

# Newsletter

## News ...

Greetings to our friends and supporters! We hope that 2022 has been at least somewhat easier for you than the preceding two years, that you have kept well and been able to enjoy going to concerts and listening live to wonderful musicians again. We also hope that you will enjoy reading the NDT's most recent news.

## Award News ...

We were delighted to receive a number of applications for support this year from very promising students. Despite the challenges posed by Brexit, study abroad and absorbing different musical and cultural traditions is becoming more and more popular amongst young musicians and so the need for our support has never been higher. This year we have continued to support Ophelia Amar (from France) in her Master's studies at The Royal Academy of Music, and we have been able to award bursaries to three UK students studying in France and Germany. None of this would be possible without the loyal and ongoing assistance of our dedicated supporters.

### JOSHUA HUGHES

*Joshua, one of our bursary award recipients this year, sends this news and photo:*

I am very grateful to the Nicholas Danby Trust for their support in my master's studies here in Germany, which is enabling a more enriched experience. Currently, I am in my second year at the Universität der Künste, Berlin, in the class of Prof. Henry Fairs. Berlin and its surrounding area has a broad and exciting range of instruments; these include the Wagner Organ (1721) of the Marienkirche and the Sauer Organ (1905) of Berlin Cathedral. Playing instruments such as these is an important aspect of studying abroad, and helps with the interpretation of many pieces. At the end of my Master's, the course will culminate in two hour-long recitals - and a supplementary continuo exam - one recital of pre-1750 works and a second of post-1750 works.



THE  
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### OPHELIA AMAR

*Latest news of Ophelia:*

Current Scholarship beneficiary Ophelia Amar has now started her second year at the Royal Academy of Music, studying the organ with David Titterington and choral conducting with Patrick Russill. Her first year in the Master of Music was one of great enrichment and learning, which culminated in a very inspiring study trip to Denmark in June, where she was able to play on many historical instruments. Over the summer, Ophelia gave a recital at the Saint-Pierre de Montmartre church in Paris, and was kept busy with a new organ festival she co-founded at the beautiful Collégiale Saint-Martin in Chablais.



Highlights of the current term were a solo recital at Reading Town Hall at the beginning of November, and two performances with Academy students in October: a concert of French Music at the French Church in Leicester Square, and a concert of improvisations on a silent film at the Academy.

Ophelia was honoured to attend masterclasses given by Daniel Roth at the Academy, and to be able to perform for him his beautiful *Fantaisie* for flute and organ, *Ain Karim*.

She is still playing for services at the French Church in Leicester Square and has now also started playing for the Sunday morning services at Christ Church in Spitalfields.

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The NDT is also very pleased to be supporting two further bursary holders: **Will Fielding** in his studies at the Conservatoire National Supérieure de Musique et de Danse de Paris, and **Jed Hughes** (no relation to Joshua!) in his studies at the Universität der Künste, Berlin.



## Events ...

### NDT EVENT 2022

*Covid restrictions did of course prevent the NDT from holding any events for over two years, so we were especially thrilled to be able to host an event at Temple Church on 16<sup>th</sup> June. **Patrick Russill**, one of the NDT's trustees, has contributed this insightful and illuminating review:*

There could hardly be a more congenial church to listen to organ music of a balmy summer evening than the Temple Church. Set back off the bustle and noise of the Strand, the Temple Church presents superb English Gothic in a calm equilibrium of space and intimacy, the Round and the Chancel making a most beautiful conjunction of complementary architectural forms, and all combining to afford the most beautiful acoustic for music – warm and clear.

For his programme for the Nicholas Danby Trust on 16<sup>th</sup> July, Nicholas's distinguished former pupil, Roger Sayer – Director of Music of the Temple Church – chose music exclusively from the romantic repertoire, but music very close to Nicholas's heart: Stanford's Fantasia and Toccata in D minor, the Romance and Final from Vierne's Symphony No. 4, and the whole of Elgar's Organ Sonata of 1895.

To the general musical public, Nicholas was perhaps most closely identified with the baroque and German traditions, but as all his pupils were well-aware, he had huge enthusiasm for, deep knowledge of, and rare insights into English and French music of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century romantic schools. These derived from his own rich cultural and pedagogical heritage, with family precursors including Charles Dickens and Ignaz Moscheles, and his teachers including Guy Weitz (a pupil of Widor and Guilmant amongst others), Osbert Peasgood (who played for the 1953 Coronation) and Ralph Downes (who had heard Elgar both rehearse and conduct).

Roger's programme fitted the Temple Church's 4-manual Harrison and Harrison organ (restored in 2013) like a glove, allowing him to exploit – with masterful fluidity and imagination – the wide spectrum of glowing colours available from the instrument's 66-stop specification. At the same time, he projected the symphonic structures of all the works with clarity, thrilling virtuosity and emotional immediacy. It was a wonderful music feast, enthusiastically and gratefully enjoyed by all present.

### Future Events ...

We will be in touch with you when we have news to share of our next concert to support the Trust.

## Trustee News ...

We are delighted to welcome **Clare Caswell**, BA, PGCE (née Danby) as a trustee.



Clare began her career in publishing, working on the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians before moving into music administration with the Monteverdi Choir, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Scottish Opera. Having co-founded Cromarty Youth Opera in the Scottish Highlands, she moved to Leipzig, where she completed her PGCE; she now teaches at Independent Bonn International School.

Clare is intimately acquainted with the spirit, ethos, work and achievements of the Trust, which was set up in her father's memory.

In our last newsletter we introduced you to **Dr Cherry James**, who had recently become one of the Nicholas Danby Trustees. Please note that due to the ill health of **Maggie Danby**, who founded this Trust in 1997 in memory of her late husband, the day-to-day administration of the Trust has been passed on to Cherry, whose contact details are shown below.

### APPLICATIONS

The trustees welcome applications for their awards. Details and application formats can be found on our website: [www.danbytrust.org](http://www.danbytrust.org)

### PLEASE HELP US TO CONTINUE THIS VERY VALUABLE WORK!

*(See tear-off slip below, or download from our website: [www.danbytrust.org](http://www.danbytrust.org))*

**Thank you for your support! We have no paid staff, and all donations go directly into our awards.**

All enquiries to The Secretary, The Nicholas Danby Trust, 20 Fentiman Road, London SW8 1LF, UK.  
e-mail: [danbytrust@gmail.com](mailto:danbytrust@gmail.com) [www.danbytrust.org](http://www.danbytrust.org)

Trustees: Stephen Turvey MA (Chairman); Cherry James MA LL.M PhD (Secretary/Treasurer); Margaret Danby FRSA; James O'Donnell KCSG MA FRCO; Patrick Russill MA Hon RAM Hon FRCO; Peter Wright MA FRCO; Barry Woodman FRICS; Mary Danby Calvert; Clare Caswell BA, PGCE.

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