

## PRESS RELEASE

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### 25 YEARS OF GRANT-MAKING



Eric Thompson OBE

2018 is the 25th anniversary of **The Eric Thompson Charitable Trust for Organists and Organ Music**, founded in 1993 to commemorate the life and work of Eric Thompson OBE.

Eric's professional interest lay in music administration and, after a period with Boosey & Hawkes, he joined the Arts Council and established himself as a highly regarded senior manager of the Council's various musical programmes.

Eric was always interested in the organ and took care to ensure that the instrument, its players and its repertoire were properly represented in the work of the Arts Council and in concerts arranged by the British Council.

After retiring he became Honorary Secretary of the Royal Philharmonic Society, where he continued to promote the organ and its music, and to support young organists.

Chairman Robin Jéquier commented, 'The Trust's charitable objectives mirror Eric's interests. It provides grants to aspiring professional organists to attend master classes, summer schools, or lessons from a distinguished teacher outside regular studies.' He said, 'Since it was founded the Trust has supported over 100 young organists, and it's wonderful that many of them now hold prestigious positions in cathedrals, colleges, churches and schools.'

Through the generosity of Flentrop Orgelbouw, an annual scholarship is also available for a young organist to stay at their Zaandam workshops, learn the rudiments of organ building and take lessons from leading Dutch organists on some of Holland's most famous instruments.

To mark its 25th anniversary **The Eric Thompson Trust** is campaigning to extend its reach in the field of organ music and raise awareness of its core mission, by:

- doubling the total amount of annual grants from £3,000 to £6,000 p.a.
- making an Annual Award of up to £5,000 for young musicians to undertake projects related to the organ such as research, composition or recordings.

In aid of the Trust, Robin Jéquier is running a half-marathon in April 2018. For further details and to support him, please visit [RobinsRun.org](http://RobinsRun.org)

**The  
Eric Thompson  
Charitable Trust**

**for organists  
and organ music**

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