



THE LANCASTRIAN THEATRE ORGAN TRUST

**Theatre Organ Heritage Centre,
Alexandra Road, Peel Green, Eccles, M30 7HJ**

Information on Group Visits to the Heritage Centre

What Are We? We are a group of enthusiasts initially set up over 50 years ago to preserve some of the theatre organs then operating daily in the North West. 15 years ago the Trust decided to purchase its own venue and to create a cinema atmosphere of the early 1930's era where we could install and play one of our heritage instruments and develop a museum collection of associated artefacts.

We are a Charitable, Volunteer owned and operated organisation which does not receive any public funding. Our organisation relies on subscriptions from Members, revenue from four concerts each year at Stockport Town Hall, and the fullest utilisation of the Heritage Centre for weekly concerts and visits from organisations like yours.

Where Are We? We are located in Alexandra Road, Peel Green, Eccles, M30 7HJ, just off the A57 between the M60 junction 11 and Eccles centre. Apart from good road connections we are also accessible by train from Patricroft or Eccles stations, or from Eccles Metrolink terminus and a short bus ride or walk. There is free parking for about 20 cars or a large coach immediately in front of our centre.

What Do We Offer? Our Auditorium:

The usual visit takes the form of a nostalgic trip back to the hey-day of the cinema, when the organ entertained the patrons in advance of the film and during the interval.

The Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust have installed two Theatre Organs, a Wurlitzer and a Compton. Both these instruments will be demonstrated and presented to you as part of your visit.

We can then show one or more short introductory films, followed by an interval when tea or coffee and biscuits are available. The second half can include an old black and white film such as Laurel & Hardy, and can last anything from 2 minutes to half an hour. The visit would then conclude with more organ music, often ending in the traditional way with a sing-along.

We can, of course, tailor your visit to your own requirements and time scales. We are able to provide technical talks on how the organs work and the work carried out by Cheshire born telephone engineer Robert Hope-Jones who's inventions made the Wurlitzer organ possible and John Compton, the British organ company responsible for the Compton Theatre Organ. Some groups may also wish for members to have a go playing the Wurlitzer, or Compton themselves and an open console session can be included in the proceedings if required.

Our Museum: Our unique Museum illustrating the history of the Theatre Organ, and the work of its inventor's, Cheshire born Robert Hope-Jones (1859-1914), and John Compton (1876-1957) is in our basement area. Here we have some of the world's first Tibia pipes (the main underlying sound of a Theatre Organ) and electric actions with some of the parts made by Henry Royce, of Rolls Royce fame. In the Museum, visitors can also see the pipes inside the chamber of the Wurlitzer and Compton organ that they have been listening to. As well as the pipes there are real musical instruments which are played from the console upstairs. The Museum is also accessible by a stair lift.

Our Shop: In the main auditorium is the Trust's sales stall selling a wide variety of CDs and various souvenirs of your visit. A very informative book, written by member, Roger C. Fisher "From Wirral to Wurlitzer" tells the story of how the Wurlitzer Theatre Organ was "born" in Wirral, Cheshire. There is also our Vintage Sales Stall. Here you will find many items of unusual and historic interest such as good old vinyl LP records, cassettes, booklets, magazines and a good selection of sheet music, all at give-away prices.

Our Other Facilities: In addition to the entertainment and museum we are able to offer at competitive prices, hot and cold light refreshments. We have full modern toilets and all parts of the building are fully accessible.

When Are We Open? Our popular weekly organ showcases, open to the general public every Wednesday at 1pm, feature organists with a programme to suit all tastes. Group parties are welcome, please call in advance to secure block seating, if required.

Group visits are arranged by prior appointment. We can open any day except Wednesdays and Sundays. Visits are best planned for late morning, early afternoon or evening in order to avoid rush hour traffic!

The Centre is also open each Friday 11-00am to 3-00pm and the first Saturday in each month, which is usually a Coffee Morning, with invited organists, or open console.

What Is Our Capacity and Our Costs? The Centre can seat up to 80 people, and we are licensed for up to 100. The ideal group size is between 20 and 80. If your group is smaller, then we may like to combine two groups together in order to enhance the "atmosphere!"

- The cost for a single ticket to our Wednesday concert is £4.00
- A private group visit costs £85 which includes an organist.
- Tea or coffee and biscuits are charged at £1.50 per person. (Please discuss your requirements for additional catering).
- As a Charity we are able to receive 25% Gift Aid on all personal donations and we have provided an Organ Pipe for your convenience by the entrance desk..

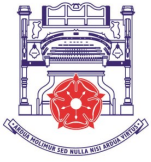
Booking and Payment Details: Please call Roger Fisher the Centre Manager on 0161 317 9469 to enquire about available dates. Roger will also be able to answer any detailed questions you may have. When a date is confirmed, payment is required in advance of your visit.

Please send your cheque made payable to "The Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust" with the completed Booking Form enclosed to Roger Fisher who's details are on the Form.

We look forward to welcoming you to this unique venue and trust you will thoroughly enjoy your visit to the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust Heritage Centre.

For More Information on the Trust visit www.ltot.org.uk





Theatre Organ Heritage Centre Booking Form - Group Visits

Name of person making the booking: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____ Post Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

Club Name: _____

No of Attendees: _____

Date of Visit: _____ Afternoon: YES Evening: YES (delete One)

Agreed Arranged Time: _____

(Start Times – Afternoon Usually 2.00 pm - Evening Usually 7.30 pm)

Please find enclosed a cheque for £85 (eighty five pounds) made payable to “**The Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust**” as our donation to the continued work and support of the Trust, as confirmation of our booking (excluding refreshments) for the proposed group visit.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Please Post to Roger Fisher, 34 Durnford Avenue, Urmston, Manchester. M41 9PQ

Please note that there is a cancellation charge of £20 if you cancel less than 2 weeks before your planned visit

Additional Attractions You May Wish to Make Before or After your Visit to our Heritage Centre:

The Trafford Shopping Centre – Less than 10 Minutes Away (includes many cafes and restaurants as well as the shops)

Imperial War Museum (North) – www.iwm.org/visits/iwm-north

Salford Museums – www.visitsalford.info/museums

Museum of Transport Manchester – www.gmts.co.uk

Many other Interesting Locations in the Greater Manchester Area