

The British Organ Grinders Association was set up in 1991.

A handful of British enthusiasts decided that some kind of club was needed for hand-turned organ enthusiasts. Since then the membership of the British Organ Grinders' Association has grown to number over 300 members worldwide.

The association is a useful point of contact for those wishing to build their own organs and its website gives a valuable guide to the different types of organ that can be purchased, web links for those wishing to buy their first organ and articles about the different types of organ available.



20-note Castlewood Organ

Leaflet original concept by Kathleen Turner

Revised — May 2023



BRITISH ORGAN GRINDERS' ASSOCIATION



*Founder
Peter Churchard*

THE SOCIETY FOR HAND-TURNED ORGAN OWNERS AND ENTHUSIASTS

www.boga.co.uk

HOW TO JOIN



Self built 26 note
John Smith Organ

You do not need to own an organ to join BOGA, and you do not need to live in the UK. Anybody with an interest in hand turned organs can join. Currently, the annual UK subscription is £15.00, Overseas subscription rates are available on application.

Members receive four free magazines yearly. The Society also offers cheap public liability insurance together with the opportunity to attend two meetings per year at interesting organ or mechanical music related venues.

If you would like to join BOGA you can email the Membership Secretary:

membership@boga.co.uk

or write to the Membership Secretary :

Ian Dickinson, 16 Heathfield Grove,
Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 5EB

You can also download and print a Membership Application Form from our website: www.boga.co.uk or via our Facebook page.

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT ORGANS & ORGAN BUILDING

Street organs vary widely in price, with the simplest costing around £1,500 and the most sophisticated and expensive £20,000 or more. Organ music comes in three quite different forms: paper roll, cardboard book, and digital (microchips and/or SD cards). Generally, second-hand models vary little in price from new ones and sometimes sell at a premium; partly due to the effects of inflation, but also reflecting their comparative scarcity and the fact that if you ordered an organ today you might have to wait for anything up to two years for it to be built.

Dean Organs in Bristol and Raffin Organs of Überlingen, Germany, are two example makers. Our website lists details and other available makers.

Another option is to build from a kit of parts. Castlewood Organs in Australia can supply a kit for a 20-note, roll playing organ, which plays the same music as John Smith organs.

Rob Barker Organs can supply modular parts to enable you to build what size, sound or shape of organ you wish.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ORGANS & ORGAN BUILDING

If you have some practical skills, it is possible to build your own street organ, from a set of plans. Many people have successfully built their own organs in this way.

By far the most popular self-build organ is the John Smith Busker Organ. This plays 20 note music on paper rolls. Plans are also available for more advanced models, which will enable you to build larger organs. Most organs built from these plans can play music digitally via the MIDI system. These organs have been specially designed to be built by the home constructor, needing no special skills and using materials that are readily available.

More information about the John Smith organs can be found on the John Smith web site:

www.johnsmithbusker.co.uk.



Dean Organs hand-turned street organ