

The Tom Jenkins Trust

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The Worshipful Company of Musicians

Background

Tom Jenkins gained a tremendous popular following as a violinist and orchestra leader during the heyday of BBC radio's light music broadcasts between the 1930s and the 1950s. As leader of the BBC Palm Court Orchestra he attracted a devoted weekly audience of 10 million listeners, who were spellbound by his expressive playing style and great technical precision, in both popular light music and the classical repertoire.



At the peak of his fame in the early 1950s, Tom Jenkins was voted Most Popular Musical Entertainer in the National Radio Awards for two years running. He was highly sought after as a broadcaster and performer until his untimely death in 1957 at the age of forty-six.

His unique talent was well served by a 1667 Stradivarius, with which he made his most celebrated broadcasts and public performances. This violin was sold at Sotheby's in 1995.

The Trust

The Trust was set up in 1995 by Tom's widow, Michelle Jenkins, and was funded through the sale of his 1667 Stradivarius. She was particularly anxious to create an award that "bridged the gap between the old masters and the modern workshop".

Yfrah Neaman and Terry Pamplin were instrumental in getting the trust off the ground and were part of the advisory board in the early stages.

Initially set up as an annual award to a student at the London Guildhall University, the first presentation was made in 1996 and continued for the following six years until 2002 when it was decided to expand the nature of the award. In 2003 and 2004 the Trust sponsored the organisation of the First British Violin Making Association (BVMA) International Violin and Bow Making Competition. The Trust also was instrumental in the development of a student section to the competition and presented awards in that section. The innovative "People's Prize", an award for the violin that received the public vote during the competition, was also funded through the Trust. Since then the Tom Jenkins Trust has sponsored the advanced BVMA's Violin Restoration and Bow Course for (for professional makers) in each year that is has been held in 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2011 at West Dean College.

The advisory board of the Tom Jenkins Trust meets annually in February and continues to work towards promoting the aspirations of young makers and restorers. The board members are; Michelle Jenkins, David Jenkins, Margaret Campbell, Diana Cummings, Shem Mackey, Elizabeth Pamplin and Roger Rose. The trust is currently administered through the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

The Tom Jenkins Trust - List of Award Winners

1996	Jean Pierre Dondelinger Daniel Kochalski*	Violin Viola da Gamba
1997	Jean Pierre Dondelinger	Viola
1998	Fergus Anderson Renate Fink	Violin Viola da Gamba
1999	Kai Toenjjes	Viola d'Amore
2000	Paul Jefferies	Violin
2001	Yasuo Ichinose* Lucian Myerscough*	Violin Violin
2002	Adrian Kuchinski	Violin
2003	Sponsorship of the organisation of the BVMA's international competition	
2004	Sponsorship of the BVMA's International Violin and Bow Making Competition Student award: Damien Sainmont Violin People's Prize: Laurent Luque Violin	
2005	Lionel Karl Hepplewhite	Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
2006 & 2007	Sponsorship of BVMA's advanced Violin restoration and Bow course	
2008	Toby le Vaillant Tim Cogger	Viola da Gamba Violin
2009 & 2011	Sponsorship of BVMA's advanced Violin restoration and Bow course	
2010	Angus Dracup	Violin

* Highly Commended

The Tom Jenkins Story

A biography and social history by Peter Pugh and Duncan Heath.

The book describes in detail this violin and its background. All proceeds from the sale of the book go to the Tom Jenkins Memorial Trust Fund, established by his widow Michelle Jenkins for the benefit of makers of bowed string instruments.

Copies of The Tom Jenkins Story may be ordered from:

Peter Pugh Associates, The Old Dairy, Brook road, Thriplow, Cambridge SG8 7RG.

Also available are two CDs of Tom Jenkins:

THE GREAT VIOLINISTS Volume xi Tom Jenkins

Symposium 1269, Cost £10 plus £1.50 p&p.

4 Arden Close, Overstrand, Cromer, Norfolk NR27 0PH

Tel/Fax: 01263 579715

GRAND HOTEL

Dinmore Records DRD056

Cost £10 inc. p&p.

Paul Arden-Taylor, 11 Romsley Hill Grange, Romsley, Worcs B62 0LN

Tel/Fax: 01562 710801

