

2016 OHMI Competition Launched At The House Of Lords

The 4th OHMI Competition is now open for entries. The OHMI Trust's objective is to remove the barriers to music-making faced by the physically disabled. Other than the previous winners of the OHMI competition there are virtually no orchestral instruments that can be played without two fully functioning hands and arms. This denies unlimited participation in musical life to millions, including those with congenital disabilities and amputees as well as those who may have been injured, suffered a stroke or developed arthritis. The primary obstacle is the absence of suitable instruments.

There are three entry categories:

PLAYABLE - All instruments in this category must be 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 - Awarded 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. In the past, many entries have been projects in development -playable, but not yet to the high standard required.

ENABLING - Awarded for apparatus (straps, stands, harnesses etc.) that make traditional instruments accessible for one-handed playing. Entries should be sent to rachel@ohmi.org.uk. They may be submitted in any format, providing it fully explains the entry. Competitors may then be asked for further information or, if in the Playable category, videos of the instrument in use. More details can be found at <http://www.ohmi.org.uk/the-ohmi-competition.html>

The deadline for submissions is **30th April 2016**. Judging by an independent panel will take place shortly thereafter. The Award Ceremony will take place on 3rd June as part of BBC Music Day celebrations.



The Lords praise the work of OHMI



L-R Lord Lipsey, Lord Berkeley, Cian, Martha Thompson, Emily-May Roebuck, Stephen Hetherington © Photo: Huw Meredith

On 13th January Lord Lipsey hosted an event at the House of Lords to raise awareness of the work of The OHMI Trust. He and Lord Berkeley spoke to parliamentarians, funders, patrons, ambassadors, teachers, and supporters about what OHMI is aiming to achieve and how it is working towards these objectives. We were delighted to be able to include performances on three of the OHMI Competition 'Playable' category winners. David Nabb demonstrated his toggle key saxophone, Jeremy Cubert showed the possibilities of the LinnStrument and teachers from Services for Education in Birmingham performed a selection of recorder ensembles on the one handed recorder. We were treated to an interview and performance by Cian, a teaching pilot student, who is using an 'enabling' category winning trumpet stand. Not many 10 year olds can say that they had Lords accompanying them in a performance of 'We will rock you'! We were also delighted to have the support of our patron John Harle and ambassador Nicholas McCarthy.



- All photos © Huw Meredith
 In left to right :1. Nicholas McCarthy (Ambassador) and David Nabb (2013 competition winner)
 2. Michelle Holloway, Liz Wrighton, Martha Thompson, Chloe-Jade Butlin and Emily-May Roebuck (teaching pilot teachers)
 3. Nicholas McCarthy, a student and parent from the teaching pilot, Georgina Farrow OHMI project manager
 6. Martin Dyke (OHMI Trustee) and Debbie Abrahams MP (Shadow Minister for Disabled People)

Andy Ellis wins OHMI London Marathon place

We are pleased to announce that Andy Ellis has been chosen to represent The OHMI Trust at the 2016 Virgin Money London Marathon which will take place on 24th April. Andy says:

"I was born without my lower right forearm. I am a keen sportsman playing a number of sports regularly, including football and golf. Running the marathon has always been a life time goal for me and it will be a pleasure running it for such a great cause as OHMI."

Please support Andy by visiting his fundraising page at: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AndyEllis1987>



Andy Ellis - OHMI London Marathon Runner with Delia Barker, Sara Breen and Rachel Wolffsohn
©Photo: Huw Meredith

OHMI Teaching Pilot begins in Birmingham

October 2015 saw the launch of the world's first pilot project to teach children with physical disabilities using OHMI Competition winning instruments and apparatus. Teaching methods and learning needs of fifteen 7-11 year olds will be assessed. The children are receiving weekly lessons by specialist instrumental teachers from Services for Education in Birmingham. Ensemble groups started in January and brings children together from across the city each week. They will be performing together in a concert in the Adrian Boult Hall in March. Prof Martin Fautley and Victoria Kinsella from Birmingham City University are conducting academic research into the work with the help and support of the teachers, parents, schools and, of course, the students themselves. Doug Bott from OpenUp Music is also evaluating the project from a practical perspective. In May musicians from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra will be providing masterclasses for the children to give them new experiences about what music has to offer. We are grateful to the many funders who have made this project possible, especially the primary funder Arts Council England.



Smiles all round at the Taster Day © Photo: Karen Jensen-Clark

Calling all music teachers!

If you are a teacher with experience of, or an interest in, teaching adapted instruments to those with physical disabilities we would like to hear from you. We are often asked about who can offer lessons so would like to build a database. Please email rachel@ohmi.org.uk with your relevant information if you would like to be included.

OHMI Funders

We were are so grateful to all those who fund The OHMI Trust. Without their financial support none of the work would be possible:

John Coates Charitable Trust
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George Henry Collins Charity
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