

OLIVER CONDY

Oliver Condry began learning the organ at Ellesmere College, where there were two three-manual organs: a Hill, Norman and Beard in the chapel and, in the main hall, a very fine Schulze organ that could never be played as it either drowned out maths lessons, or prep. A year in Paris followed his A-levels, where he was lucky enough to study with Susan Landale at the Conservatoire de Rueil-Malmaison. The following September, he began his English and French degree at Cardiff University – the French part of the degree was just a ruse to enable him to return to Paris three years later for another year with Landale, where he was awarded a Premier Prix and got to play for the Remembrance Day service at Notre Dame.

In 1998, Oliver embarked on a Masters' degree in organ performance studies at Cardiff University, a year that coincided with Bach scholar Peter Williams' visit to the music department as a visiting professor. One-to-one tutorials with Williams sparked a deep love of Bach's organ music, which continues to this day.

Oliver has been fortunate to carve a career in music, principally as a magazine journalist, at *Classic FM Magazine*, and then at the Bristol-based *BBC Music Magazine*, where he remained editor for 17 years. Highlights at those magazines included interviewing hundreds of musicians such as Pavarotti, Renée Fleming, Charles Mackerras, Nigel Kennedy, John Eliot Gardiner, Riccardo Muti, André Previn, Marin Alsop, Hilary Hahn, plus Billy Joel and Sting. And Russell Watson. In 2015, Oliver toured the UK with the Brussels Philharmonic in Saint-Saëns' "Organ" Symphony during which, in Cambridge, the organ broke down just before the final movement's momentous opening chords. The local reviewer later wrote that, afterwards, "Condry went backstage to change his trousers."

Working at the magazine gave Oliver opportunities to develop a love of broadcasting. He has appeared on Radios 3, 4 and 5 (including a few stints on the *Today* programme and an unforgettable roasting by Nicky Campbell), judged early rounds of *BBC Young Musician*, presented a segment for "From Our Own Correspondent" from Siberia, and been interviewed on *BBC Breakfast* about Harold Darke's *In the Bleak Midwinter*, from the Blue Peter Garden.

Today, Oliver is the head of classical copy at Apple Music and Apple Music Classical, commuting between London and Taunton, where he lives with his family. As and when he can, he also works for [Kirker Holidays](#), and each year takes 20 or so Bach enthusiasts around the towns, cities and churches where the composer lived and worked, giving two or three recitals en route. It's great fun – book now for 2026.

He is utterly delighted to be back at Westbury after a long Elevenses sabbatical.