

The English Organ School and Museum at the Old Congregational Chapel Milborne Port, Somerset

Honorary Committee: Hugh Privett (Chairman) Margaret Phillips (Secretary/Treasurer) Dominic Gwynn, Richard Hobson

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EOS is a not-for-profit association founded in 1996 to promote the understanding and appreciation of the organ as a musical instrument, to provide facilities for learning and playing the organ, and to promote other musical activities.

EOS uses the buildings of the former Congregational Chapel (latterly the United Reformed Church) at Milborne Port, which were purchased in 1992 by concert organist and teacher Margaret Phillips (Professor of Organ at the Royal College of Music, London, from 1996-2021) and her late husband David Hunt to house their private collection of organs and other keyboard instruments. These include chamber organs by Snetzler (1769), James Davis (c. 1795) and William Gray (c. 1805), a small church organ by John Clark (1858) and an unusual 3-manual house organ built in Dublin in 1865 (probably by Telford & Telford), all of which have Historic Organ Certificates issued by the British Institute of Organ Studies (BIOS). Two modern 2-manual mechanical action organs built to our specification by Peter Collins Ltd (1984 and 2000) are the main instruments for teaching and practice.

The collection is not open to the public but concerts and courses etc are held throughout the year, and membership of EOS is open to anyone interested in the objects of the association. An application form for membership is included on this information sheet.

Friday Morning Concerts

Since 1997 Margaret Phillips (organ, and sometimes also harpsichord and harmonium) has given a monthly series of concerts every spring and autumn, covering a very wide range of keyboard repertoire from the sixteenth century to the present day. Details are given in periodic mailings to EOS members. Concerts are also given from time to time by visiting organists and instrumentalists.

Group Visits

Day or half-day programmes can be arranged for groups of up to 40 participants on request. These usually include a demonstration recital by Margaret Phillips on the principal instruments in the collection.

Study Sessions

Margaret Phillips leads occasional Study Sessions for players and observers, usually in the afternoon following a Friday morning concert. From time to time there are residential courses led by Margaret and other distinguished tutors.

Individual Tuition and Study Breaks

Individual tuition with Margaret Phillips is available at EOS to organ students of all standards on a private basis when her other professional commitments permit. The fee is £60 per hour. It is also possible to book practice time on the smaller Collins organ (£5 per hour) or the larger Collins (£7 per hour).

For organists preparing for examinations, wanting to begin again where they left off, or just needing a break in the country, this is also an opportunity to 'get away from it all'. Accommodation, with help-yourself breakfast provided, is usually available at the venue, price £35 per person per night (£90 for 3 nights); non-playing partners/family members or friends also welcome.

New & Second hand Organ Music

EOS holds a supply of new and second hand organ music. Please enquire for details.

Souvenir Booklet

Please enquire about the illustrated booklet giving details of instruments now or formerly in the EOS collection. At present it is out of print, but is available online.

Location

Milborne Port is a historic Somerset village on the A30 about 35 miles WSW of Salisbury and 3 miles ENE of Sherborne (OS 1:50,000 Map Sheet 183). There is a regular service by rail to Sherborne from London (Waterloo).

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