



The Organs of New College Oxford

by
*Paul
Hale*

Paul Hale was Organ Scholar at New College between 1971 and 1974. In 1975 he had the enjoyable task of researching the history of music at New College in order to write a chapter for the college's 1979 publication celebrating six hundred years of its existence. For reasons of space, much of the historic material remained unpublished but the files survived and in 2011 the author was able to begin again; re-researching the material, incorporating later information, assembling a collection of illustrations, and writing a full account of the New College Chapel organs.

The result is this fascinating book which chronicles the history of the organ and its related music, beginning on Palm Sunday 1386, when 'a grand procession entered the College with singing and splendour' and ending with the present instrument.

The book contains fifteen chapters plus appendices, dealing with the various organs acquired by New College, from the fifteenth century, through the Robert Dallam instrument of 1663, and the interludes with Renatus Harris, Samuel Green and Henry Willis, to the 'fresh start' with the Grant, Degens and Bradbeer organ of 1969 which was restored by Goetze & Gwynn in 2014/15. Other chapters explore the architectural and musical relationship between organ, choir and chapel.

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