

TRURO 3 ARTS GRAND PIANO APPEAL

For over seventy years T3A has enjoyed the use of good quality grand pianos which have featured in the majority of our recitals. Earlier on we owned the venerable Grotrian-Steinweg which, with care and renovation, lasted until the late 1990s. The International Musician's Seminar (IMS) then kindly offered the Society the loan of the present instrument, but have now given us fair notice that the loan cannot continue beyond the end of the current concert season.

There being no other piano of concert standard at Truro & Penwith College, the T3A Committee has evaluated the options of hiring, leasing or purchasing an instrument with the qualities required by the location and top class performers. Their unanimous decision is to purchase a new or reconditioned piano of appropriate standard in time for the next concert season beginning in October 2019. It would thus remain possible to organise impromptu recitals or seminars and ensure that a first class piano is available for lecturers, teachers, advanced students and other approved performers. Significant financial and maintenance advantages are gained from having a piano in a permanent base, which will obviate the need for expensive hiring and the deleterious effects of frequent handling.

It is encouraging that Truro & Penwith College have given their commitment to make a financial contribution on the understanding that T3A will need to raise most of the funds required. The Committee believes that the Society's reserves can allow up to £12,000 provided that special fundraising can raise a further £12,000. As Vice-Presidents and former Chairmen of T3A, we have agreed to lead such an appeal to members, friends, the wider public and funding bodies.

An adviser with national experience of supplying and matching new and reconditioned pianos to locations has informed the Society that a new grand piano by makers Kawai or Yamaha, similar in size to the IMS instrument, would cost around £30,000. A new Steinway or Bosendorfer piano, costing almost twice as much would only be attainable if a substantial windfall or grant were secured and a reconditioned model would have significant disadvantages over a new instrument. The enclosed flyers and forms describe this for your own and potential donors' interest.

The Society will promote a series of fundraising events in 2019 and approach a number of grant-making bodies. Experience shows, however, that the latter will require good evidence that the present members and supporters of our registered charity are actively contributing themselves. With that in mind, it would be greatly appreciated if you feel able to make such a commitment by completing the attached form and returning it to Juliet Lingham (see below) along with your donation. It will be particularly important to complete the Gift Aid declaration, if relevant, which will increase the donations by 25% and all correspondence will be handled in the strictest confidence. The Society very much hopes that you will feel able to help at this important time in our history and help secure a good future for our music-making.

With best wishes,

Juliet Lingham and David Fryer (Vice-Presidents)

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