

June 2016

2016 OHMI Competition Winners Announced



Maarten Visser, Stephen Hetherington and Jeremy Cubert (representing Emmett Chapman) at the OHMI Awards Ceremony

The 2016 OHMI competition has proved to be a brilliant year! We are very grateful to our expert judging panel, which consisted of Dr Andrew McPherson (Queen Mary University London), Dr Nigel Scaife (ABRSM), Doug Bott (OpenUp Music) and Nicholas McCarthy (One Handed concert pianist). They deliberated over submissions from all groups of instruments to choose winners in each of the three categories:

PLAYABLE - Instruments that, in the opinion of the judges, most closely copy all the musical characteristics of the instruments adapted or emulated.

CONCEPT - For the most technically promising solution(s) to the challenge.

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

2016 Playable winners

Emmett Chapman – The Chapman Stick

Unlike a conventional guitar, the notes on The Chapman Stick are generated by a simple and direct tap of the string on the fretboard with the finger of one hand. Note selection and actuation of the string are combined in a single one-handed action.

Maarten Visser – Tenor & Soprano Saxophones

Maarten's tenor saxophones use 'reverse action' springs which close the upper holes at rest. Extra keys near the lower keys open the higher keys. This allows the entire range of the instrument to be played with one hand. The soprano follows the same principles but was created using, in part, 3D printing techniques. Due to the smaller size of the instrument the original key cups and keys are replaced with ultra-thin Toptone pads

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2016 Enabling Winners

John Lunn – Flute Mount

The flute mount has been adapted from a harmonica neck mount. Both the neck mount and flute attachment can be manipulated with just one hand, securely holding and positioning the flute with the lip plate in front of the lips.

May We Help – Cello Stand

This stand allows individuals to play the cello with their feet. It is fully adjustable: the cello can rotate about its long axis and be tilted in from pin to neck, allowing cellist to achieve proper bow to string contact.

2016 Concept Winner

Jacob Harrison – Bass Guitar

Jacob is a PhD Candidate at Queen Mary University London. The development of a one-handed bass guitar is the subject of his Media and Arts Technology placement. At this stage he is investigating three approaches:

1. Use of linear actuators placed above each fret.
2. Use of a mechanical picking mechanism.
3. Augmenting the fretboard to extend the playing techniques.



Chapman Stick



Soprano Saxophone



Tenor Saxophone



Cello Stand



Flute mount

First OHMI London Marathon Runner Completes the Course and Wants to Run Again!

On 24th April the OHMI Staff enjoyed meeting the friends and family of Andy Ellis and cheering him around the gruelling course. This was the first time Andy had run a marathon but he had been guided in his training by a family friend who had run it 8 times in the elite category! The weather was perfect, dry and not too hot and Andy smiled all the way through the 4 hours and 22 minutes it took him to run the 26.2 miles. Thanks must go to him and to all his family and friends who sponsored him. His efforts have raised over £3000 for OHMI!



Andy Ellis still smiling after his 4 hour 22 min run, surrounded by his supporters

OHMI Teaching Pilot Student is Awarded the First Project Music Medal!

As our Birmingham teaching pilot enters the final half term of teaching, we are all celebrating the ABRSM Music Medal awarded to Aniyah for her recorder playing. Look out for more Music Medal awards in the coming months! Aniyah has been taught by Emily-May Roebuck from Services for Education. Emily-May was recently interviewed about the project on Radio Bristol as part of the BBC Music day celebrations. Speaking about her work with the project she said:

"Knowing the children and their determination is inspiring... It's been an interesting journey for me to incorporate my teaching styles and different fingers and different things that you need to do for each pupil."

The first year of the teaching pilot will conclude with a concert on 16th July. We hope to update you about all the achievements in our next newsletter. And, of course, this vital pilot project and its accompanying research programme have only been possible thanks to our funders. The continuation of the programme into its second year is now fully funded and will provide an opportunity to develop the instruments, supporting equipment and further develop teaching techniques.



Aniyah proudly holds her Music Medal certificate



Hamsa at the OHMI Ensemble

OHMI Teaching Pilot Taster Day for Secondary Students on 11th June

Flowing from a successful teaching pilot in Birmingham we are now launching a pilot for secondary school students in Surrey. There will be a **Taster Day** at G-Live in Guildford on **Saturday 11th June 2016 from 11am-1pm**. If you are interested in attending this event or knowing more about it please email rachel@ohmi.org.uk. Places are limited so we look forward to hearing from you soon. The taster day will be a great opportunity to find out more about the project and see some of the great adapted instruments we have available. If you cannot attend and are interested in lessons please contact Rachel who will provide full details.

2016 QMUL Intern Student joins OHMI

OHMI are very pleased to welcome Jacob Harrison as our 2016 summer intern student. As the eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed, in just a few weeks Jacob has already wowed the competition judges with his three potential solutions to make the bass guitar playable without the use of one hand. Despite not being disabled himself, Jacob does have experience of supporting a student with cerebral palsy for a year prior to undertaking his current study. We are very much looking to see what he produces over the next few months. Here is what Jacob writes:

I am working over the summer with the OHMI Trust as part of a Media and Arts Technology PhD at Queen Mary University of London. I chose to work with OHMI due to my research interests in assistive technology and music therapy, which have a lot of overlap with the work that OHMI does. I have chosen to adapt a bass guitar for my project with OHMI. This was a natural choice for me as bass is my first instrument, which I play regularly in my London-based band Lunacre. During the project I hope to understand the fundamentals behind the nuance and rhythmic precision involved in bass playing and develop a system that allows these to be performed without the use of one hand.

Normans Musical Instruments Sponsor OHMI

We would like express our gratitude to Normans Musical Instruments in Burton-On-Trent, for the large number of brass instruments they have recently donated to our instrument loan scheme. This will enable us to give anyone with a physical disability an invaluable opportunity to try out the 'enabling apparatus' category winners to see if the solutions meets their needs before having to invest for themselves.

NORMANS
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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	Sylvia Waddilove Foundation UK
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