

GRANTS FOR FUNDING WORK ON HISTORIC PIPE ORGANS

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and has been revised by David Knight, who
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GRANTS FOR FUNDING WORK ON HISTORIC PIPE ORGANS

A GUIDE

The demand for authentic concert and record performance and, especially, the revival of interest in church music, has led to a greater understanding of the value, musical adaptability and longevity of pipe organs. Many historic instruments survive and deserve careful restoration or conservation. Funding such work, whether sacred or secular, is always a challenge, but grants are available and it is hoped that this guide will point to some of the many appropriate options and make the search process more rewarding.

One of the best sources of essential advice for owners of all pipe organs is a Council for the Care of Churches (CCC) publication: *Sounds Good - A Guide to church organs, for incumbents, churchwardens and PCCs*, available from Church House Publishing, price £6.95 (020 7799 4064 www.chbookshop.co.uk). Also there is a leaflet (available online) Sound Advice, produced by the British Institute of Organs Studies (BIOS). The thrust of recommendations in both publications will assist applicants for *Your Heritage* grants distributed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the criteria are relevant to applicants to all grant-giving bodies.

Grant-awarding bodies, not least the Heritage Lottery Fund, need to show public – as well as heritage – benefits from schemes that they fund. It is essential that your application shows awareness of this and includes realistic benefits for public access and education. Your application is likely to be taken more seriously if it includes a carefully considered scheme of work, specified by an appropriately experienced organ builder, and endorsed by a professional consultant. It is unlikely that grants will be given for work to an organ where its original character has been largely lost through successive alterations, or where the work proposed involves modern modifications. A list of professional consultants with specialist skills, who can assist owners in the choice of a builder and the preparation of a complete scheme, is available from: the Association of Independent Organ Advisers, <www.aioa.org.uk> email: admin@aioa.org.uk. Churches are also encouraged to seek the views of their DAC or denominational Organ Adviser when they start considering works to the organ, since this enables the advisory system to function most effectively. For an important instrument it may be worth seeking a grant for a consultant's report before any work is contemplated.

Some fund-raisers may not wish to apply for lottery grants; for that reason such sources are dealt with separately.

General information

The major source for identifying suitable trusts is the Directory of Grant-Making Trusts, published by the Charities Aid Foundation, King's Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA or www.cafonline.org. It is available at main public reference libraries. The Directory lists a large number of organisations that may accept applications for grant-aid, states their relevant criteria, and indicates the approximate annual income of each charity. It also contains important advice on how to present your applications. You are advised to read this very carefully and be guided by it. It is now also available on CD-ROM.

The Directory is updated twice yearly. Where appropriate, information on fund-raising from the USA may be obtained from the Charities Aid Foundation America, at 114-118 Southampton Row, WC1B 5AA (020 7400 2300). The Directory of Social Change is a registered charity which publishes some useful guides on major trusts and companies which offer grants and donations to, among others, arts and heritage projects. They also produce books on arts fund-raising techniques. For a current list, contact their Publications Department, 24 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2DP, www.dsc.org.uk (020 7898 5151).

The Charity Commissioners' web site includes the Register of Charities that can be searched to highlight trusts by name, object, or area of benefit. This can be accessed via www.charity-commission.gov.uk

It pays to be persistent; the last trust on your list could be the one which is willing to help you.

Trust grants

Modest but useful grants for careful restoration to historic instruments in the Church of England are administered by The Secretary, Organs Committee, the Council for the Care of Churches, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ (020 7898 1866; fax 020 7898 1881 email: enquiries.ccb@c-of-e.org.uk).

These grants are specifically for the restoration of organs of historic interest in churches. The term 'historic' is usually interpreted to refer to organs over seventy years old which have retained their original character, or are capable of reinstatement. Other conditions apply. For instance, the church should not dispose of the organ; a conservation record must be provided and a copy retained by the church; any further work can only be undertaken with the grant giver's consent, and any necessary permissions, such as a Faculty, must be obtained. Charitable trusts that are custodians of historic organs and churches in Scotland, Wales and outside the Church of England should make a direct approach to the Secretary of the Pilgrim Trust, Clutha House, 10 Storey's Gate, London, SW1P 3AY (020 7222 4723 www.thepilgrimtrust.org.uk).

There is an enormous choice of other trust funds, many of which restrict their generosity to specific geographical areas or causes. Most never give to individuals and many only to registered charities (most churches are treated as such). The following examples of some relevant grant-giving bodies are given as a guide to their diversity:

Lord Barnby's Foundation
10 New Square
Lincoln's Inn
London WC2A 3QG
Grants to registered charities only and
with some geographical preferences.

The G. C. Gibbson Charitable Trust
Touche Ross and Company
Fitzalan Court
Newport Road
Cardiff CF2 1TS
Very few grants are available for organs.
Priority is given to churches in South
Wales and Suffolk.

The Leche Trust
84 Cicada Road
London SW18 2NZ
Interested in organs of the Georgian period.

The William Adlington Cadbury Charitable Trust
2 College Walk
Selly Oak
Birmingham B29 6LQ
www.wa-cadbury.org.uk
Include conservation and protection projects, generally only in the West Midlands, at the discretion of the Trustees.

The Pilling Trust Fund
c/o Waterworths, Chartered Accountants
Central Buildings, Richmond Terrace,
Blackburn BB1 7AP
Interested in organs used to support traditional Anglican worship, particularly where it includes a choral tradition.

The Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust
2 Friars Lane
Richmond
TW9 1NL
administrator@cfct.org.uk
An example of a trust which operates in a specific geographical area, in this case, only Kent.

The Diapason Trust
No 1 Cottage, Mount Pleasant
Jubilee Drive
Upper Colwall
WR13 6DH
Provides assistance for the maintenance of pipe organs and barrel organs over one hundred years old, when their continued existence is threatened by financial constraints. Churches with limited resources preferred.

The Charles Hayward Foundation
Hayward House
45 Harrington Gardens
London SW7 4JU
www.charleshaywardfoundation.org.uk

The Idlewild Trust
1A Taylors Yard
67 Alderbrook Road
London SW12 8AD
tel. 020 8772 3155
email: idlewildtrust@lineone.net
website: www.idlewildtrust.org.uk
Organs significant in design terms are eligible. Substantial funds must have been raised already, with a viable plan to provide the remainder.

The Summerfield Charitable Trust
PO Box 4
Winchcombe
Cheltenham GL54 5ZD
www.summerfield.org.uk
An example of a trust with a specific local interest, in this case Gloucestershire

The ON Organ Fund
Dr Alan Thurlow,
8 Old Bakery Gardens
Chichester
W. Sussex PO19 8AJ
alanjthurlow@btinternet.com
Small grants are available for the care and maintenance of pipe organs in places of worship and for new pipe organs. Strict rules cover prior approval, contracts and the availability of other sources of funds

The Ouseley Trust
127 Coleherne Court
London SW5 0EB
www.ouseleytrust.org.uk
Applications will only be considered if the organ is an instrument of particular significance and an integral element in choral services of a high standard.

Other sources

The Foundation for Sport and the Arts is a useful source of modest funding, but must be convinced of the use and accessibility of the project to the community. It can be contacted through at The Foundation for Sport and the Arts, PO Box 20, Liverpool L13 1HB (0151 259 5505; fax 0151 230 0664, www.thefsa.net). However the FSA will be wound up in 2012 and final applications will be accepted in March 2009.

Environmental Trusts are another potential source of funding for organs. These trusts are set up to formalise the grant-making procedures from funds available from tax credits claimed by the operators of landfill sites, known as landfill tax. To claim grants from landfill tax an approach must be made to a registered environmental trust (or set up a trust yourself). A register is available from the head office of Entrust, Suite 2, 5th Floor, Acre House, 2 Town Square, Sale, Cheshire M33 7WZ (0161 972 0044; fax 0161 972 0055 www.entrust.org.uk). The Methodist Church has an arrangement to assist Methodist churches which apply for grants from landfill tax; further details are available from the Connexial Property Committee. Some other denominations also have such schemes.

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. A similar scheme to the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme, the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund seeks to address quarrying's impact on the environment in three ways: by improving existing sites, reducing the need for new quarrying and making any new quarrying more sensitive. Some churches have been successful in getting grants from this fund for works to organs. The distributor to projects including community and recreational benefits is English Nature - Tel: 01476 584821, www.english-nature.org.uk/about/alsf.htm, alsfgrants@english-nature.org.uk, ALSF Partnership Grants Team, The Maltings, Wharf Road, Grantham, NG31 6BH.

Lottery funds

The National Lottery has brought extra funds for the arts, charities, heritage and sport.

Funds for arts projects in England, which may include organs used as musical instruments in the widest sense, and the repair of organs where this is proposed primarily to enhance musical quality for public performance, are administered by: The Arts Council Lottery Fund, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3NQ. They also handle projects on behalf of the Crafts Council. For an information pack write to or telephone the Communications Unit (020 7312 0123; fax 020 7973 6571; www.artscouncil.org.uk).

General information and assistance with the preparation of Lottery applications is available from the Regional Arts Boards or national Arts Councils, which usually have an Officer delegated to undertake this specialist work. In the national regions contact:

- * The Scottish Arts Council, Edinburgh (0131 226 6051);
- * the Arts Council of Wales, Cardiff (029 2039 4711); and
- * Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Belfast (028 9038 1591).

England is divided into nine regions, although the phone enquiry number is 0845 300 6200, whichever region you are in.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (www.hlf.org.uk) can consider applications for works that include the conservation of organs and organ cases. The fund offers grants to organisations which aim to look after and enhance the UK's heritage; to increase involvement in heritage activities; and to improve access to and enjoyment of heritage. Heritage Lottery Fund grants are administered in three separate schemes. Possibly the most relevant for projects involving organs is *Your Heritage*. In this scheme grants of £5,000 to £50,000 can be awarded, although the total project cost can be up to £100,000. To receive an application pack you should contact the Heritage Lottery Fund, 7 Holbein Place, London, SW1W8 8NR, 020 7591 6000. The application form is available on CD ROM from 020 7591 6042 or enquire@hlf.org.uk. Further information about the *Your Heritage* scheme is available from www.hlf.org.uk.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available from the *Awards for All* scheme. This is part-funded by all the major lottery funders and has a wide remit to fund many types of community based as well as heritage projects. Organ restorations to modest instruments may sometimes be achieved within such a budget, but the scheme is also able to consider projects where the outcome is not related to work to an organ but, for example, community based education. Further details are available from www.awardsforall.org.uk or 0845 600 20 40.

For projects requiring grants of over £50,000 the *Heritage Grants* programme can consider applications that include organs. This is the most demanding of the three schemes to apply for and the wider public benefits of the scheme must be especially clear.

Full details of how to apply to the *Your Heritage* scheme are available in the guidance notes. A pre-application form is supplied to outline the project before proceeding to a full application. It is helpful for applicants to provide details of the current stoplist of the organ, photographs of the console and casework and, where possible, a brief history of the organ including details of any previous work. Applicants will be asked to provide a technical specification for the proposed work, which will be carefully examined by expert advisers to the administrators of the funds. The applicant must also demonstrate that there will be a benefit to the community from the project and how it will help the community to appreciate the heritage value of the organ. This might include concert giving, access to the organ for students, a display about the conservation work and a presentation by the organ builder or work with a local school.

Please note that in the case of all Heritage Lottery Fund distributors:

- they are not able to support completely new works;
- grants cannot be made after work has started

- Work should be primarily designed to conserve and enhance the historic integrity of the organ and not take priority over urgent structural repairs.
- Applicants must have obtained all necessary permissions and consents before the grant is paid.

Applicants should consider the long-term implications of any proposed works to an organ, however it is funded. Inappropriate work by an incompetent person can exclude future generations from the benefits of grant-aid.

It would be expected that schemes attracting *Heritage Lottery* funding will be for

- pipe organs of historic interest whether local or national.
- schemes reflecting good practice in the field of musical instrument conservation where the proposed contractor has appropriate experience of this type of work. It is important that a conservative approach to the instrument is adopted.

Because this is a heritage fund, support is unlikely to be given for work to an organ where:

- * its historic character has been largely lost through successive alteration;
- * there have been modern modifications such as changes to the tonal specification or any replacement of the original action (e.g. electrification of tracker or pneumatic actions), or where further changes from the original are proposed;
- * modern playing aids or accessories have been introduced;
- * non-authentic materials are to be used when original materials are available;

Similar advice on conservation funding in the national regions is available from CADW; the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland, Environment Service - Historic Monuments and Buildings; Historic Scotland; or the Heritage Lottery Fund (addresses and phone numbers above).

- * CADW, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Road, Cardiff CF2 1UY (029 2050 0200).
- * Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland, Environment Service - Historic Monuments and Buildings, 5-33 Hill Street, Belfast BT1 2LA (028 9023 5000).
- * Historic Scotland, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH (0131 668 8600).

Some local authorities have access to modest sums of money, especially where tourist benefits can be shown, and almost all grant-givers require recipients to demonstrate that the results will be readily accessible to the public and of benefit to the community.

Additionally

Grants may be available to charities or institutions which are established for charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes, and where music-making in the wider community may be an object. Contact: The National Lottery Charities Board, 7th floor, St Vincent House, 30 Orange Street, London WC2H 7HH (020 7839 5371).

A register of organ builders specialising in historic restoration can be obtained from The Administrator, The Institute of British Organ Building, 13 Ryefields, Thurston, nr. Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 3TD (Tel/Fax: 01359 233433 www.ibo.co.uk).

Value Added Tax (VAT) on organs and the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme

If the organ is in a place of worship that is also listed building work to it is eligible for a grant from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. This is an interim grant scheme which returns, in grant aid, the difference between 5% and the actual amount spent on VAT on eligible works. The Scheme is currently due to continue until the end of March 2011. For full details of this scheme visit www.lpwscheme.org.uk, phone 0845 601 5945 or write to Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, PO Box 609, Newport NP10 8QD. The scheme is not intended to help with routine maintenance or works that are not part of a considered scheme.

Some types of work in listed building attract VAT at a lower rate. This is a complex topic and because of inadequate legislation, the benefits of relief to (listed) churches for true conservation and restoration projects are limited. (Discussions are taking place within the EEC in an attempt to improve this situation.) Establish contact with the Customs and Excise office local to your chosen organ builder and, initially, ask for their leaflet 708/1/90, Protected buildings (listed buildings and scheduled monuments). There is a further leaflet Guidelines for VAT on Church Organs published by Customs & Excise, dated 27 September 1997. Generally, repairs and maintenance are standard rated, but 'approved alterations' to the fabric, which can include an organ that is considered to be part of the fabric of a church, are not. But note that such alterations may conflict with the above grant-aid requirements. Your chosen organ-builder may be able to offer his experience in similar cases.

And

If you have not done so, please read Sound Advice, the brochure on the care of pipe organs, available from BIOS. It offers general recommendations which are especially valuable in the context of possible grant applications as are the notes on organs provided by the Council for the Care of churches at www.churchcare.co.uk

Historical and technical information to support your application may be available from records deposited in the British Organ Archive (administered by BIOS). Contact the Archivist, The British Organ Archive, Birmingham City Archives, Central Library, Birmingham B3 3HQ [open 09:00 to 17:00, closed Wednesday and Sundays] (0121 235 4217).

Useful supporting information on other similar instruments by the same builder, or of the same period, may be obtained from the National Pipe Organ Register (again, administered by BIOS). Organs of special historic importance may be awarded a BIOS Historic Organs Certificate. This certificate also identifies the historic value of the instrument and will help to confirm the importance of an organ to grant-giving bodies. Historic Organ Certificates are administered by Paul Joslin, 109 Hanover Road, London, NW10 3DN, 020 8459 5547

Finally

Please help us to help others and inform us of organisations not listed here who have been willing to fund your project.

The aims of BIOS

www.bios.org.uk

- To promote objective, scholarly research into the history of the organ and its music in all its aspects, and, in particular, into the organ and its music in Britain
- To conserve the sources and materials for the history of the organ in Britain, and to make them accessible to scholars
- To work for the preservation, and, where necessary, the faithful restoration of historic organs in Britain
- To encourage an exchange of scholarship with similar bodies and individuals abroad, and to promote a greater appreciation of historical overseas schools of organ building in Britain

Why not consider making a donation to BIOS? Those in sympathy with its aims are encouraged to join the Society and thus benefit from its activities and specialist publications. For subscription details, contact the The Membership Secretary: BIOS, P H Music, PO Box 383, Bury, BL8 4WX <BIOS-Membership@phmusic.co.uk>.

The cover illustration shows the Father Smith case, 1700, formerly at Eton College and now at Hawkesyard Priory, Staffordshire, drawn by Arthur George Hill.