



# The Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland

Sir Archibald D Orr Ewing BT MA Grand Master Mason

David M Begg CA Grand Secretary

**Brethren,**

## **Restoration of the Organ in Freemasons' Hall**

The organ in Grand Lodge was built in 1913 by the Sheffield firm of Brindley and Foster. It is one of the last to be built before World War One and is now unique in Scotland and is one of very few in Europe remaining in completely original form. While it has been tuned regularly it has never been completely overhauled and sections of the instrument have deteriorated mechanically and sadly it has now reached the stage where major renovation and restoration work is required. Recognising that something had to be done, Grand Lodge, over the past few years, has been accumulating funds to enable us to tackle a major renovation of this historic instrument. The Heritage Lottery Fund has recently awarded a grant of up to £50,000 towards a historical restoration of the organ.

There is however a small shortfall in funding and the purpose of this letter is to address this. The Working Party appointed to look at the feasibility of refurbishing the organ, approached four firms of organ builders for quotations. The considered opinion was that the organ should be restored to its original condition and that the Scottish Company who presently maintains the instrument be awarded the restoration contract. This proposal was accepted by the Administration Committee and endorsed by Grand Lodge at the communication on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

Grand Organist has advised that there are 213 notes on the organ and it is proposed to sponsor these at £100 per note. This will give Scottish Freemasons the opportunity to be associated with this great project and also help us to fulfill our obligations as trustees of what has been passed on to us by our forebears. A panel (or panels) will be installed on or near the organ showing the names of those who assisted financially in the restoration. Your assistance would be very much appreciated and all you need to do is complete the enclosed "Donation to the Organ Restoration" form and return it, with your remittance to Grand Secretary. Multiple applications are not only permissible but are positively encouraged.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

Sir Archibald D. Orr Ewing, Bart., M.A.  
Grand Master Mason

April 2008

