

Alec Walters – Biography

Alec is 29 and hails from Wigan.

Alecs fascination with the Theatre Organ began at the age of around 3 or 4 when he was taken to the Blackpool Tower by his parents. He was amazed by the Mighty Wurlitzer in the Ballroom as it came up from under the stage, the dancers applauding as the dances finished. It was here Alec was well and truly bitten by the bug.

There was a keyboard at home and he would spend hours each day trying to get a sound out of it. He slowly taught himself how to play and has never had a formal lesson.

At the age of around 12 Alecs parents bought a Yamaha D65 organ which again he practiced on for hours each day. For his 13th birthday, unlucky for some, his mother took him to the Heritage centre at Peel Green owned and run by the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust, home to a small Wurlitzer, which was the first Theatre Pipe organ he ever played.

Even as a small boy Alec was interested in the mechanics of the organs and a few years later in he was invited to help remove a Compton cinema organ from a church and that is where he met Steve Tovey, a meeting Alec will never forget as Steve attempted to sell him a Wurlitzer there and then!! Steve invited Alec to "The Barn" at Cannock Chase, looking back it is obvious this was an audition and it all took off from there and Alec has appeared for various societies ever since in concert and for Ballroom and Sequence dancing.

Alecs dream came true in 2019 when he was invited to play a concert at the Blackpool Opera House, not once but TWICE and in early 2020 took part in a dance in the Empress Ballroom Blackpool, events organised by the Cannock Chase Organ Club. 2020 also saw Alec join the committee of the Shropshire Organ Trust and he was soon appointed House Organist, based at the Wurlitzer organ installed at the Buttermarket in Shrewsbury.

Concert and dance appearances in recent years have included The Christie organ at Harworth, The Compton at Ossett Town Hall, Old Windsor Memorial Hall Compton Organ, Gosport at the Compton organ, Pavilion Theatre Bournemouth Compton, Gordon Craig Theatre Stevenage Christie Organ, Market Drayton Wurlitzer, Burton Hastings Wurlitzer and The Grange Palgrave Wurlitzer. Later this year he is also playing for dancing at the Assembly Hall in Worthing at the Wurlitzer organ.

Alec is inspired by the likes of Reginald Dixon, Sidney torch, Horace finch and Dudley savage. He listens to many Theatre Organists which has helped him to form a style firmly based in the North West but also able to switch to all styles of music suitable to play on the Theatre Organ.

Alec is equally at home on Electronics and is the owner of a Tyros organ set up which he takes to dances and concerts when required.