

WILLIAM CHARLES FILBY (COMPOSER) TREE T02

***Born:* December 18, 1833,**

***Died:* June 22, 1913, Richmond, Surrey, England.**

William Charles Filby, organist and composer was born at Hammersmith in 1833. He was organist of St. Peter, Hammersmith, in 1849, and afterwards spent time studying in France. He then became organist and choir master at Parish Church, Bromley, in 1853 when he married Eliza Matthews and they had three children.

He was also choir master and organist at St. Peter's, Walworth; St. Matthew's, Bayswater; St. Luke's, Westbourne Park ; Holy Trinity, Margate; Holy Trinity, Stepney; and since 1884, of St. Paul's, West Greenwich. He was conductor of Choral Societies at Greenwich, Chelsea, giving organ recitals in London, and in various provincial towns. Was one of the appointed organists at the International Exhibitions, 1882 and 1885. Lecturer on subjects connected with church music, the opera, and musical education.

His compositions are very numerous, and include settings in Cantata form, of Psalms 13, 23, and 65; A Mass in E flat, op. 24; Mass in E, op. 28; Salve Regina, op. 67, and other music for the Roman Catholic Service. Anthems, settings of the Canticles. Operettas, *Your Money or Your Life* and *Alabama Claims*. A number of songs, choruses, and part-songs. Sonatas in E, op. 66, and G minor, op. 76, with many other pieces for pianoforte. Four organ voluntaries, op. 110; Three organ pieces, op. 124, etc. Revising editor of *Lady V. Freke's* tune-book, *Song of Praise* and of J. B. Mead's, *The Treasury*. Contributor of hymn-tunes to *Hymns Ancient and Modern* including *Epiphany*, *Fortitude*, *Here O My Lord I See Thee Face to Face*, *Onward*, *St. Silas and Sundridge*; *The Bristol Tune-book*, etc. Author of *Piccolo Tutor* (London: Williams); *Flute Tutor*; *How to write music*; *The Student's Copy Book* (London, 1882).

His brother, Stephen Filby (1834 - 1895), was organist of the Parish Church, Hammersmith, for over twenty years, and afterwards of Holy Trinity, Barnes, and the Parish Church, Wealdstone, Harrow. He took over the family drapery business in Hammersmith after his father died in 1879.