



Inside The City Temple, where Thiman was organist from 1958 until his death in 1975.

## **The Eric Thiman Collection**

### **Newsletter No 10**

This is the tenth Newsletter detailing the progress of the Eric Thiman Collection. If you know anyone else who would like to be included in emailing/ mailing list, please send their details to Guy Turner (contact details at the end of the newsletter). Thank you.

#### **THE ERIC THIMAN COLLECTION**

##### *Patrons*

*The Very Revd. Nicola Sullivan, Dean of Southwell*  
*Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood, CBE, Principal, The Royal Academy of Music*  
*The Revd. Ian Howarth, Chair of the Methodist Church, Birmingham District*  
*The Very Revd. Dr John Moses, Dean Emeritus of St Paul's Cathedral*

*Frances Thimann, Eric Thiman's Niece*  
*Paul Hale, Rector Chori Emeritus, Southwell Minster*  
*Guy Turner, Archivist*

## **WEBSITE**

You are reminded that our website can be found at <https://www.southwellminster.org/eric-thiman-collection/>

## **GERALD BARNES, RIP**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Thiman's regular accompanist, friend and 'right-hand-man' Gerald Barnes. He died peacefully at home on 31<sup>st</sup> August. He was 87. Amongst other connections, Gerald was the accompanist of Thiman's choral society, The Elysian Singers, and took the choir over at Thiman's death. He conducted the choir's memorial concert to Thiman in April 1975 and Thiman Centenary Concert in 2000. Gerald was one of the greatest supporters of the Thiman Collection, and the whole of Thiman's own archive came to us via Gerald, who had looked after it following the death of Mrs Thiman. His funeral will be at St Columba's Church (Church of Scotland), Pont Street, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 0BD at 2.30 pm on Friday 30 September. Guy Turner (email at end of this newsletter) has the contact details if you wish to attend.

## **PROGRESS WITH THE COLLECTION**

We continue acquiring missing items for the Thiman archive, and the current total in the collection is 1270 different pieces. Now all libraries are functioning properly after Covid, a fresh attempt will be made to obtain copies of pieces we do not have, but which libraries have in stock. A full list of all the pieces we have – and all the pieces we know of, but which are currently missing from the collection – can be seen on the website.

## **RECORDINGS**

You are reminded that we have copies of the recently discovered recording of Thiman playing his own music on the organ of the City Temple. The full list of repertoire is on the previous newsletter.

These are available for £10 plus £1.50 post and packing. Please contact Guy Turner to order a copy. Contact and payment details at the end of the letter.

We should have news soon of the forthcoming CD of songs by Thiman and Michael Head, which has been recorded by Mezzo Emily Gray.

We have been lucky enough to obtain some archive recordings, including The Nativity, the Temptations of Christ, and a recording of the Park Chapel Choir. In due course CD copies of these will become available. Many thanks to Thiman's niece, Karen Romer, for sending these.

## 1958 REDEDICATION SERVICE AT THE CITY TEMPLE

We have also been lucky enough to obtain both an order of service and a recording of the rededication service for the rebuilt City Temple on October 30<sup>th</sup> 1958. It had been destroyed during an air raid in 1941. Both the church and the new Walker Organ (designed by Thiman, together with Sir William McKie, then organist of Westminster Abbey) were rededicated in the presence of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the Lord Mayor of London. Also in attendance were no fewer than 30 clergy, including the Bishop of London, the Dean of St Paul's and national senior figures from the Free Churches. The service was repeated the following day, in order to accommodate all who wished to attend.

Thiman played Bach, Walford Davies and Elgar before the service, and during the service the choir sung Stanford's *Te Deum* in B flat and Thiman's *Here Beauty Dwells*, specially written for the service. This anthem later appeared on, and provided the title for, the LP which Thiman made with the City Temple Choir.

## THIMAN'S HOME



You may be interested to see a photo of Thiman's home in East Finchley

## SUITE IN E FOR TWO PIANOS

Zibo Li and Yuan Zhou have recorded the Suite in E for Two Pianos (1947) written for York Bowen and Harry Isaacs, colleagues of Thiman at the Royal Academy of Music, and professional piano duettists for over thirty years. Their performance can be seen on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrFs-fP87w>

It is very exciting to see pianists of this calibre performing Thiman's music. As with the early Piano Sonata, previously recorded by Zibo, it is interesting to hear Thiman writing for professionals, as nearly all of his work, apart from a few more tricky organ pieces and some of the songs, was written for amateur performers.

A reminder of details of the piano sonata:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ANQXmft9Rc>

The Thiman Sonata starts at 23 minutes 52 seconds.

The Sonata is now published by Fand Music

<https://www.fandmusic.com/>

## THIMAN ROYALTIES SUPPORTING YOUNG FLAUTIST

All Thiman royalties have gone to the Royal Academy of Music, since the death of Mrs Thiman. Each year the Eric Thiman Fund Award is created from the royalties, and goes to support a student chosen by the RAM. Flautist Alexia Pasquariello was again the recipient of the award in 2012/22

You can see Alexia playing here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJcHaPVAn7c5wdIKIwDwhFg>

Alexia writes:

*My life has changed so much since I started studying at the Academy and I am forever grateful to your help and for the chance I've been given! The award I received has enabled me to study here and to professionally grow. This academic year has been like a living dream. I managed to have so many performances, both orchestral and solo, from which I gained a lot of experience, knowledge and self-confidence. Moreover, I finally managed to purchase my own piccolo thanks to an instrument purchase grant from the Royal Philharmonic Society, and I won a Muramatsu platinum flute on a 5 year loan after participating in a competition organised by the Cherubim Music Trust. This is such a relief as*

*my financial situation would not have allowed me to change my initial flute, although I was in desperate need.*

*My professional evolution since I became a student of the Royal Academy of Music is impressive and I am keen to perfect my skills and leave a cultural legacy at the end of my career.*

*Without your kindness and help, it would have been impossible for me and my family to afford the yearly living costs in London and benefit from all these opportunities. 'Thank you so much! Your help is a blessing for me!'*

## **FUNDS**

The continued work of the Collection is of course reliant on funding from our supporters. Obtaining the missing pieces often involves copying fees from libraries, or just straightforward publisher charges (often more expensive if a one-off print of an out-of-print work). Some pieces turn up in the US or Canada (where Thiman was and is very popular), so there can be postage costs. In addition, we are keen to support performances of Thiman's music where possible by providing access to copies etc (though not by substantial sponsorship, unfortunately). All this costs money – though we are VERY economical! If you are able to make a donation, please see the details of how to pay at the end of the Newsletter. Many thanks for your continued support.

## **PAYMENTS**

For payment of donations or for CDs:

Either by bank transfer to Southwell Minster Choirs Association  
60-20-15 68034652  
Reference: Thiman Collection (and either 'donation', or 'CD')

Or post a cheque made out to 'Southwell Minster Choir Association', with 'Eric Thiman Collection' written on the back, to Guy Turner.

## **CONTACT**

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<https://www.southwellminster.org/eric-thiman-collection/>