



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

2020-21 NEWSLETTER

Welcome!

This has been an extraordinary year for us all, and very sad for some, however the Trust's grant-making has continued apace. Whilst unfortunate to have cancelled our 2020 organ recitals, we have provided a much-needed lift to struggling UK organ students financially disadvantaged by the pandemic restrictions.

A special thank you therefore to all our supporters whose continued generosity is greatly appreciated.

We hope this newsletter is informative. We're always interested to hear about anyone needing support or wishing to find out more, either by email at info@OrganTrust.org or call + 44 (0)20 3143 3040.

Grants and Scholarships

During the financial year the Trust made over 30 grants enabling young candidates to:

- Receive specialist organ lessons with tutors in Paris
- Study on a Masters course in Leipzig
- Attend the 2021 Flentrop Scholarship to study the craft of organ building and tuning
- Purchase organ music scores
- Cover fees towards the FRCO diploma
- Offset the impact of Covid restrictions via one-off £400 grants to 26 full-time organ students at the UK conservatoires; further Covid-related grants totalling £4,200 were also made.

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

The Flentrop Scholarship

Congratulations to [Michael Stephens-Jones](#) (Selwyn College, Cambridge) who will go to Holland in late 2021 on our prized **Flentrop Scholarship**. Sponsored by Flentrop Orgelbouw BV, he will travel to Zaandam for an introduction to the craft of organ building and tuning, and for lessons with distinguished Dutch organists.

To read feedback from previous participants, visit OrganTrust.org and click on [Flentrop Scholarship](#).

Despite Coronavirus Restrictions.....

In May 2021 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 2020 it was not possible to hold the John Hill Organ Series of recitals, normally performed at the Guild Church of **St Lawrence Jewry** in memory of our former Chairman, the late John Hill CBE.

Given current health restrictions, we regret that the **2021** John Hill Organ Recitals have been cancelled. It is hoped to resume the Series in 2022.

With much sadness we also record the untimely death last December of **Catherine Ennis**, late Director of Music at **St Lawrence Jewry**, who masterminded the John Hill Series. An outstanding musician, she was a driving force for organ music and will be sorely missed.

October Organ Recitals



The Trust's annual organ recitals are normally held every October at the Guild Church of **St Lawrence Jewry**, London.

The 2020 recitals did not take place for obvious reasons.

Visit our website or [Facebook page](#) later in the summer for updates as to whether our October **2021** lunchtime recitals will go ahead.

Patrons

Daniel Hyde



In May last year we were delighted when Daniel Hyde accepted our invitation to join our panel of Patrons.

A former beneficiary of the Trust, Daniel became Director of Music at Jesus College Cambridge, then Informator Choristarum at Magdalen College Oxford, and went on to Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York.

Since 2019 he has held the prestigious post of Director of Music at King's College Cambridge. We wish him a long and happy association with the Trust.

Julian Lloyd Webber



In January this year Julian Lloyd Webber became a Patron of the Trust.

A world-renowned cellist and conductor, until recently Julian was Principal of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire which runs a thriving Organ Department.

He is now Emeritus Professor of Performing Arts at Birmingham City University. Interestingly his father William Lloyd Webber was a distinguished organist as well as a good friend of the late Eric Thompson.

We are delighted to welcome Julian to our growing list of Patrons.

Trustees

New Trustee



A warm welcome to **Angus Baskerville** (pictured left) who joined our Board of Trustees in January 2021.

He is a Director of the independent booking agency 13 Artists Limited, that represents clients for performing commitments internationally. Angus is passionate about encouraging more people to enjoy the experience of live music, as well as greater representation of the organ and its repertoire.

A grandson of the late Eric Thompson, in whose name the Trust was created by his widow and friends, Angus is also a Patron of the Music Venue Trust. He lives in London with his wife and two children.

Benefactors

Legacy Bequests



The Trust is extremely fortunate to have been bequeathed generous legacies from two former Trustees, the late Richard Fisher and the late Dinah Molloy-Thompson. As Eric Thompson's widow, Dinah founded the Trust in his memory to recognise his lifetime support to musicians and students.

Steps will be taken to commemorate their generosity in a suitable manner when conditions allow.

Legacy-Giving is the biggest single contributor to charitable causes in the UK, and you can [click here](#) to find out more about it and tax effective giving.

The late Dinah Molloy-Thompson

28 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.

To support the Trust please visit: [OrganTrust.org](https://www.OrganTrust.org) and click **DONATE**.

Finally, at this exceptionally challenging time for us all, we send our warmest good wishes to everyone and do hope that you, your families and loved ones will keep safe and well.

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