

## CLAIRE HOBBS



Growing up in Cambridge, Claire studied the organ with David Hill before becoming Organ Scholar at St John's College, Oxford. She undertook postgraduate studies at the Royal Northern College of Music, where she was also Organ Scholar at Manchester Cathedral, and subsequently entered the Conservatoire Supérieur in Geneva in the class of François Delor, completing her studies with a Prix de Virtuosit  and the Prix Otto Barblan for Performance. While in Geneva, she held positions as Organist at the Auditoire de Calvin and Holy Trinity Church.

Back in England, Claire became Assistant Organist at Bristol Cathedral and then Organist at Clifton Cathedral in Bristol. Organ lessons with Nicolas Kynaston were deeply inspiring, and she gave many solo recitals in the UK, New Zealand and South Africa. Claire also taught on summer courses for young organists for the Incorporated Association of Organists and more recently for the RCO.

Through both performance and teaching, Claire became interested in aspects of music psychology, and retrained as a music therapist at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Since then, she has worked as a music therapist in the NHS and education, while maintaining a musical life as an ABRSM examiner, accompanying and teaching the piano, and contributing to *Organists' Review*.

Claire lives in Oxford with her husband, and has two adult children. She is currently Organ Curator at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery for UCL Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.