

**JOHN MARSH**  
*A Most Elegant*  
&  
*Beautiful Instrument*  
**THE ORGAN**



**MARTIN RENSHAW**

# John Marsh: A Most Elegant & Beautiful Instrument: The Organ *Martin Renshaw*

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John Marsh (1752-1828) was a gentleman composer and musician. Most of Marsh's life as a lover of music and composer was centred on the organ. Although he was not able to afford his own organ in his house until he finally inherited the house and estates of Nethersole near Canterbury, this instrument activated his interests throughout his life. It is not hard to see why : it was the organ that adorned his worship as a faithful member of the Church of England and accompanied its choirs in its chief places of beauty. The organ was attractive to his enquiring mind because of its infinite variety and complexity ; it also enabled him him to have social access to well-known musicians in organ lofts and at music festivals throughout the country. John Marsh's house organ is now in a Nottinghamshire church. This book contains extracts from Marsh's lifelong and detailed diary that relate to the organ as well as an account of the England family of organ builders for whom much detail derives only from Marsh's records.

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