

## MARTIN SETCHELL

### BIOGRAPHY 2019

Christchurch's Town Hall organist Martin Setchell is an international concert organist who believes in promoting entertaining music to a wide audience.

Born and educated in England where he was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists, he studied at various times with Pierre Cochereau, Marie-Claire Alain, Piet Kee, and Peter Hurford.

He emigrated to New Zealand in 1974 on his appointment to the University of Canterbury School of Music where he taught for 40 years and became Associate Professor of Music. In 2014 he resigned his University position in order to devote himself full time to his work as a professional freelance musician, performing, writing, speaking, editing and teaching. Since 1997, when he was appointed curator of the Rieger pipe organ by the City Council, he has devoted himself to promoting the organ as a concert instrument internationally. In 2008 he was honoured by the city for his services to music and the Town Hall organ in particular.

His solo concert tours outside New Zealand regularly take him to Australia, America, Europe and the Far East. This year (2019) his concert tours include Australia, Germany, and the Bergen Festival Norway as well as throughout New Zealand.

His CDs include *A Taste of Shropshire*, recorded at Ludlow Parish church in England, the highly successful *Bonbons for Organ* series and *Pink and White*, an anthology of New Zealand organ music (Atoll) and *Great Australasian Organs VII* featuring the Rieger organ of Christchurch Town Hall (Priory 1031, UK). and *Cardboard Cathedral Organ Capers* recorded on the Rodgers Infinity organ of the Transitional Anglican Cathedral, Christchurch. His most recent recording is *Resounding Aftershocks*, recorded in January on the newly restored Town Hall organ, and now available at [www.pipelinepress.com](http://www.pipelinepress.com)

As a composer, Martin Setchell concentrates on writing tuneful and accessible organ and choral music. His humorous *Wedding March extraordinaire* is recently published by Butz MusikVerlag in Bonn. He is also known for his volumes of transcriptions for organ. Music by Fauré and Bizet and the Sousa marches are published by Kevin Mayhew Music and his arrangements of Saint-Saens, Purcell and Bach are published by OUP in their *Oxford Organ Series*.