2022-23 NEWSLETTER

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

THANK YOU

In this our 30th Anniversary Year the Trust’s grant-making and support to young organists endures. As always, a special thank you to all our supporters whose continued generosity is greatly appreciated.

30 Years of Achievement:

Financial Highlights
- Since 1993 we’ve granted £170,000 to help 200 young organists, many of whom now hold key positions in cathedrals, colleges, churches and schools.
- In the 1990’s our largest single donation came from HM the Sultan of Oman.
- To offset the impact of Covid, in 2020 hardship grants of £400 each were given to 26 full-time organ students at UK conservatoires.

Sponsorships
- Errollyn Wallen CBE commissioned to compose 30th Anniversary organ work
- Northern Ireland International Organ Festival
- St Albans International Organ Festival
- RCO London Organ Forum
- King’s College, Cambridge
- City of London Festival

Scholarships and Training
- Flentrop Scholarship: one candidate per year has visited Flentrop Orgelbouw, Zaandam, to learn rudiments of organ building, and to perform on some of The Netherlands’ most famous instruments.
- Pipe-Up Devon: Exeter Diocese Young Organist Training
- Liverpool Bluecoat School: Organ Scholarships

Sustaining Excellence
- The Trust has sponsored over 80 organ recitals in the last 10 years.
- 2016: David Loxley-Blount's magnificent organ composition Duo Set in four movements, each accompanied by a different orchestral instrument.
- 2017: Richard Moore and Ellie Lovegrove's superb CD of virtuoso music for organ and trumpet by contemporary British and American composers.
- 2022: Thomas Allery's audio-visual films, being recorded at St Mary-le-Bow, to highlight rare organ music by composers from the City of London.

Support in the Media
- The Trust sponsored Choir & Organ’s recent features on Scottish house organs.
During 2022 the Trust made grants and awards that included:

- Flentrop Scholarship: practical study at workshops of Flentrop Orgelbouw
- Fees towards a Master's courses at the Royal Academy of Music
- Continued funding of two organ scholarships at Liverpool Bluecoat School
- Continued funding for Pipe-Up Devon Young Organists' Training Scheme
- Fees to attend Cambridge Organ Academy Summer Course
- Support towards an organ Master's course in Leipzig
- Purchase of organ music scores

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

### The Flentrop Scholarship

Ivan Leung (University of British Columbia) was our lucky candidate who went to Zaandam, Netherlands, in late 2022 on our prized Flentrop Scholarship.

Sponsored by Flentrop Orgelbouw BV, Ivan was introduced to the craft of organ building and tuning, and received lessons from distinguished Dutch organists. In 2023 our candidate will be Worshipful Company of Musicians Silver Medallist Michael Stephens-Jones.

The Trustees extend their warmest thanks to Flentrop Orgelbouw BV for having provided this superb training opportunity.

### Liverpool Bluecoat Organ Scholarship

Liverpool Bluecoat School offers two deserving students five-year's tuition, sponsored by the Eric Thompson Trust. The scholarship is run in partnership with the two Liverpool cathedrals.

Scholarship Project Manager Peter Elson said that the Trust's support will further 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.
**Annual Award**

The Trust's 2022-23 Annual Award went to **Thomas Allery** for his project to highlight organist composers from the City of London.

Tom's audio-visuals performed on the superb 2010 Kenneth Tickell organ of St Mary-le-Bow, feature rarely heard music, and highlight forgotten composers from the City, alongside documentary style information presented in City locations.

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**When to Apply**

The Trustees meet twice a year, and we **encourage the submission of applications** as described on our website.

1. **General Grants** - such as summer schools and specialist lessons:
   - Next deadline 31 October 2023.
2. **Annual Award** - up to £5,000 towards specialist studies, performance, recording, research:
   - Deadline 31 March annually.

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**Recitals and Events**

**October 2022 Organ Recitals**

The Trust held a successful series of organ recitals in October 2022 at **St Mary-le-Bow** Cheapside, London.

With its superb Kenneth Tickell organ (pictured) the recitalists were: **Matthew Jorysz** (Westminster Abbey), **Ourania Gassiou** (French Protestant Church, London), **Ivan Leung** (Farm Street Church, London) and **Gabriele Agrimonti** (French National Church, Rome).

Their performances were truly outstanding - well played all!
Hill - Ennis 2023 Organ Series

The John Hill - Catherine Ennis organ recitals are held in memory of our former Chairman, the late John Hill CBE, and the Series founder the late Catherine Ennis.

In their different ways and over many years, these two people gave unstinting support and encouragement to aspiring young organists.

This annual series, held each May, is supported by The Eric Thompson Trust and aims to showcase rising stars in the world of organ music.

The 2023 series takes place in Mayfair at St George's Hanover Square, and the Grosvenor Chapel, on the dates and venues shown (left).

Save the dates and see you there!

The Trust has commissioned multi-award winning Errollyn Wallen CBE to compose a celebratory organ work in 2023, to mark our 30th Anniversary.

Errollyn's prolific output includes twenty-two operas, and a large collection of orchestral, chamber and vocal works performed and broadcast around the world.

In 2022 she featured in the BBC Radio 3 flagship programme, Composer of the Week.

Her specially commissioned 30th Anniversary composition for The Eric Thompson Trust will be premiered at an organ recital in London later this summer, details to be announced.

The Trustees are delighted to welcome Durham Cathedral's former Master of the Choristers and Organist, James Lancelot, as a Patron.

When a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral James sang at the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill. Highly respected in the musical world, he started at Durham in 1985 having previously held posts at Winchester Cathedral and King's Cambridge.

Welcome, James!
In 2022 former Trust beneficiary Peter Holder joined the Board of Trustees.

A graduate of The Royal Academy of Music, where he now teaches, Peter is Organist at Westminster Abbey. He previously spent three years as Sub-Organist at St Paul’s Cathedral.

Peter has performed organ recitals in cathedrals and concert halls around the globe. He made his BBC Proms solo debut in 2019, and played at the funeral of HM The Queen. In May he is due to play at the Coronation of HM King Charles III.

Welcome, Peter!

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

In the years ahead, we will continue to make a significant impact by sustaining and developing organ music, placing current and future generations of young organists at the heart of our work.

We receive no government or church funding, and raise funds each year from individuals, trusts and foundations.

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