



April 2018

## The 2018 OHMI Conference & Awards Early-Bird Offer

# The 2018 OHMI Conference & Awards

## Music & Physical Disability: From Instrument to Performance

7th & 8th SEPTEMBER, BIRMINGHAM

On September 7th and 8th 2018, the OHMI Trust, in collaboration with Birmingham City University and Queen Mary University of London, will host a major conference exploring the barriers to music-making faced by people with physical disabilities. The conference will be held at the Royal Conservatoire, Birmingham and will also encompass the 2018 OHMI Competition awards.

In order to make the conference accessible to all, early-bird offers are available giving you 20% off the ticket price. Concessions are also available for under 18's and students with a valid student card.

For more details go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/music-physical-disability-from-instrument-to-performance-tickets-42318989236>

## The 2018 OHMI Conference & Awards Sponsorship

OHMI's work is receiving more and more attention, with growing support from the media, governments, and the public. This directly impacts on our sponsors, providing exposure and brand awareness on a local, national and international platform. We also have a highly engaged audience and our events attract a wide range of people, among them teachers, academics, musicians, instrument makers, government leaders, and disabled people. Networking opportunities created by our events can potentially introduce you to new customers.

# Sponsorship opportunities

Our sponsorship options start from as little as £75. For more details go to: <https://www.ohmi.org.uk/exhibitorsponsor-opportunities.html>

If you would like to share in some reciprocal marketing, please email our marketing manager: [joti@ohmi.org.uk](mailto:joti@ohmi.org.uk)

## OHMI Competition Coming Soon

After huge success since its launch in 2013, the OHMI Competition will be open for entries between 1st June – 30th June 2018.

The OHMI Competition challenges entrants from across the globe to develop instruments that can be played without the use of one hand and arm. Successful designs are then used to make instruments playable for a range of disabilities. The challenge is open to everyone including, designers, technologists, inventors, instrument makers or students and is a rare opportunity to help and benefit those who have been excluded from most forms of music-making.

For more details go to: <https://www.ohmi.org.uk/competition-darr.html>



## The European Doctors Orchestra presents: “A Musical Journey of Loss, Triumph and Mystery”

On 3rd June (at 3pm) the European Doctors Orchestra will present “A Musical Journey of Loss, Triumph and Mystery” at the Warwick Arts Centre. Just as their title suggests, this is an orchestra of medical doctors from around Europe who are all also fine musicians. They will be performing under the direction of the eminent conductor, Simon Wright.

The programme includes works by Walton, Butterworth, Ravel, Marcello and Elgar, and features two virtuoso soloists Nicholas McCarthy and Jess Gillam. Marking the centenary of the end of the First World War, Nicholas McCarthy will perform the Ravel concerto for left hand. Nicholas, who was born without a right hand, became the first one-handed pianist to graduate from the Royal College of Music. Then the brilliant young saxophonist, Jess Gillam, who was the woodwind finalist of BBC Young Musician 2016, will play a transcription of Marcello’s Oboe concerto.

Tickets can be bought through the Warwick Arts Centre website:

<https://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/whats-on/2018/a-musical-journey-of-loss-triumph-and-mystery/>

The European Doctors Orchestra:

<http://www.europeandoctorsorchestra.com/>



## BBC Breakfast Interview

Following the success of the pBrock one-handed bagpipe chanter in the 2017 OHMI Competition, we were delighted to introduce the maker, Duncan Menzies, to Guy, a young man born with symbrachydactyly in his left hand. Following in the footsteps of his uncle Neil, Guy was desperate to play the bagpipes but, only having the use of his right hand, this had been impossible until Duncan created this brilliant adaptation. Duncan has been teaching Guy to play the one-handed electronic chanter via Skype over the last few months, with great success. Guy’s family were so excited by this that they wrote to the BBC to tell the story. The result was an appearance on BBC Breakfast on Sunday 25th March along with a live interview with Rachel Wolffsohn, OHMI’s General Manager.



## 2018 London Marathon Update



This year marked the hottest London Marathon on record, added considerable drama to Ben Low’s experience running the marathon for The OHMI Trust.

It was Ben’s first ever marathon and he managed to keep an impressively consistent pace of 6.07 minutes per kilometre for most of the course. Unfortunately, after passing the 40k mark, Ben collapsed from heat exhaustion and spent an hour in the sickbay.

But the prospect of not finishing the race was not an option for Ben!

By the time his family arrived to collect him, Ben had escaped the doctors and was walking determinedly towards the finish line! Race officials allowed his dad, Tim Low (and Assistant Manager for OHMI), to walk with him across the line.

Ben completed the marathon in 5h 58m and through sheer determination raised £2718.25 for The OHMI Trust. What a trooper!!

Ben's fundraising page is still open for donations; please do give what you can via the link below:  
<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=benjamin-low-SAVMLMBONDS3332018-833397&pageUrl=2>



## Family Fund



This might be of interest to a number of our readers. Family Fund is the UK's largest charity providing grants for families on low incomes who are raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young person. They provide grants for a wide range of items, such as washing machines, sensory toys, family holiday breaks, bedding, furniture, outdoor play equipment, clothing and computers. You may be able to apply for help towards the cost of a musical instrument or equipment. Exceptional requests will be considered on an individual basis.

Take a look at their website - [www.familyfund.org.uk/](http://www.familyfund.org.uk/)



## 'Pop In' Events

Our 'pop in' events are free of charge and you can come and stay for as long (or short) as you like! It's an informal opportunity to try the instruments and supporting apparatus that OHMI have available for a wide range of physical disabilities. Here is a list of our next available dates:

13th May – Saxon Hall, Hereford  
24th June – Trinity School, Carlisle  
21st July – Services for Education, Birmingham

Do come along, no previous experience is necessary. Full details can be found at: <https://www.ohmi.org.uk/events.html>  
Alternatively, you can email [http://Rachel@ohmi.org.uk](mailto:Rachel@ohmi.org.uk)

## Disabled Children's Right to Play Music

OHMI were welcomed to the National Education Union Conference (ATL Section) at Liverpool on 10th April to speak on 'Disabled Children's Right to Play Music'. John Shortell, their Equalities Officer, had organised a series of fringe meetings around the rights of disabled children and was keen for OHMI to feature in the line-up. The NEU stands up for the future of education by bringing together teachers, lecturers, support staff and leaders working in maintained and independent schools and colleges across the UK.

Combining the expertise and experience of the NUT, ATL and AMiE, ATL's leadership section, the National Education Union is the UK's largest education union. The 2018 conference provided a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges faced by children with physical disabilities. Rachel was able to report on the progress that OHMI has made through its OHMI Music Makers scheme.



## Take Music Further: Online survey

This is your chance to shape the future of music education. The Music Commission are seeking views and experiences on what it takes to make progress in music and how to enable more people to fulfil their musical potential.

If you've ever engaged with music, as a listener, learner or leader, then this survey is for you. Are you a consumer or creator of music? Your views are important to us! And if you've ever taught or supported others to make music, we'd love to hear what you think. This survey will only take a few minutes and closes on 1st June:

<https://themusiccommission.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/takemusicfurther>



## OHMI Funders

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



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