OUNDLE INTERNATIONAL ORGAN WEEK 1985

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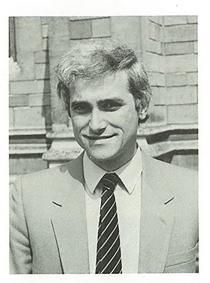
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both gratefully acknowledged

It all seems so obvious now. To combine a summer school for young organists with a festival of music focussed on the new Frobenius organ in the beautiful setting of Oundle in Northamptonshire. How could we possibly envisage not doing so when the proud possessor of this exceptionally fine teaching and recital instrument?

But James Parsons recognised a need and produced a solution, before any contracts were signed, any pipes fashioned and since then has with massive determination sought to accomplish his goal undetered by any problem or uncertainties. This is not a Festival that has gradually grown from small beginnings, but one conceived in its final form, where every development was but the next step in achieving the original conception.



Peter Allwood

James was using the word 'international' in 1983 and on 13 July 1985, forty young students and six tutors will have arrived in Oundle from Austria, Holland, Hungary, America and all over Great Britain. The students will be receiving instruction surrounded daily by the highest professional standards, both in teaching and performance. An ideal environment for developing musicians.

However, this is a Week to be enjoyed by everyone coming, whether an organ enthusiast or simply a lover of music. All who hear the Frobenius wonder at the sheer beauty and variety of its tone colours. And this is not a Festival of organ music alone, but includes chamber, orchestral and choral concerts, jazz and close harmony, exhibitions of art and pipe organs. For those who, like me, enjoy their artistic delights, swathed in social pleasures, then Elton Hall, the Falcon at Fotheringhay, the Stahl Theatre, the Great Hall reception and our own Festival Club opposite the Chapel should provide the answer. Relax and enjoy the Week.

Though I shall be leaving Oundle in August, I shall be following future plans with more than a little interest and look forward to seeing you at some of the events of the second Oundle International Organ Festival from 19 – 26 July 1986.

Peter Allwood Director of Music, Oundle School