

2021-22 NEWSLETTER

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

Welcome!

Although it has been another challenging year for everybody, thankfully a good semblance of normality has since returned. The Trust's grant-making has continued and our organ recitals have got underway again – hurray!

As always, a special thank you is extended to all our supporters whose continued generosity is so greatly appreciated.

Grants and Scholarships

During the period the Trust has made grants and awards that included:

- Specialist organ lessons with expert tutors
- A year's study on an organ Master's course in Berlin
- Purchase of organ music scores
- Fees towards courses at Toulouse and Birmingham Conservatoires
- Flentrop Scholarship: practical study at workshops of Flentrop Orgelbouw
- Funding of two organ scholarships at Liverpool Bluecoat School
- Funding for Pipe-Up Devon Young Organists' Training Scheme
- Annual Award: audio-visual recording of rare organ music linked to the City
- Principal Sponsor - Northern Ireland International Organ Competition's 10th Anniversary Gala at Southwark Cathedral

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

The Flentrop Scholarship

Congratulations to [Michael Stephens-Jones](#) (Selwyn College, Cambridge) and to [Ivan Leung](#) (University of British Columbia) who will go to Zaandam, Netherlands, in late 2022 on our prized **Flentrop Scholarship**.

Sponsored by Flentrop Orgelbouw BV, they will receive an introduction to the craft of organ building and tuning, and lessons with distinguished Dutch organists.

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

**The
Eric Thompson
Charitable Trust**

**for organists
and organ music**

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Dinah Thompson

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Liverpool Blue Coat Organ Scholarships



Liverpool Blue Coat School Organ Scholarships offer two deserving students a five-year course of tuition, sponsored by the Eric Thompson Trust. The scholarship, in partnership with the two Liverpool cathedrals, also uses the School Chapel Walker 1906 organ, making it unsurpassed anywhere else in the UK.

Scholarship Project Manager Peter Elson said, 'It's extremely reassuring that the Eric Thompson Trust has shown such confidence in this new scholarship,' and went on to describe our support as 'a big step in fulfilling our ambition to establish Liverpool as the northern centre for training young organists.'

PipeUp Devon



PipeUp Devon is the Exeter Diocese young organists training scheme which aims to inspire, enable and improve the skills of young church organists in Devon. Sponsored by the Trust, it encourages 11 to 18-year-olds who already play a musical instrument to give the organ a go.

It is hoped that training up a new generation of organ players will eventually increase the number of people available to play some of Devon's historic church organs. The PipeUp Devon initiative follows a similar successful scheme in Salisbury Diocese.

Co-founder Peter King said that learning the organ could really suit young people who liked a physical and mental challenge. He added, 'No other instrument requires you play with hands and feet, on up to four keyboards and to change stops.'

Annual Award



The Trust's prestigious Annual Award goes this year to **Thomas Allery**, Director of Music and Organist at St Mary-le-Bow Church.

Tom's aim is to highlight organist composers from the City of London. The eventual project will be a series of audio-visual films performed on the superb 2010 Kenneth Tickell organ of St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, featuring a range of music rarely (if ever) heard, alongside documentary style information presented in locations around the City.

Tom is also a solo harpsichordist, and he teaches basso continuo in the Historical Performance department at the Royal College of Music, and organ at City of London School.

It's Time to Apply!

The next Trustees meeting will be held in May this year, so we do **encourage the submission of applications** as described on our website.

The deadline is **30 April 2022** and here are quick links:

1. **General Grants** - such as summer schools and specialist lessons
2. **Annual Award** – e. g. specialist studies, performance, recording, research
3. **Flentrop Scholarship** – an introduction to the craft of organ building and tuning

Recitals and Events

Our October Organ Recitals



The Trust's 2021 Annual Organ Recital Series was held in October 2021 at **St Mary-le-Bow**, Cheapside, London.

With its superb 2010 Kenneth Tickell organ (pictured) the recitalists were: **Ben Bloor** (London Oratory), **Joshua Ryan** (Royal Hospital, Chelsea), **Ophelia Amar** (Frederikskirken, Paris), and **Thomas Allery** (St Mary-le-Bow).

Their performances were truly outstanding, and well attended!

Visit our website or [Facebook](#) page later in the summer for details of our **October 2022** lunchtime recitals at **St Mary-le-Bow**.

John Hill + Catherine Ennis Organ Series



Previously known as John Hill Organ Series, these recitals are now in memory of both our former Chairman, the late **John Hill CBE**, and the Series co-founder the late **Catherine Ennis**. The **2022** Series takes place in Mayfair:

Tue 03 May **Dónal McCann**
Tue 10 May **Claire Innes-Hopkins**
Tue 17 May **Ashley Wagner**
Tue 24 May **Hilary Punnett**
Tue 31 May **Alex Hamilton**



[Click here](#) for full details. Series sponsored by *The Eric Thompson Trust*

Celebrating the Work of the Trust and the Lives of Dinah Thompson and Richard Fisher



Dinah Thompson

This memorable celebration event was held at The Dutch Church, London, in October 2021, in honour of the late Dinah Thompson and Richard Fisher – former Trustees who also became benefactors.

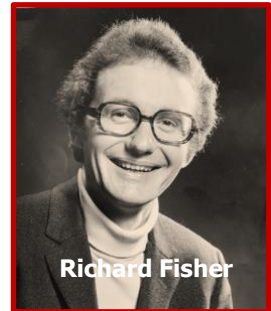
Eric and Dinah Thompson were closely associated with the Dutch Church (where Eric's funeral was held) - a most fitting choice of venue.

Professor David Titterington and Chairman Robin Jéquier gave tributes to Dinah and Richard. Guests were also informed how, to offset the impact of Covid, the Trust had made unique and much-needed hardship grants to 26 full-time organ students at UK conservatoires.

Organ music was superbly performed by Trust former beneficiaries [Ourania Gassiou](#), [Joseph Fort](#) and [Thomas Allery](#).

A reception was held in the crypt for around 50 supporters and guests.

Our heartfelt thanks to Minister Ds Bertjan van de Lagemaat for the part he played and for allowing us to use the Dutch Church.



Richard Fisher

Northern Ireland International Organ Competition (NIIOC) 10th Anniversary Gala Organ Recital



In March 2022 The Eric Thompson Trust sponsored [NIIOC's](#) impressive 10th Anniversary Gala Organ Recital at Southwark Cathedral. Winners from the first ten years played on the cathedral's magnificent 'thoroughbred' organ before a large audience.

It was an ideal opportunity to mark the Competition's international impact, and to promote the talents of the ten exceptional young organists shown below:

2011	Ben Comeau	UK	2016	Mona Rozdestvenskyte	Russia
2012	Ben Bloor	UK	2017	Sebastian Heindl	Germany
2013	Richard Gowers	UK	2018	Johannes Krahl	Germany
2014	Andrew Forbes	UK	2019	Ivan-Bogdan Reincke	Hungary
2015	Alexander Hamilton	UK	2020	Laura Schlappa	Germany

Patrons

Sir Andrew Parmley



Sir Andrew Parmley

The Trustees are delighted to welcome the Director of The Royal College of Organists and former Lord Mayor of London, [Sir Andrew Parmley](#), as a Patron of the Trust.

Sir Andrew's career has spanned numerous areas including teaching, performing, research, examining, adjudicating, writing, composing and editing.

He is also the Honorary Organist of St James Garlickhythe in the City of London. We wish him a long and happy association with the Trust.

Julian Lloyd Webber OBE



Our warmest congratulations to Trust Patron [Julian Lloyd Webber](#) on his award of the OBE in the June 2021 Birthday Honours List, for services to music.

A world-renowned cellist, Julian is currently Emeritus Professor of Performing Arts at Birmingham City University.

His father William Lloyd Webber was a distinguished organist and composer, and a good friend of the late Eric Thompson OBE.

An Appreciation

In 2021 we bade farewell to **Anne Marsden-Thomas MBE** who has retired from our Board of Trustees. Over the years Anne has been a stalwart member, whose dedication and wise counsel have been greatly appreciated by fellow Board members and organ students alike.

Our thanks go to Anne for everything she has done in support of the Trust during her tenure.

29 Years of Grant Making



Since 1993 The Eric Thompson Trust has campaigned to raise awareness of organ music and increase the amount of grants to help aspiring organists. *2023 will be the Trust's 30th anniversary!*

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

Finally, 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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