

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 also a useful point of contact for those wishing to build their own organs and its website and Facebook give 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

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BRITISH ORGAN GRINDERS' ASSOCIATION



*Founder
Peter Churchard*

**THE SOCIETY FOR HAND-TURNED
ORGAN OWNERS AND ENTHUSIASTS**

www.boga.co.uk

HOW TO JOIN



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 our quarterly magazine "Organ Grinders' News", have the opportunity to attend two meetings a year at interesting organ or mechanical music related venues, and for a small additional fee obtain public liability insurance.

If you would like to join BOGA please see our website: www.boga.co.uk for our online application form,
or email the Membership Secretary:
membership@boga.co.uk
or write to:
Ian Dickinson, 16 Heathfield Grove,
Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 5EB

We are also on Facebook:
facebook.com/groups/britishorgangrindersassociation

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT ORGANS AND 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, SD cards, or stored on a smart phone or tablet).

Generally, second-hand models vary little in price from new ones and sometimes sell at a premium; partly due to the effect 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, Rob Barker near Spalding and Stuber Organs of Berlin, Germany, are just a few examples of 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.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ORGANS AND 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 to build larger more advanced organs, including those that 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

