



Grants to aspiring professional musicians in financial need, including: scholarships, summer schools, specialist lessons, composition.

2019-20 NEWSLETTER

Welcome!

This has been another encouraging financial year for the Trust's grant-making and performances. Thank you to all our supporters whose generosity is greatly appreciated.

We hope this newsletter is an informative update of our work. We're always interested to hear about anyone needing support or wishing to find out more, so if we can help please email info@OrganTrust.org or call + 44 (0)20 3143 3040.

Grants

During the financial year the Trust made grants to 10 successful candidates enabling them to:

- Receive specialist organ lessons with Hans Gaius in Copenhagen and David Cassan in Paris
- Attend the Oundle for Organists Abroad course in Denmark
- Take part in the annual Flentrop Scholarship to study the craft of organ building and tuning
- Study full time on the Royal Academy of Music Masters Course
- Cover fees and expenses towards an Improvisation Masterclass
- Cover fees towards the LRAM, ARCO and FRCO diplomas
- Purchase music scores; Bach, Buxtehude and Vierne

For further details visit OrganTrust.org and click on [Past Recipients](#).

The Flentrop Scholarship

Our congratulations go to [Alexander Pott](#) (Magdalen College, Oxford) and [Tammás Slater](#) (St Margaret's Church, Ilkley) who went to Holland in 2019 on our prized **Flentrop Scholarship**. Sponsored by Flentrop Orgelbouw BV, they travelled to Zaandam for an introduction to the craft of organ building and tuning, and for lessons with distinguished Dutch organists.

To read their very entertaining reports, visit OrganTrust.org and click on [Flentrop Scholarship](#).

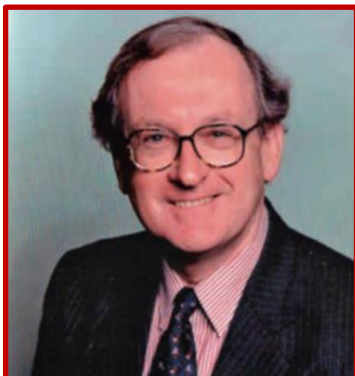
Despite Coronavirus Lockdown.....

In May 2020 the Trustees will hold a virtual meeting, so we do **encourage the submission of applications** as described on our website. Just to remind, the next deadline is **30 April** and here are quick links:

1. [General Grants](#) - such as summer schools and specialist lessons
2. [Annual Award](#) - specialist studies, performance, recording, research, composition
3. [Flentrop Scholarship](#) – an introduction to the craft of organ building and tuning

Recitals

John Hill Organ Series



In May 2019 another successful organ recital series was held at The Guild Church of **St Lawrence Jewry**, in memory of our former Chairman the late John Hill CBE. Our audiences much enjoyed the virtuoso recitals with music ranging from baroque to contemporary.

The young artists who played so splendidly were: [Rachel Mahon](#) (Canada), [Ilaria Centorrino](#) (Italy), [Katelyn Emerson](#) (USA), [Ghislaine Reece-Trapp](#) (UK) and [Constance Taillard](#) (France).

With the current health restrictions in force, sadly the **2020** John Hill Organ Recitals due to be held at St Lawrence Jewry have been cancelled.

October Organ Recitals



The Trust's annual organ recitals are normally held every October at The Guild Church of **St Lawrence Jewry**, London. The 2019 recitalists (all former beneficiaries of the Trust) were: [Richard Moore](#) (Guildford Cathedral), [Travis Baker](#) (St Mary's Putney), [Andrzej Malitowski](#) (St Anselm and Cecilia, London), [Robert Smith](#) (York Oratory) and [Polina Sosnina](#) (St Martin-in-the-Fields). Their performances were outstanding. Visit our website or [Facebook page](#) later in the summer for updates as to whether our October **2020** lunchtime recitals will go ahead.

Valedictory

Dinah Molloy-Thompson



With much sadness we record the death of Eric Thompson's widow, Dinah, on 29 October 2019, aged 72. Dinah co-founded the Eric Thompson Trust back in 1993, and ever since then she was always an inspirational Trustee.

A person of many talents, Dinah was at various times an historical researcher, Arctic explorer, lunar analyst, classical violinist and a data programmer. Scientist, musicians, computer programmers and childhood friends were among the diverse congregation who gathered at her funeral in Enniskerry, Ireland, in November.

Last month's planned London celebration of Dinah's life had to be cancelled, however [click here](#) for an online copy of the order of service which also includes her obituary (courtesy [The Irish Times](#)).

Richard Fisher

It is also very sad to report the death of Richard Fisher, a dedicated former Trustee and recent Patron whose funeral was held in London in September 2019. He had a remarkably varied career in music, the BBC World Service and latterly at the Royal Philharmonic Society. Richard worked tirelessly and successfully at drafting numerous fundraising applications on behalf of the Eric Thompson Trust, thereby facilitating many essential grants to aspiring young musicians in need. His wise counsel at Trustee meetings will be sorely missed.

Fundraising

Half-Marathon



In March 2020, in memory of the late Dinah Molloy-Thompson and the late Richard Fisher (see *Valedictory* section above) Chairman [Robin Jéquier](#) ran an “isolated half-marathon” in aid of the Trust.

He had planned to run the annual Devizes Half-Marathon Race this April, but the event has been cancelled in line with current health restrictions.

Pictured on the left (before the lockdown!) so far Robin’s runs have raised over £4,000 (target: £6,000). He completed last month’s route in 2 hours 18 minutes.

Robin said, ‘It was a glorious though somewhat lonely route on a bright sunny day. I’d like to thank everyone who so kindly sponsored me.’

There is still time to donate – if you would like to sponsor Robin you can do so at: TotalGiving.co.uk/mypage/robinsrun

Thank you!

27 Years of Grant Making

Since 1993 The Eric Thompson Trust has campaigned to raise awareness and increase the amount of grants to help aspiring organists.

More recently we introduced our prestigious Annual Award of up to £5,000 p.a. for specialist projects.

To support the Trust please visit: OrganTrust.org and click **DONATE**

Finally, at this very difficult time for the country, we send our warmest good wishes to everyone and do hope that you, your families and loved ones will keep safe and well in the challenging time ahead.

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