

Notes from NESMS

North East of Scotland Music School Newsletter

Summer 2024

This academic year has disappeared in a blur of teaching, concerts and masterclasses, so much so that we suddenly find ourselves on the brink of the summer holidays with just the last few lessons still to take place.

What's been going on at NESMS:

Piano recital

Nicola Bradford and Nancy Birse (both adult students of Nigel Clayton) gave a short but wonderful piano recital of four hand pieces in the Main Studio at 21 Huntly Street on Sunday 14th April. Attended by their own private students and other NESMS piano students, they played the impressive *Fantasie in F minor* by Schubert, a jazzy *Bahama Rumba* by Carmichael and the stately *Pavane* from the Capriol Suite by Warlock, creating a very enjoyable, relaxed atmosphere. We would like to encourage more students to put on similar recitals for friends and family so please talk to your tutors and ask the NESMS office about availability of the main studio.

Cathedral at Noon concerts

Two NESMS groups performed in the ever popular Cathedral at Noon series this term. The NESMS Flute Choir on Saturday 6th April and NESMS Recorders on Saturday 15th June. Both Saturday lunchtime concerts were a mixture of large ensemble pieces, trios and duets which filled St Andrews Cathedral on King Street, Aberdeen with music. This is a weekly series, so be sure to check www.musicaberdeen.com to find out what's on there and also in the area.

Piano Four Hand workshop

Nigel Clayton and duet partner Imma Setiadi returned in June to give another very successful Four Hand Piano recital & workshop day. We were treated to a splendid Saturday night recital of Holt's *The Planets*. Each planet had a knitted representative introduced at the start of each movement. These had been knitted by one of Nigel's adult NESMS students, Louise Robertson and have appeared at several recitals by Nigel and Imma. The next day was devoted to four piano duos who managed to fill the NESMS building with piano music.

Each duo received an hour and a half with Nigel and Imma, before a group workshop and short recital of the pieces being worked on. Pictures of the day (including close-ups of the Planet figures) can be found on the Previous Events page of the NESMS website [here](#)





Scholarship Concert 2024

The annual NESMS Scholarship Concert took place on Friday 21st June at Aberdeen Springfield Church (previously known as Craigiebuckler Church) featuring full scholarship holders, Emily Gow, *flute*, Freya Corry, *soprano*, Isla Rippiner, *flute*, Harry Wood, *piano* and Matthew McGuigan, *piano* with Harry Williamson, *piano*.

The “five splendid young performers” gave us a fine selection of music from across the ages, from Bach to Norris and Schubert to Chaminade.

Read the full review by Alan Cooper on our website or by clicking [here](#)

Lyn Fletcher masterclass

We welcomed back violinist Lyn Fletcher for a masterclass on Sunday 30th June. Although it was a small select few who attended, the students all played their Franck, Saint Saens and Grieg pieces very well and hopefully took away some great advice from Lyn. For those who missed out this time around, Lyn will be back later this year in October.

Congratulations to NESMS students

Well done to any students who have just sat music exams over the last few weeks, or indeed who have submitted their exam online during the year. We have a list of NESMS student exam, diploma and audition achievements listed, and continually updated, on our website homepage. If your exam achievement is missing from the full list or now needs updating, please let us know by filling out the online form [here](#).

Congratulations to the following students who won first place in these competitions:

- Zhaohong Chu, piano - Aberdeen Young Musician, Junior solo performer of the year
- Mariette Pose, flute - Aberdeen Young Musician, Senior solo performer of the year
- Harry Wood, piano – Robert Gordon College Young Musician of the Year
- Eve Begg, voice - University of Aberdeen Ogston Prize winner

Moving on

At this time of year we say ciao for now (never goodbye) to a few students moving on for further musical studies at University and Conservatoires:

- Charlotte Slater, *violin*, Emily Gow, *flute* - Royal Conservatoire of Scotland BMus
- Matthew Mcguigan - University of Aberdeen BMus

Scholarships Auditions 2024

The NESMS Scholarship auditions took place at the start of June with over 70 individual applications. The panel had some very difficult decisions to make due to the high quality of music offered by all and reduced funds to a award. Congratulations to those students who received full (listed below) and part scholarships valid for the academic year 2024/2025. The full list of scholars can be found [here](#) on the homepage of our website. These scholarships have only been made possible by donations from our generous donors. If you would like to donate a scholarship, please be in touch with the NESMS office.

Named Scholarships

Hannah Magill, oboe	Dorothy Hately Award
Zhaohong Chu, piano	Tom and Cath Johnston Award
Isla Rippiner, flute	Sandy MacDonald Award
Eve Begg, voice	Aberdeen Bach Choir Award
Olwenn Stewart, piano	Gina Dallas Harper piano Award

Gladys Sangster Awards

Linden Stewart, Clarinet	Parmida Damanpak, Piano
Michelle Tse, Violin	Beth Cartledge, Piano
Tyler Martin, Violin	Andrew Watson, Piano
Yuet-yau Mau, Violin	Alice Coutts, Bassoon
Marilyn Bob-Manuel, Viola	Joel Walker, Saxophone

Coming soon to NESMS:

Big Sky Studio Concerts

NESMS returns to the Music Hall with two Saturday afternoon student concerts at 1:30pm in the Big Sky Studio. Tickets are £11 can be bought via the Aberdeen Performing Arts Box Office [here](#)

- *Summer Strings* on 20th July featuring violinists Charlotte Slater and Michelle Tse
- *Winds of Summer* on 17th August featuring Ishbel Burn, *recorder*, Emily Gow, *flute*, Benedict Charles, *bassoon* and Zander Williams, *french horn*.

Music Sale open days

At start of the new term on Sunday 1st September we invite anyone to come into 21 Huntly Street between 11am – 3pm to browse a selection of music for sale. This selection will be made up from various duplicates that have been pulled from our library collection and the ever growing music sale pile on the landing outside the office! As you know our library has been made up of various donations over the years and as a result, duplication has built up. If this proves popular, and we still have music remaining, this will be repeated throughout the year so please keep an eye all our website and social media for further open day dates.



Lesson fee increase

A reminder that a further £2 increase comes into effect for the start of the next academic term from 1st August 2024 onward; lessons will be **£48 per hour**. As many of you are aware, your lesson fees alone do not cover the ever increasing costs of running the school. Since our founding in 1975 we have been heavily dependent on sponsorship and donations from charitable trusts and foundations as well as private individuals and local businesses – and of course the fund-raising by the now disbanded Friends of NESMS – in order to continue to bring your tutors to Huntly Street on a regular basis.

Murray McLachlan 1-1 lessons

On Saturday 16th November, Murray McLachlan returns to us to offer 1-1 lessons for any local piano students. Murray teaches at the Royal Northern College of Music and is Head of Keyboard at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester as well as being Vice-President of NESMS! Murray will be featured as a guest artist the following evening with Aberdeen Sinfonietta at the Music Hall playing Rachmaninov's 2nd piano concerto.

Keynotes Lunch

The annual Keynotes Lunch will be on Sunday 17th November at the Marcliffe Hotel, Pitfodels. Fantastic live music, a delicious Sunday lunch and exciting raffle prizes to be won, this is one highlight of the NESMS calendar that we are sure you will not wish to miss.

Get involved with NESMS:

NESMS 50th Anniversary

Plans are rapidly taking shape for celebrating our 50th year in 2025, but we'd like to hear from as many past NESMS students, particularly from those who had lessons pre-2000! We have an ambitious plan to have a list of every student that has ever passed through our doors but we need your help to complete the list. If you would like to be involved in any way please get in touch, particularly those older past students as some of our contact details may be out-dated with you moving away from the area. Click [here](#) to go to the 50th contact form.

Hire a NESMS studio

Looking for a studio for a quick practise on your lunch hour, a private practise room away from busy homes, or a rehearsal venue for you and your accompanist to practise for exams or concerts? Why not hire a NESMS studio at only £8.50/hour. You can still rent a studio over the summer holidays by emailing the office in advance, but please be sure to check the online calendar on the website first to see if the building will be closed or not.

Have a great summer holiday

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