

David Butterworth bio for Rickmansworth (organ)



David Butterworth first taught himself to play a substantial repertoire of Geordie songs by ear, on family visits to his grandmother's house in Hull, and by the age of eight he was quite proficient in just one key – F sharp major. At the age of 11, he became a chorister at St John's Parish Church, Burgess Hill and commenced piano lessons with the organist, John Glandfield. He later studied piano with Tommy Evans and the composer Peter Dickinson whilst at Hurstpierpoint College, where he had won an open scholarship. At 17, he became one of the youngest people ever to have gained both the Fellowship and Choir training diplomas of the Royal College of Organists. He subsequently became Organ Scholar of Jesus College, Cambridge, for four years, where, as a pupil of Sir David Willcocks, he gained the degrees of Master of Arts and Bachelor of Music. Following this, he moved directly to Nottingham, where over a period of time he has been successively Organist and Master of the Choristers at St Mary's Parish Church, Director of Music of the Bluecoat School and Custodian of the large Binns organ in Nottingham's Albert Hall.

His recital activities have continued unabated since school days, venues including King's College, Cambridge (twice), the Royal College of Organists, the cathedrals of Southwell, Canterbury, Gloucester and Derby, and most recently Westminster Abbey, as well as in Germany, Holland, Denmark and the Faroe Islands. Recent recording activity includes the combination pack (CD, DVD and full colour booklet) 'Towards a Modernist Organ' featuring five organs around Nottingham, with the installation of all of which David has been involved; and also a brand new double CD (also with full colour booklet) called 'The Russell Connection', featuring two historic restorations of some acclaim on the Notts. / Leics. border. Both of these are available today at the back of the church.