



# Taunton Live 2015

A summer celebration of the performing and creative arts  
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## Your visit to the English Organ School and Museum, Milborne Port

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

On the morning of Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, Taunton Festival 2015 offers a rare opportunity to visit The English Organ School, a private venture of Professor Margaret Phillips (*above*).

In a disused chapel (*right*) and schoolroom, Professor Phillips has collected over many years a variety of keyboard instruments: there are

harpsichords, harmoniums, and organs by British builders; there are historic chamber instruments, a three-manual instrument developed from the original organ in the chapel, and two modern instruments by Peter Collins (*see over*).

Margaret Phillips made her debut at the Royal Festival Hall in 1972. She soon gained an international reputation as a soloist, playing at concert halls and cathedrals throughout Europe and in the USA, Australia and Mexico. She has also participated in radio broadcasts in Great Britain, Sweden, Denmark, Holland and





*The instrument above was built by Peter Collins to mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Bach.*

Australia. She has appeared frequently as a continuo player and accompanist with such ensembles as the London Mozart Players, London Choral Society, BBC Singers and The Sixteen. Today she is regarded as one of Britain's most outstanding concert organists and teachers.

Recent performance highlights have included the first concert for many years on the Flentrop organ in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, concerts on the historically significant organs in Trinity College (Cambridge, UK), Grauhof and Naumburg (Germany), Haarlem (Holland), Marmoutier (France), and the ancient 'swallow's nest' organ in Sion (Switzerland). She was the first British artist to play a concert on the new

organ in the rebuilt Frauenkirche in Dresden. Teaching courses in Cambridge, Canford-at-Sherborne, Haarlem and Sion have added to her busy schedule.

Alongside her busy concert career, Margaret devotes much of her time to education. She was Director of Music at St. Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall, London from 1976 to 1985; Professor of Organ and Harpsichord at London College of Music from 1985 to 1991. She has been Professor of Organ at the Royal College of Music for the last ten years. From 1997 to 1999 she was President of the Incorporated Association of Organists and for 20 years a member of Council of the Royal College of Organists. She was also lecturer at English Church and Organ Music. She regularly gives master-classes both at home and abroad, and has been a jury member for competitions such as those held in St. Albans and Odense (Denmark). She is Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, and Associate of the Royal College of Music (ARCM). This year, she is giving two series of recitals of the complete works of J. S Bach: one at Milborne Port, and one at St. George's, Hanover Square. She has also recently recorded the complete cycle of Bach's organ works to great acclaim.

The collection is not generally open to the public, so this is a rare chance to see and hear many of the instruments, expertly played by their owner. Because of the peripatetic nature of the listening experience (the audience moves around the building to watch Professor Phillips play), numbers are limited to 30. Coach transport will be provided from Taunton and a pub lunch is included.

