



The Colliston Project

Seeking a home for a piece
of Scottish musical
heritage

www.sowneoforgane.com



The organ formerly at Colliston Parish Church in Angus was in grave danger during 2025 following the closure of the church. As the building was unlisted and being converted into a private home, no official permissions were required for the organ to be removed or even destroyed.

The Organ

The organ was built by the Edinburgh workshop of D and T Hamilton, probably in the 1860s, and went to Colliston probably in 1892 via an independent instrument trader in Dundee. It is a small mechanical action instrument with a very charming sound. Following some restoration work in 2000, the organ is essentially in good condition.

The Project

Sowne of Organe stepped in to rescue the instrument during 2025, raising the necessary funds to engage organ builder Andrew MacDonald to co-ordinate its rescue and to store it. A team of volunteers, led by Andrew dismantled the organ over a period of four days.

The Proposal

Sowne of Organe seeks a small church or other public building in Scotland with whom to partner in rehoming this beautiful organ. Enquiries are especially welcome from churches who might otherwise not have the financial means to house a pipe organ, but all enquiries are welcome, especially if the organ will be played and heard publicly.



The Cost



Sowne of Organe proposes to raise funds once again to help facilitate an organ builder-led, volunteer-assisted, installation in its new home. The total cost of installation will depend on distance, number of volunteers, and whether the conditions exist for the pipework to be cleaned on site but would likely not be more than £5500 with the costs to be shared between Sowne of Organe and the new curators.

In addition, there are some items which we would like to address to improve the organ's current condition. These concern:

- Repair of casework skirting and refinishing of the case (c£6000)
- Re-leathering of the feeder bellows to allow for hand pumping (£600)
- The possibility of installing a 4ft stop on a spare slide (£1700)
- In the longer term, the addition of a 16ft pedal stop and associated mechanism (the organ had such a stop added during the work of 2000 but using a poorly constructed electrical system that we do not wish to retain).

Ideally, we would like to partner with the new curator to raise the money required to achieve the first item on this list but we are also open to conversations about the remainder.

FAQs

Can I hear the organ?

Yes! Sowne of Organe made a number of recordings prior to dismantling the organ, which can be heard here:

- Johann C. Kittel (1732-1809) – Fantasia V in D
Chris Bragg
- Georg Böhm (1661-1733) – Freu' Dich Sehr, O
Meine Seele (Partita) Variations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Chris Bragg
- W.A. Mozart (1756-1791) – Adagio in C
K. 356/617a
Chris Bragg
- Elfrida Andrée (1841-1929) – Prelude in G
Andrew Forbes
- Hymn: I to the hills with lift mine eyes
(French/Dundee).
Andrew Forbes

How big is the organ?

The organ has the following dimensions:

Height = 5.24m

Width = 3.03m

Depth = 1.30m

Who will own the organ?

The organ will remain the property of Sowne of Organe and is offered on a 'permanent loan' basis. We would prefer new curators to commit to retaining the organ for at least 20 years, but, given current uncertainties around church futures, we are open to all conversations.

Who will be responsible for the organ's maintenance?

The curator will be responsible for the organ's maintenance. However, as the organ is mechanically simple and has no reed stops, a single annual maintenance visit should suffice.

Where is the organ now?

The organ is in storage in the West of Scotland.

I'm interested in knowing more. How do I get in touch?

Please send an email to
team@sowneoforgane.com

