

Francesca Massey

Francesca Massey took up the post of **Sub-Organist of Durham Cathedral** in September 2011. where in addition to the daily provision of music for services, she regularly accompanied the cathedral choir in concerts, tours, broadcasts and recordings. Prior to this, she was Assistant Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral for four years. Concert venues with the Peterborough choir included the cathedrals of Amiens, Bourges, Blois and Orléans.

Born in Birmingham, Francesca was educated at Cambridge University and the Royal Northern College of Music (a prestigious ABRSM Scholarship) and has held Organ Scholarships at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge and Manchester Cathedral as well as being Assistant Organist at Great St. Mary's Church, Cambridge. At the age of 19, Francesca gained all of the top prizes in the FRCO diploma and has since been awarded the WT Best Memorial Scholarship and Silver Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, and the Musicians Benevolent Fund's Ian Fleming Award. She has studied with Jeremy Filsell, Kevin Bowyer, David Goode and Andrew Fletcher.

Francesca performs regularly as a recitalist throughout the UK. Her debut solo disc entitled *Bravura* (on the Priory Records label) received excellent reviews: it was Editor's Choice in Organists' Review, described as a diverse and imaginative programme that is superbly played....a 'must' for all organ enthusiasts.' Another CD featuring the organ of King's Lynn Minster was released in 2017. Francesca has played throughout Europe and South Africa as an accompanist, as well as recording a number of acclaimed CDs with various choirs; Gramophone Magazine describing her as a 'hugely gifted accompanist.' She is Assistant Musical Director of The Durham Singers and much in demand around the North East as an organ teacher.

(from <http://www.duresme.org.uk/CATH/organist.htm>)