

This is a leaflet produced by The Queen's Hall in 1979 as part of the successful fundraising campaign for the purchase of the William Gray Chamber Organ



*William Gray Chamber Organ 1810*

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY ONE OF EDINBURGH'S OLDEST ORGANS?

### INTRODUCTION

The Scottish Philharmonic Society's conversion of the former Newington and St. Leonard's Church in Clerk Street into an attractive (and comfortable!) medium-sized concert hall to be called the Queen's Hall will be completed this summer. The 1873 Forster and Andrews organ had already been sold when the Society bought the Church, but in any event it would have been awkwardly placed for accompanying orchestras and choirs on the platform at the other end of the building, and would have significantly reduced the seating capacity of the gallery. The fine pulpit between the two tall windows at the platform end had also been sold, leaving a large expanse of bare wall for which it would have been difficult to devise an effective decorative scheme. The Society recognised that a small organ would not only provide a visual focus, but would also be of great musical value for solo and accompanied work and as a continuo instrument in many of the eighteenth and nineteenth century works which form the basic repertoire of the orchestras and choir, which will have their home in the new concert hall. (The Scottish Baroque Ensemble, The Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and the Scottish Philharmonic Singers).

### HISTORY

The Society was fortunate therefore to be offered an almost unaltered small organ, built in 1810 (a few years before the Church itself) by William Gray of London. He was the second generation of a dynasty of organ builders that became the firm of Gray and Davison, which only ceased trading in the early 1970's. As the illustration shows, this organ is an exceptionally handsome instrument. It is almost 12 feet high, with a mahogany case and gilded (dummy) front pipes. It was built for Costessy Hall, near Norwich, the home of the Jarringham family. Costessy Hall was demolished in 1924 and the organ was transferred to a new church in Costessy. By 1970, however, the organ had become unplayable and it was bought and restored by Christopher Dickens of Spofforth, near Leeds, an enlightened organ builder who is well aware of the fine craftsmanship of virtually all organs of that period and the importance of conserving the all too rare organs of that period, and the importance of conserving the all too rare example which has not been drastically altered to meet late nineteenth century ideas of good taste.

### SPECIFICATION

The organ is not, of course, large in musical terms. It has one manual, (no pedals) with a compass GG (no GG sharp) to f, 58 notes.

Double Diapason (treble c up)	16'
Open Diapason (tenor c)	8'
Stopped Diapason (divided at tenor c)	8'
Dulciana (middle c)	8'
Principal	4'
Flute	4'
Fifteenth	2'
Sesquialtera (to middle c)	11 ranks
Cornet (middle c up)	111 ranks
Dulciana (middle c)	8') in swell
Oboe (middle c)	8') box

All the pipework is original except for the third rank of the Cornet and the top four notes of the 4' Flute. The organ has a delightful singing tone; full organ is not so much loud as brilliant. It is undoubtedly an important and historical musical instrument.

### FINANCE

The Trust has been offered this organ for £6,000. It has already raised more than £550,000 of the total cost of over £600,000 for converting the former church. More than £125,000 of this came from an appeal to private music lovers; most of the rest of the money has come from local government, the Arts Council, and industrial and commercial organisations. The Trust has been offered a grant of £2,500 towards the cost of the organ from the Local Museums Purchase Fund and is making a separate public appeal to organ enthusiasts for the remaining £3,500. Will you help us, please, to bring this outstanding instrument to Edinburgh - either by donation or covenant? Because of tax concessions a seven year covenant of £10 a year will amount to more than £100 for the Trust, £20 a year to more than £200. This form of giving has obvious advantages both to the Trust and to the donor.

### INAUGURATION

Arrangements have been made for the installation of the organ in time for the opening of the Queen's Hall on 6th July in the confidence that the balance of £3,500 required will be given or promised before then. The inaugural concert will be on July 13th, with programme as follows:-

Arr. Elliott	Airs and Dances of Renaissance Scotland
Handel	Concerto Grosso Op.6/7
Handel	Organ Concerto Op. 4 No. 5 in F
Organ solos:	
Gibbons	Fantasia
Boyce	Voluntary in A Minor
S. Wesley	Gavotte
Mozart	Andante in F
Vivaldi	Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 3/9
Elgar	Serenade for Strings

Leonard Friedman, Director/Violin  
David Lumsden, Organ

For those who give a donation of £50 or more, or a covenant of £10 per annum or more, we have a special offer of a free ticket for this special concert, and an invitation to a reception afterwards with David Lumsden and other organists.