

Swansea Organ Association

You are invited to apply for

the **m r c** prize

for actively-progressing Organists

What is it? A small but effective Prize given by the Swansea Organ Association to anyone who is actively progressing in their level of skill in learning to play the Organ; to support them in their work by supplying the next step in their achievement; and to commemorate the long dedicated musical life of

m r c -- Miner Radford Crocker.

What will it do for me? The Prize is designed to encourage you to work hard in your Organ Studies, so that your technical skills progress in every direction: in Fingering, in Pedaling, in Registering and in General Musicianship; leading to a growing Confidence in Performance. Hopefully, the **m r c** prize will help launch you from the present stage of your development, into the next step of success in your study at the Organ.

What do I have to do to win the **m r c prize?**

1. Select a piece of Organ music that you are just starting work on.
2. It should be just a little harder than you are able to play at the moment ~ just one step forward technically.
3. Fill in and send the Application; and
4. Work consistently at your new piece.
5. Practise it on the **Nicholson Organ at Sacred Heart Centre, Morriston, SA6 6HX** at a prearranged date and time.
6. The Prize-giving events will be held on **Tuesday, 4th May 2021 at 7.00 pm and again on Saturday 26th May at 2.00 pm, both at Sacred Heart Centre, Morriston.**

You may be selected as one of the four Prize-winners. Peter will introduce you while you take your place at the Organ and prepare your stops. You then play your piece in front of a critical audience -- the Swansea Organ Association -- and receive their applause afterwards. I then announce the Hymn, and you accompany the Congregational singing. You will then be presented with a Certificate of Achievement for your performance, together with selected Book/s of Organ Music.

Who is eligible? Any Organist of any age, either sex, of any religious denomination or of none, who is showing dedication in learning to play the most difficult of musical instruments ~ the one that Mozart called 'The King of Instruments', and whose work at the Organ deserves recognition, encouragement and praise. In particular, those who aim at Church Music on an Organ with at least two manuals, a pedalboard and six stops. However this is not a competition; the four organists will be chosen for their prowess at the current stage of their development, so beginners have an equal chance with those who have been playing for a few years, and with those who are still developing after several years. We would like to encourage them all, but can only reward four.

What does **m r c stand for?** Miner Radford Crocker, who lived in Swansea 1925 - 2009.

With Reg Blundell and Keith Gibbs he set up the Swansea Organ Association in 1964.

Miner remained as our Honorary Secretary for 45 years.

He was Organist and Choirmaster at Saint Michael and All Angels Church, Manselton, Swansea, for 38 years. He was also with Trebanos Mixed Choir and Skewen Choral Society.

Can I have another go next year? Indeed, yes you may apply for next year's Prize-giving. In fact, we would be thrilled to hear for ourselves your progress from year to year.

Please feel free to copy this sheet and the Application for any other progressing organist.

Every Blessing, Peter C Garder,

Vice-Chairman, Swansea Organ Association

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Application for the **m r c** Award

Full Name and age [if under 18 years]	
Address and postcode	
Telephone and mobile numbers	
Email	
How long have you been learning to play the Organ?	
Name of Organ Teacher, if any.	
Where do you normally play the Organ?	
Do you play for Services regularly? Details, please.	
What piece do you intend to play for the Prize? Composer and Title.	
When did you start learning this piece, and how hard do you find it?	
Which Hymn would you like to accompany at the MRC prize day? First line and name of Tune.	
What Book[s] of Organ Music you would like to receive? Please give full details, including Title, Publisher and Cost. The maximum is £25.	
When could you come to practice on the organ at the Sacred Heart Centre?	
Signature and Date of Application. Plus signature of parent if under 18	
Please post this application to:	Mr. Peter Charles Carder ARCO, Ty Llew, High Street, Cilgerran, Pembrokeshire. SA43 2SG.