



Edington Organ Project

Appeal Patrons
LADY BARBARA CALCUTT
SIMON PRESTON CBE

58TH EDINGTON MUSIC FESTIVAL ENDS WITH APPEAL TARGET MET

As the 58th Edington Music Festival drew to a conclusion with a live broadcast on BBC Radio 4 marking the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream speech', Festival Director Benjamin Nicholas was able to tell Festival attendees that their generosity had enabled the Edington Organ Project to reach its target.

The Appeal, to raise funds for a new Organ for Edington Priory Church as a gift to the Parish by the Edington Music Festival Association, was launched only two years ago with a target of £437,000. By the beginning of this Festival, the Appeal had only another £25,000 to raise, and by the end of the week, by including money raised and funds pledged, the target was achieved.

Benjamin Nicholas told delighted Festival-goers, ““When we launched the Appeal two years ago, we gave ourselves three years to raise £437,000 to pay for a new organ for Edington Priory Church. The generosity of the response from Festival supporters world-wide has been truly amazing, particularly during the week of this year’s Festival, and I can announce that, based on donations received and future payments promised, we have reached the target. “

More follows/.....

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Benjamin continued, "The new Harrison organ will be 'officially' launched at next year's Festival (August 16th to 24th), though it will be in use for a couple of months before that. On behalf of the whole Organ Project Committee, I would like to thank, wholeheartedly, everyone who gave to the Appeal, including the charitable trusts and the Arts Council of England. We are all looking forward enormously to the contribution the new organ will make to music in the Priory Church."

During the Festival, a contract was signed between Hendrick Agur, Headmaster of Gustav Adolph Grammar School in Tallinn, Estonia, and representatives of the PCC, formalising the gift of the old Henry Jones organ to the school. It will be taken out of the Priory Church in January 2014, and transported to Tallinn where it will be restored and rebuilt before being the centrepiece of a Festival to launch it in June, the only English church organ in the country.

The process of installing Edington's new Harrison & Harrison organ will begin at the end of January 2014, and the organ will be ready for use at the Easter services. It will be officially launched at the 2014 Festival with a recital by former Festival Artistic Director, Ashley Grote, who launched and headed the Organ Project until this year's Festival when Benjamin Nicholas took over.

Ends

Contact: Anne Curtis, 01380 831454. E: acurtis@theprworkstaunton.co.uk
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