



Dame Evelyn Glennie

**HIGH PROFILE MUSICIANS BACK OHMI'S
MISSION TO ENABLE MUSIC-MAKING FOR THE
PHYSICALLY DISABLED ...**

**INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED
PERCUSSIONIST DAME EVELYN GLENNIE AND
SAXOPHONIST JOHN HARLE BECOME
OHMI PATRONS**

"OHMI are proving that disability may be no barrier to music-making at the highest level. This will benefit millions" Dame Evelyn Glennie

The **One Handed Musical Instrument Trust** (OHMI) is thrilled to announce that percussionist, **Dame Evelyn Glennie**, and legendary saxophonist, **John Harle**, will join virtuoso trumpeter **Alison Balsom** on OHMI's prestigious panel of patrons.

"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)



John Harle & Alison Balsom
Photo: Nobby Clarke

The competition ...

There is currently no orchestral instrument that can be played without two fully functioning hands and arms. The first annual OHMI competition was launched three years ago to address this overlooked issue.

Entrants from across the world 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 an entirely new design, but must be capable of emulating a traditional instrument. And anyone can enter: technologists, inventors, instrument makers, students

Nevertheless, in just two years OHMI has received great winning entries across all categories and this

international competition is already opening up new realms of achievement and possibility for disabled musicians, including amputees, stroke and arthritis sufferers, whether in schools, home or in professional ensembles. The competition is divided into three 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 in any form: paper, video, drawings etc, just as long as they explain and describe the concept in detail of 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.

More information can be found at <http://www.ohmi.org.uk/2015-ohmi-competition.html>

The third OHMI competition closes for entries on **30th June 2015**. Final entries are still welcome, email rachel@ohmi.org.uk Winners will be announced shortly after judging.

"Extraordinary and pioneering" Lord Nash, speaking of OHMI in the House of Lords

Past winners ...

Past **Playable** winning instrument successes include:

- 2014 award winning **one-handed flute** by Martin Visser: a young musician suffered brain damage after an accident, the adapted flute means she can now play to her previous standard, despite having lost use of one side of her body.
- the 2013 **toggle-key saxophone** by Jeff Stelling and David Nabb: the saxophone was adapted for one-handed playing, reintroducing a stroke victim to musical life.
- the 2014 **Dolmetsch one-handed recorder** Winner (right): now available in the UK via a number of charitable loan schemes, including HemiHelp and Reach.

Past **Concept** winners include the adapted trumpet, with

others, such as the **Jamboxx** developing towards re-submission as Playable and, already, several **Enabling** technologies are in regular use by disabled musicians, including **Felix Klieser** and **Edit van der Burg**.



"OHMI's work is brilliant and essential. They have my whole hearted support"

Alison Balsom (patron)

Editors' notes ...

- OHMI was founded by **Dr. Stephen Hetherington**, chairman and co-founder of HQ Theatres Trust, who began his career as an orchestral musician. It was his own hemiplegic daughter, Amy, who alerted him to the lack of instruments available to disabled musicians, leading to him founding OHMI in 2011. He is an Honorary Fellow of Exeter University and an OHMI trustee, alongside **Martin Dyke** and **Nicola and Blake McLaughlin**.
- 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 September 2015, they will begin a pilot teaching project in Birmingham, hopefully leading to a wider national programme. The project will provide one-to-one and group music lessons using the flute, recorder and adapted brass instruments. Partners in the project include **Services for Education, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Birmingham City University, Bristol Plays Music, Surrey Arts, OpenUp Music, Reach** and **HemiHelp**.
- OHMI is a registered charity (no: 1143623) and is most grateful to its generous supporters **The Monument Trust, CHK Charities, the Limoges Trust, The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust, Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust, Saintbury Trust, The Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation, John Coates Charitable Trust, Alchemy Foundation, The Goldsmith Company, John Lewis Music Matters** and the **D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust**.
- **John Harle** is an Ivor Novello Award-winning composer-performer and record producer. Recent record releases of John's music include the critically acclaimed *The Tyburn Tree* and *Art Music*, both with singer Marc Almond of Soft Cell. As a saxophonist, his playing has been the catalyst for an outpouring of new concertos for the saxophone by composers including Michael Nyman, Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, Sir John Tavener, Sally Beamish, Gavin Bryars, Mark Anthony Turnage, Michael Torke, Dominic Muldowney, Stanley Myers and Christopher Gunning. John's performance of Sir Harrison Birtwistle's saxophone concerto *Panic* at the Last Night of the BBC Proms in 1997 was cited by many critics as the most controversial premiere of a new musical work since Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* in 1913. He was artistic advisor to Sir Paul McCartney for six years, and other collaborations have included John's Terror and Magnificence album and tour with Elvis Costello. He has also been producer and musical director for Moondog, Herbie Hancock, Ute Lemper, Lesley Garrett, Kathryn Tickell, Sir John Dankworth and Dame Cleo Laine, Stanley Myers and Elmer Bernstein. He is the composer of two operas (*Angel Magick* and *The Ballad of Jamie Allen*), many concert works and over 100 film and television scores, including the theme to BBC1's *Silent Witness*, and the epic score to Simon Schama's *History of Britain*. John is the recipient of two Royal Television Society awards for 'Best Soundtrack', and has been awarded four BBC Proms commissions. His Ivor Novello award for 'Best Soundtrack' was for the score to the Blakeway/BBC2 production *Lucian Freud - Painted Life*, directed by Randall Wright. He is director and producer at Sospiro Records, and future plans include a collaboration with bassist Avishai Cohen in 2016, several new projects with Marc Almond, and *The Tyburn Tree*, a new show with projection-mapping at Canary Wharf in 2016. This September John will be performing in

the Discreet/Oblique project at the Barbican with David Coulter (Damon Albarn/Yoko Ono) and Leo Abrahams (Marianne Faithful/Brian Eno) in a reconstruction of Brian Eno's *Discreet Music*. (<http://www.johnharle.com>)

- **Evelyn Glennie** is the first person in history to successfully create and sustain a full-time career as a solo percussionist, performing worldwide with the greatest conductors, orchestras, and artists. She fondly recalls having played the first percussion concerto in the history of The Proms at the Albert Hall in 1992, which paved the way for orchestras around the world to feature percussion concerti. She had the honour of a leading role in the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Evelyn regularly provides masterclasses and consultations designed to guide the next generation. She is also a leading commissioner of new works for solo percussion, Evelyn has more than 170 pieces to her name from many of the world's most eminent composers. The film 'Touch the Sound' and her enlightening TED speech remain key testimonies to her approach to sound-creation. To this day, Evelyn continues to invest in realising her vision – to Teach the World to Listen – while looking to open a centre that embodies her mission: “to improve communication and social cohesion by encouraging everyone to discover new ways of listening. We want to inspire, to create, to engage and to empower”. (<http://www.evelyn.co.uk>)
- OHMI is also very grateful of the support of Ambassadors, pianist **Nicholas McCarthy** and French horn soloist **Felix Klieser**, both virtuoso disabled musicians.
- OHMI will be presenting at:
 - **Fast Forward Festival** at Colston Hall in Bristol on 2-3rd July 2015
 - The **'Breaking the Bubble' Conference** at Rich Mix in London on July 16th 2015

OHMI weblinks ...

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One Handed Trumpet – winner of the 2014 Enabling category, submitted by David Woodward; involving a mechanical solution to taking the weight of the trumpet and operating the first and third valve tuning slides.

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