



The One-Handed Musical Instrument Trust

Enabling music-making for the physically disabled



ABOUT OHMI

Any deficiency in one hand or arm makes traditional instruments unplayable to any reasonable standard. As a result, millions across the world are excluded from music-making for the lack of suitable instruments.

Through an international competition, the OHMI Trust challenges technologists and instrument makers to build one-handed instruments that can provide full and undifferentiated participation in musical life; whether at school, in the home or in a professional ensemble. Their technical solutions are then used to enable music-making for people with a wide range of disabilities.

Our success will have a profound impact not just on individuals but on society's relationship with disability, opening new realms of achievement and possibility.



Adapted trumpet, winner of an OHMI concept award 2014

The Dolmetsch one-handed recorder. Winner of the 2014 OHMI, playable award.

Advanced enabling software by Jamboxx, winner of an OHMI concept award 2014

The OHMI COMPETITION

Entrants to the One-Handed Musical Instrument Competition are challenged to develop musical instruments that can be played without the use of one hand and arm. It can be an adaptation of an existing instrument or a new design that is capable of emulating a traditional instrument. Anyone can enter.

The challenge should not be underestimated, especially for the creation of new instruments using new technologies. It is a very tall order to replicate the subtlety and expressiveness of musical instruments. They have to be able to respond to every minute nuance of the player's movements and be of a quality that does not limit the potential virtuosity of the player.

There are three competition categories:

PLAYABLE - For instruments capable of performance without further development. Adaptations must have all the capabilities of the original instrument. Where an entry uses new technology, perhaps electronics, it must closely copy the musical characteristics of the instrument it is emulating.

CONCEPT - For the most technically promising solution(s) to the challenge. Entries may be made in any form - paper, video, drawings, etc., just as long as they explain and describe the concept in detail to the competition judges. Several past entries have been projects in development - playable, but not yet to the high standard required.

ENABLING - For apparatus (straps, stands, harnesses etc.) that make a traditional instrument accessible for one-handed playing.

The OHMI Trust is now just 3 years old, but has already produced some superb winners. Playable instruments from the 2013 and 2014 competitions are the flute, recorder and saxophone; all three are capable of unlimited virtuosity. Past Concept winners are developing towards re-submission as Playable, and already several Enabling technologies are in regular use by disabled musicians.



“extraordinary and pioneering”

Lord Nash (speaking of OHMI in the House of Lords)

www.ohmi.org.uk

LEARNING TO PLAY

As new instruments become available, the OHMI Trust is working with appropriate organisations to teach and promote their use to anyone previously excluded by their disability.

In January 2016 we will begin a pilot teaching project in Birmingham. It is hoped that this will lead to a wider national programme. The project will provide one-to-one and group music lessons using the flute, recorder, and adapted brass instruments.

Our partners in the project include:

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
ABRSM, (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music)
Birmingham Services for Education
Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People
Birmingham Children's Hospital
Birmingham City University
Bristol Plays Music
Surrey Arts
OpenUp Music
Reach
HemiHelp

The toggle-key saxophone and detail,
OHMI playable award winner 2013



OUR PATRONS

We are delighted to have the support of internationally renowned musicians Alison Balsom and John Harle as patrons.

**“OHMI’s work is brilliant and essential.
They have my whole hearted support.”**

Alison Balsom (patron)

**“Thanks to OHMI, a bright light now shines on a huge
problem few people notice. They are leading the way
towards full inclusion for people with disabilities.”**

John Harle (patron)



Photo © Nobby Clarke

STOP PRESS

We are very excited to announce that Dame Evelyn Glennie has become a patron of the OHMI Trust.

**“OHMI are proving that
disability may be no barrier
to music-making at the
highest level. This will
benefit millions.”**

Dame Evelyn Glennie (patron)



Photo © Caroline Purday

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the competition, the instruments, our teaching programmes and our patrons, please visit our website. You can also help us to achieve more by telling people about our work and by making a donation.

Visit our website or contact us by email or phone.

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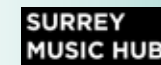
OHMI PARTNERS:



City of Birmingham
Symphony Orchestra



QEF
queen elizabeth's
foundation for
disabled people



OHMI FUNDERS:

The OHMI Trust is most grateful to its generous funders: Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, The Limoges Trust, The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust, The Saintbury Trust, The Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation, The John Coates Charitable Trust, The Alchemy Foundation, Monument Trust, The Goldsmith Company and John Lewis Music Matters.

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