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Dear Reader

I write on behalf of the Union Chapel to ask for your support in our latest endeavour "the Henry Willis Organ Project".

As part of the Union Chapel's on-going restoration program, and with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the chapel's Henry Willis Organ will be fully restored in 2012. Once the work is completed the organ will become the focal point for an innovative education and outreach program.

To aid our fundraising efforts we are planning a varied program of associated events, recitals and exhibitions that seek to reflect upon the presence and importance of church organs both historically and musically, and explore the possible implementations of our organ via varied performances from eclectic musicians.

We are pleased to already have the support of two of the country's finest musicians: Union Chapel patron Michael Nyman, offering his own take upon minimalism, and rising-star Sam Lee proving a perspective from the UK's rich traditions of folk song. It is our hope that you too will be interested in participating in an event.

The concerts will coincide with an exhibition of images and prints of the interior of the organ, and the events will be accompanied by visuals sourced from the organ itself; projection-screens will display images from cameras mounted within the organ, revealing to the audience the secrets of its inner-workings; mechanical movement, pumping bellows and the shifting of the stops. An additional screen will relay video of the organist to the public.

As a fundraising event we will be unable to meet the normal fees commanded by professional musicians, but what we can offer is the chance to have your music transcribed to be played upon the organ, and the opportunity to participant in a genuinely interesting event, at a very special venue and all for a rather good cause.

We look forward to your thoughts.
Nathaniel Mann, Union Chapel

