It's not just a

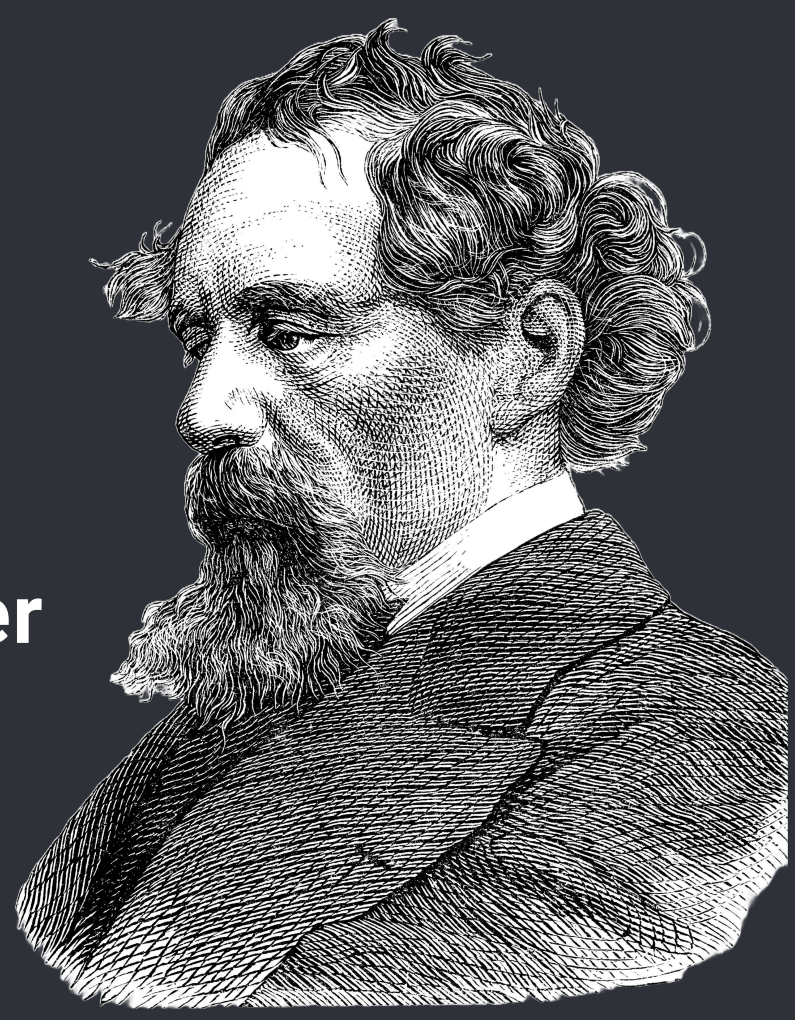
Pipe Dream

St George's Hall, the jewel in the city's crown

St George's Hall is not only a building of great beauty and grace, but it has also long been at the forefront of innovation, a policy we are proud to continue today.

It is the world's first commercially air-conditioned building and, when it was built. It had the largest barrel-vaulted ceiling and piped concert organ in the world, not to mention the priceless mosaic floor of over 30,000 tiles underfoot.

> **The most perfect hall in the world.**
> Charles Dickens



Henry Willis Organ

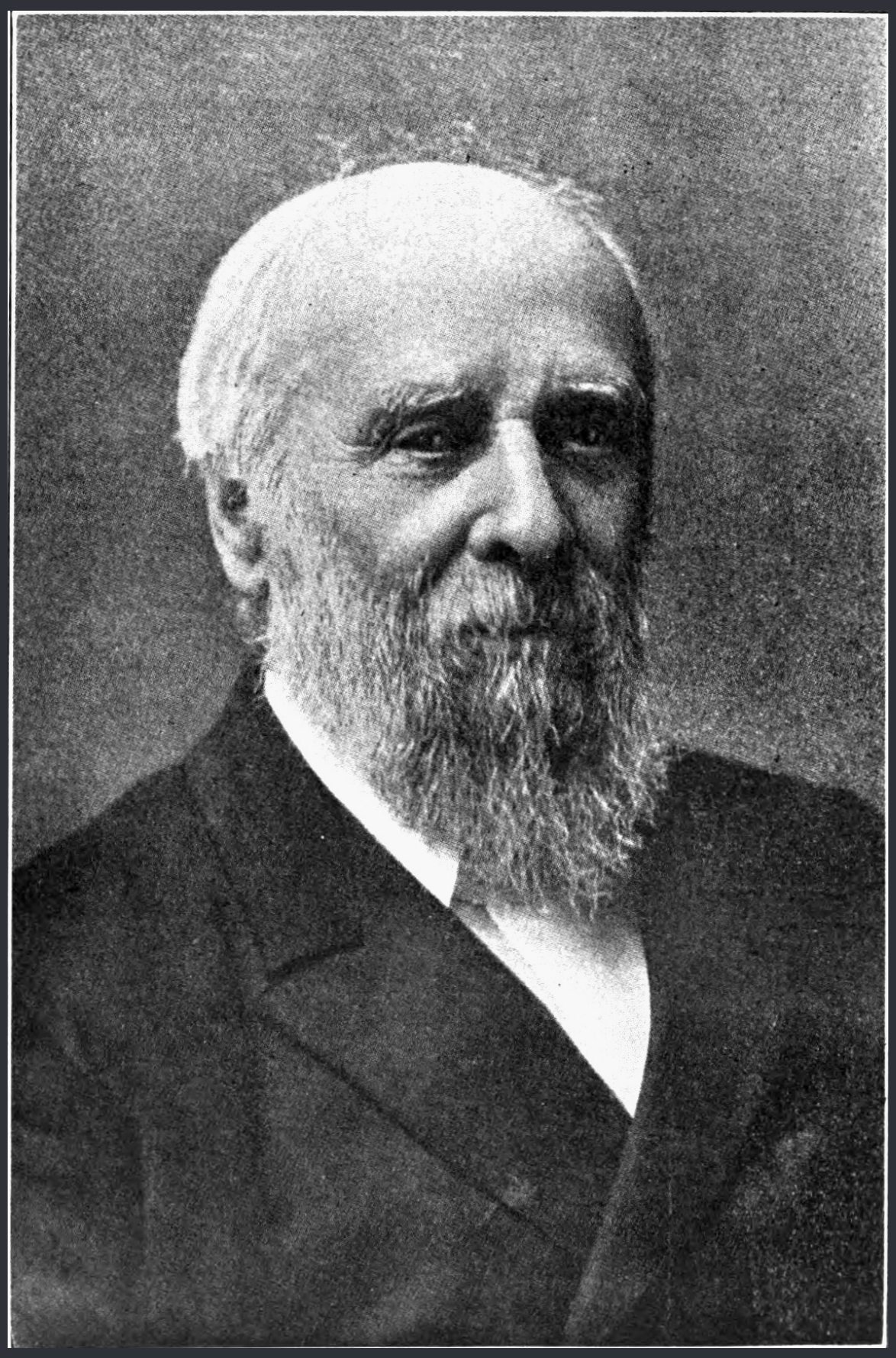
'It's Not Just a Pipe Dream,' is a fundraising campaign aimed at restoring the Organ Willis and addressing essential maintenance in St George's Hall.

In a world increasingly dominated by AI-curated music playlists, digital soundtracks, and streaming platforms, it's easy to neglect original instruments like St George's Hall's Willis Organ.

With its impressive 7,737 pipes, it stands as the third largest of its kind in the country, serving as a profound testament to innovation and musical excellence dating back to 1855. However, instruments of this calibre require meticulous attention and care, and the Willis Organ is no exception.

Without restoration, Liverpool risks losing a significant part of its historical identity and musical legacy.

Read more and donate here



Regarded as the most successful organ builder of his time, "Father" Henry Willis was relatively inexperienced when he won the contract to build the organ.

He beat Gray & Davidson and William Hill, highly respected and well-established firms of the time.

The City Organist

Professor Ian Tracey

trained at Trinity College and St. Katharine's College.

Appointed Liverpool City Organist in 1985 and Chorus Master to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society, he's conducted over 250 concerts across the UK, Europe, USA and Astralia.

Recognized by esteemed musical institutions, including the Royal College of Organists, his contributions earned him numerous accolades, including a Doctor of Music degree from the University of Liverpool.

The last restoration works on the organ took place over fifty years ago!

To date it has only undergone two major restorations – in 1931 and 1954 sine it was first installed in 1855. The organ has received regular maintenance checks but, as with any instrument that is nearly 170 years old, it requires investment in time, care and restoration.

Throughout its history all major works on the organ have been carried out by the succeeding generations of the Willis family.

1207 • CITY OF LIVERPOOL • 1957

Charter Celebrations

16th to 30th JUNE 1957

RE-OPENING *of the*

ST. GEORGE'S HALL ORGAN

Souvenir Programme

A souveir programme to mark the re-opening of the Willis Organ in 1957

Where does your donation go?

All funds will be dedicated to the organ, managed through St George's Hall Charitable Trust and divided into five main areas which require attention:

· The console and control gear
· The main soundboards and chests upon which there are the many thousands of pipes
· The key and stop actions which operate the soundboards and chests upon electrical signals from the console
• The wind system of bellows and trunking which blows the pipes
• The pipes themselves

The Numbers

We believe in full transparency of all activities involved in the repair and preservation of the Willis Organ and have detailed the costs associated with the project below.

£30,000 - Stop Action Repair

The organ relies on leather to seal the air inside the various moving action parts. The majority of the leatherwork dates from the same period, and is rapidly degrading. The rest of the instrument's stop action now needs replacing.

£18,000 for Solo Key Repair

The parts that control the volume for the Swell and Choir sections of the organ are enclosed in boxes that can open and close. However, the mechanisms inside these boxes use the same old leather parts that are falling apart. We need to disconnect and remove the Swell Pneumatic Shutter Engine that controls the shutters, and replace 16 individual motors in addition to replace the magnets inside.

The Numbers

£75,000 - Key Action Repair

The key actions throughout the organ rely on electromagnets made of a material called bakelite. However, these magnets are now severely corroded, causing certain notes to play continuously. We need to disconnect the faceboard and remove it from the organ for repair and the existing bakelite magnets removed and replaced with modern corrosion resistant units.

£38,000 - Swell Pneumatic Shutter Engine and the Tuba Mirabilis Chest and Action Repair

The Swell Pneumatic Shutter Engine, which controls the Tuba Mirabilis, requires cleaning and updating of internal leather parts and magnets. Additionally, the pipes and wind chest of the Tuba Mirabilis need restoration, including the replacement of internal leather parts and magnets.

Donate here