



Friends of
WINCHESTER
CATHEDRAL

ORGAN APPEAL

www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk

A MESSAGE FROM
THE VERY REVD CATHERINE OGLE,
DEAN OF WINCHESTER



“ At the heart of Cathedral life is a glorious and world-renowned musical tradition. Within the wonderful work of our musicians, the organ can be regarded as the beating heart. It supports liturgy, congregational singing, ceremonies and major public events. This remarkable instrument is now in need of some tender loving care and the time is right for restoration and cleaning so that the organ can continue to do its great work at the centre of Cathedral life. ”

HELP US PROTECT THE FUTURE OF THE WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL ORGAN

Winchester Cathedral's great "Father Willis" organ is in daily use for worship, recitals and concerts, and can be heard the world over in broadcasts and recordings. Built for the 1851 Great Exhibition, the organ was installed in 1854 and has been in continuous use ever since. The last major overhaul of the organ was over 30 years ago and it is now showing significant signs of fatigue. We need, therefore, to undertake a full rebuild in order to repair and restore the organ and ensure it will continue to serve the Cathedral for the next 30 years.

The restoration work will begin in January 2023 and take up to a year. Specialist teams from master organ builders Harrison & Harrison will dismantle and clean over 5,500 pipes, repair chipped and worn keys, carry out extensive re-leathering, make adjustments and improvements to the console, pedalboard and pistons, and install a much needed Vox Humana organ stop. Finally, several weeks will be given over to "voicing" to ensure a perfect sound. At the same time we will replace the chamber organ in the Lady Chapel which has come to the end of its life.

During this work, daily Cathedral life will continue as usual. Scaffolding over the north transept and Quire will provide access, workspace and storage for the pipes, and a temporary organ will be in place for the duration of the project.



SOME AREAS THAT NEED ATTENTION



Console keys are worn,
with some notes failing
to “speak”




Pipes are starting to
buckle and are thick
with dust, affecting the
speech and tone



Each of the 5,500
pipes will be removed
and cleaned

DID YOU KNOW...

The Winchester Cathedral organ was built by Henry Willis as his demonstration instrument for the Great Exhibition in 1851. It was installed in the Cathedral in 1854 on the advice of organist Samuel Sebastian Wesley and rebuilt by Harrison & Harrison in 1938.



The total cost of this project is

£1.1m



With support pledged from
the Friends of Winchester Cathedral
and Winchester Cathedral Trust,
together with Chapter monies already
allocated, we have raised almost

£900,000



We now need

YOUR HELP

to meet the target



“ An organ is a living, breathing machine – over time, metal collapses, leather perishes and dust accumulates. Whilst the organ still may sound well, inside it is becoming less reliable and more difficult to play, with notes failing to speak, and sound escaping from leaky pipes. By rebuilding now, we are investing in one of the Cathedral’s most important assets and fulfilling our duty as custodians of this incredible musical and cultural heritage. ”

Andrew Lumsden
Director of Music

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There are three principal tiers of support:



For a donation of

£250

you can sponsor the cleaning of
one of the organ's 5,500 pipes



For a donation of

£500

you can sponsor one of the organ
console's 250 notes (keys)



For a donation of

£1,000

you can choose one of 79 named
stops to sponsor, and receive a
certificate naming your chosen stop

In the event that the amount raised exceeds the overall cost of the restoration project, any surplus will be used to support music at Winchester Cathedral.





Friends of WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

“ The organ is in truth the grandest, the most daring, the most magnificent of all instruments invented by human genius. It is a whole orchestra in itself. It can express anything in response to a skilled touch. Surely it is, in some sort, a pedestal on which the soul poises for a flight forth into space. ”

Honoré de Balzac

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