fan of improvisation, he cultivates this passion on the organ and the piano at church, in classical and jazz performances, with vocal music and for the accompaniment of silent films.

He has just released a CD entitled « Un siècle de musique d'orgue genevoise » (“A century of Genevan organ music”) recorded at Geneva's St-Pierre Cathedral. In 2009-2010 he performed the entire collection of Bach's works for organ in a series of 14 concerts, meeting with great success. His duet “W” with saxophonist Vincent Barras presents an original repertoire immortalised on 2 CDs. Having belonged to Geneva's Gli Angeli ensemble (Stephan MacLeod), he recorded two critically acclaimed CDs for Sony Music. He collaborates with a variety of other ensembles and directors, including the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Ensemble Scharoun from the Berlin Philharmonic, Contrechamps, Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne, Holliger, Corboz, Janowski, Foster, Pappano, and more. He also founded and regularly directs the Orchestre Buissonnier, an ensemble of young musicians.

www.thevenaz.org



THE COLLÈGE CLAPAREDE CINEMA ORGAN

Built in the United States in 1937, this instrument was initially installed in the Granada Theatre in Clapham Junction, a suburb of London.

When this cinema was undergoing restoration in 1980, a Geneva-based association, with the support of the State of Geneva, acquired this organ and its slave console at auction. The organ was installed in the auditorium of the Collège Claparède, and belongs to the State of Geneva.



Our association, created in 2012, is responsible for fundraising through institutions, foundations, and private donors in order to finance the organ's complete restoration. This responsibility has been entrusted to Alain Ott of the Manufacture de Grandes Orgues de Genève, and has already yielded significant progress.

In February 2017, the organ underwent a second round of restoration at the expert hands of Abigail and Robert Balfour-Rowley – English organ builders who specialise in cinema organs – in order to return the Collège Claparède Wurlitzer to its original state of glory.



photo credit: Jonathan Imhof (p. 10)

TICKETS

Pass (for the entire festival) :

CHF 100.– (full price) / CHF 80.– (reduction*) / CHF 50.– (young**)

Single tickets (for one evening) :

CHF 30.– (full price) / CHF 25.– (reduction*) / CHF 15.– (young**)

* reduction : pensioners, disabled, unemployed, AAOCCC members

** young : from 12 to 20 years old, students, apprentices

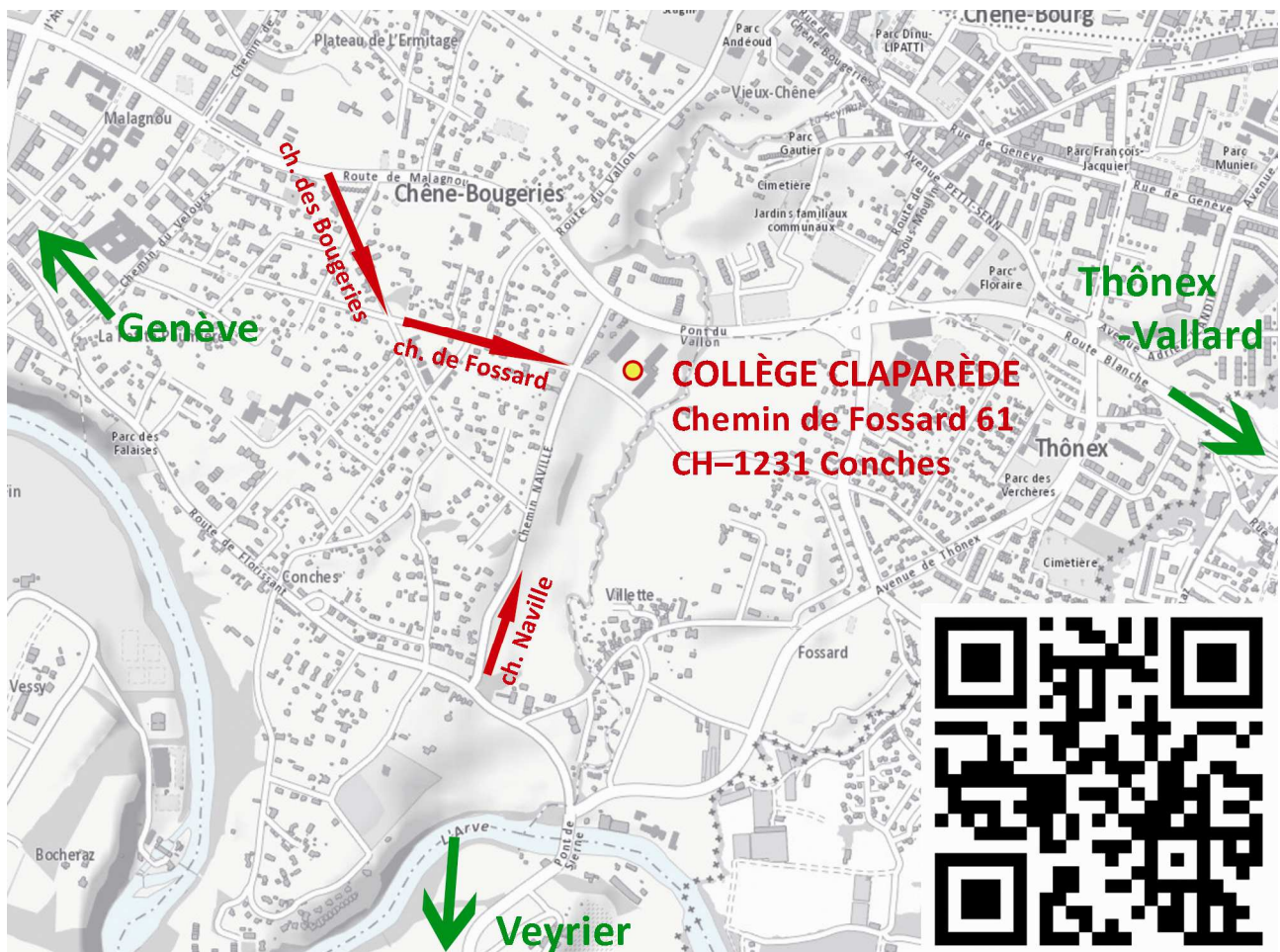
free entrance for childrens under 12

HOW TO REACH COLLÈGE CLAPARÈDE

TPG bus lines 5, 25, 34, C : bus station « Collège Claparède »

Driving from Genève/Veyrier : route de Florissant, turn on chemin Naville

Driving from Thônex-Vallard : route Blanche, then route de Malagnou turn left on chemin des Bougeries then 2nd left on chemin de Fossard



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