

The Anthony Baines Memorial Prize 2024

The Galpin Society confers the twenty-sixth
Anthony Baines Memorial Prize on

John Watson

John Watson has devoted his career to the study and care of historical musical instruments. He was conservator and curator of musical instruments at Colonial Williamsburg Foundation from 1988 to 2016, and has made nearly three dozen reproduction keyboard instruments, mostly of the harpsichord family. His copy of a 1793 Longman & Broderip two-manual harpsichord is displayed at Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington. John's expertise in conservation practices has resulted in numerous articles and two books: *Artifacts in Use: The Paradox of Restoration and the Conservation of Organs* (2010) and *Changing Keys: Keyboard Instruments for America, 1700–1830* (2013). John was also heavily involved in the founding of the Carolina Music Museum in Greenville, South Carolina, providing curatorial and conservation advice for this new centre for preserving and celebrating the musical narratives of the Carolinas and the Southeastern United States (opened in March 2018). He continues to serve on the advisory board of this museum, renamed the Sigal Music Museum in 2020 after incorporating the collection of Marlowe Sigal. Moreover, John's achievements in establishing open access musical instrument databases has been outstanding. His continuing work as General Editor of Boalch-Mould Online and Web Administrator of *Early Pianos Online*, in particular, have remodelled both the content of and access to two standard early keyboard texts begun by Donald Boalch and Martha Clinkscale.