

Born in 1986 into a musical family, Léon Charles received his early musical training at the **Purcell School of Music** on a government-aided scholarship. Whilst there, he studied Piano with Valeria Szervansky, in addition to working as Assistant Organist at **Waltham Abbey Church** under Jamie Hitel, with whom he studied the Organ. During this time, he also studied with Kevin Bowyer.

Having passed the Diplomas of Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists and Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music by his seventeenth birthday, he proceeded to hold Organ Scholarships at **Canterbury Cathedral** and **St John's College, Cambridge**, where he worked under David Hill & Andrew Nethsingha. Whilst at St John's, he accompanied the world famous choir on seven BBC Radio broadcasts, toured **Estonia, the Eastern United States, Holland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Austria** and **Hungary**, and appeared on two commercial recordings. In March 2007, he was awarded the University-wide Brian Runnett Prize for organ playing, and graduated in 2008 with First-Class Honours in Music. For the academic year 2008-9, he held the Organ Scholarship at **Westminster Abbey**, during which time he gave six solo recitals, and appeared in concert with the Abbey Choir on BBC Radio. He is currently Assistant Organist of **St Pancras Church, London**.

As a recitalist, Léon has performed in many venues in the UK and in the USA, whilst being in frequent demand as a choral, vocal & instrumental accompanist both in England and abroad. Solo engagements have included the cathedrals of **Canterbury, Ely, Hereford, Lichfield, Lincoln, St Paul's, Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral, The Temple Church**, the Cambridge Colleges of **Emmanuel, St John's, King's, Magdalene & Pembroke**, solo appearances as part of the **Proms at St Jude's**, and **Wymondham & Buxton** festivals, and in concert with the **RPO**.

Léon is also in high demand as a composer (having studied with Robin Holloway), orchestrator, arranger, musical director & conductor, for which his versatility in these areas is in frequent demand. Recent commissions and performances have included chamber & orchestral works, song cycles, liturgical & secular choral works; including an anthem for the **2009 Commonwealth Day Observance** service held at Westminster Abbey in the presence of HM The Queen, a work for **Symphonic Wind Orchestra & Chorus**, the original songs and score for the **Cambridge/ADC Footlights Christmas Pantomime 2008**, and the Brass, Organ & Vocal arrangements for the **2013 Enthronement of Archbishop Justin Welby**. He is also an active Writer Associate of the **Mercury Musical Developments**, and works extensively as Associate for **Morgan Pochin Music Productions**, for whom he has provided arrangements and orchestrations for clients including **Decca Records, Syco, Deutsche Grammophon, Craig Ogden, The King's Singers, Alfie Boe, Jack Topping, Collabro, Jason Manford, The Classical Brit Awards (John Barry & Hans Zimmer tributes), ITV (The Alan Titchmarsh Show), Classic FM (A Night at the Movies 2013 & 2014), Renaissance Films Ltd (First Night** starring Richard E Grant & Sarah Brightman) and **Headline Pictures Ltd (Quartet** starring Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Michael Gambon, Tom Courtenay & Andrew Sachs, Dir. Dustin Hoffman), for which he served as on-set Music Consultant & Advisor and Soundtrack Pianist.

He works extensively in Musical Theatre & Ballet as a rehearsal/performance/audition musician, arranger, composer & songwriter, with credits including, as Keys Player: **Annie Get Your Gun** (Young Vic Theatre 2009-2010), **The Fantasticks** (Duchess Theatre 2010), **Jersey Boys** (Prince Edward Theatre 2010-2011), **Whistle Down The Wind** (Octagon Theatre, Yeovil 2012), **Wicked** (Victoria Apollo Theatre 2013-current), **Miss Saigon** (Prince Edward Theatre 2014-2015), **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** (Theatre Royal, Drury Lane 2015-2016), **Strictly Ballroom** (West Yorkshire Playhouse 2017), **Chicago** (North American International Tour, Seoul 2017), **Hairspray** (UK & Ireland Tour 2017-2018), as Assistant/Associate MD: **Songs From A Hotel Bedroom** (UK Tour 2010), **The Secret Garden** (Festival Theatre, Edinburgh 2010-2011), **Candide** (Menier Chocolate Factory 2013-2014), **Dirty Rotten Scoundrels** (UK Tour 2015), **The Woman In White** (Charing Cross Theatre 2017-2018), as Guest MD: **Paradise Found** (Menier Chocolate Factory 2010), as Deputy MD: **The Realness** (Hackney Downs Theatre 2014), as Cover MD: **Matthew Bourne's Play Without Words** (UK Tour 2012) and as MD/Arranger: **Sunset Bitch** (Waterloo East Theatre 2010) & **Chicago** (UK, Ireland & International Tour 2016-2017). Other credits include **Shoes** (Sadler's Wells 2010), the **Celebration of English Musical Theatre** as part of the **2011 St George's Day** celebrations in Trafalgar Square, for which he was Orchestrator and Assistant MD, **Crazy For You** (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre/Novello Theatre 2011-2012), **Christmas Rat Pack** (UK Tour & Wyndham's Theatre 2011), **Alfie Boe: Bring Him Home** (UK Tour 2011-2012, for which he was Assistant MD & Keyboardist), **Hello Dolly!** (Curve Theatre, Leicester 2012), Associate & Acting MD for the UK & Ireland tour of **High Society** (2013), Rehearsal & Company Pianist for **The Winter's Tale & Sérénade** (The Royal Ballet 2014) and **Sunset Boulevard** (UK & Ireland Tour 2017-2018). He also appears frequently as a Pianist/MD in cabaret/concert for both private & corporate events, including the **Pheasantry & the Beaufort Bar at the Savoy Hotel**. He is currently Assistant MD & Piano 1 for the West End production of **Chicago**.