

# Notes from NESMS

*North East of Scotland Music School Newsletter*

**Spring 2022**

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This spring term has seen the NESMS building return to pre-pandemic levels of teaching; a hive of musical activity. The concert diary of North East music has also re-ignited to full strength, with many concerts often happening on the same day! Online teaching has continued to be a useful tool when travel for our tutors and students who were affected by the various Storms earlier in the year but we're pleased to report that most teaching is now in-person once more.

## What's been going on at NESMS:

### **New-look website and sign**

Since the New Year, between the timetabling and the day-to-day admin, the NESMS office staff were kept busy behind the scenes updating the website an early May re-launch.

You can now find all the latest NESMS news and tutor visits on our [Home page](#), learn [About Us](#) and take a tour of the building, browse the items held in [Our Library](#), and turn back time by reading previous reviews and viewing pictures of [Previous Events](#). Be sure to regularly check in to see the latest updates, we're always finding more pictures in the archives to be scanned in!



One casualty of the storms earlier in the year was our street sign that hung above the front door. The full force of Storm Malik was channelled down Huntly Street and snapped one of the sign's bolts leaving it dangerously swinging in wind. Luckily there was teaching going on that day and so Colin was in the building to deal with it swiftly before it fell down. We've taken this opportunity to update the sign with a new one (pictured left) that is due to be hung soon. Ever thrifty, the old sign will be upcycled and repurposed elsewhere.

### **Roy Howat Masterclass**

In May we held a superb public masterclass in the main studio given by internationally renowned concert pianist, Roy Howat. From spicy Ravel and orchestrating lush Debussy to intricate Schubert, Roy gave wonderful insights into the lives of the composers and to each piece the four piano students presented. We hope Roy will return for another masterclass sometime in the future; definitely not one to miss.

### **Friends of NESMS**

The Friends of NESMS have held two successful events so far this year; an online composer talk about Domenico Scarlatti and a live concert given by NESMS cello tutor James Halsey.

The Scarlatti talk held at the end of January was streamed live from the main studio at NESMS as Dr. Roger Williams delved into the composer's life and works with live performances by NESMS piano student Scott Manson.

In April our Huntly Street neighbour, St Mary's Cathedral was filled with the stunning, hauntingly beautiful sound of NESMS cello tutor James Halsey as he performed a programme of Bach, Sallinen and Henze.

Reviews of both events and Friends membership forms can be found on the Friends of NESMS page on our website [here](#). The Friends are always looking for active volunteers to help with their events, if you are interested in helping or would like more information please be in touch with the Friends Secretary Kathleen Haw; [kathleenhaw3@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenhaw3@gmail.com)

### **Programme Notes online sessions**

NESMS flute tutor Catherine O'Rourke has continued to offer students the opportunity to learn how to compile and write programme notes for use in recitals and exams in a series one-to-one tailored tutorials available online and in-person. Students have described these sessions as "*enlightening and inspiring*", "*invaluable*" and "*greatly beneficial*". Learning about a piece and its context not only in the composer's own history but within wider world history, as one student put it, "*opens a piece up and makes it so much more interesting to study*".

To sign up for a session please be in contact with Catherine directly: [flauto@mail.com](mailto:flauto@mail.com)



## **Congratulations to NESMS students in:**

### **Trinity and ABRSM exams**

Good luck to anyone sitting their grade exams before the end of term and well done to those who sat their exams earlier this year. A full list of NESMS student exam and diploma achievements are listed [here](#) and are continually updated on our website.

If your achievement is missing from the full list or needs updating please let us know.

### **The Aberdeen & N. E of Scotland Music Festival 2021**

Good luck to all the applicants, teachers, judges and behind-the-scenes volunteers who are working hard to put together another successful Music Festival. Let us know the results of your classes (or ABRSM/ Trinity Exams/Auditions) by filling out a simple Google Form [here](#).

This form can also be found at any time on our website homepage.

## NESMS Scholarship Auditions

Congratulations to those students who received full or part scholarships valid for the academic year 2022/2023. These are only made possible by donations from our generous donors so please remember to send your thankyou letters to the NESMS office soon. The panel were very impressed with the musical standard on offer and full scholarships of 9 lessons and part scholarships of 3 or 6 lessons were awarded.

Special mention goes to the following students who all received **full** scholarships:

Charlotte Slater, violin – *Dorothy Hately Award*  
Chenghong Zhu, piano – *Tom and Cath Johnston Award*  
Eve Begg, voice – *Ellie Pirie Bach Choir Award*  
Laura Smith, clarinet – *Sandy MacDonald Award*  
Olwenn Stewart, piano – *Gina Dallas Harper Award*  
Hannah Magill, oboe  
Stephanie Walker, voice

And also a mention to the following students of musical promise in Local Authority schools who are receiving a Gladys Sangster Award:

Ayden Loh, piano  
Olwenn Stewart, flute  
Olivia Kemp, flute

Mishelle Tse, violin  
Amber Craig, voice  
Sophie Thomas, voice  
Liya Pretheesh, piano

Scholarships are designed to be of assistance to a student's progress, and are intended to be supplementary to their more regular, weekly lessons. In a change to previous years, the NESMS Finance Committee ask that Scholarship lessons be staggered throughout each term; a full scholarship of 9 lessons to be split as 3 lessons per term, scholarships of 6 lessons as 2 per term and scholarships of 3 lessons as 1 per term.



## Moving on – music courses

At this time of year, many students are moving onto higher education courses. Good luck to the following NESMS student's pursuing music and preparing for their moves to Glasgow and Manchester!

*Royal Conservatoire of Scotland*  
Charlotte Hay, cello

*Royal Welsh College of Music*  
Gemma Ramsey, cello

Rory McIver, voice

## Coming soon to NESMS:

We are currently planning even more masterclasses, workshops and performances for the next Academic year but can confirm a few dates for your diary.

### Friends Scholarship Concert

The annual Friends of NESMS Scholarship concert will take place at 7:30pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Craigiebuckler Church with an entry price £10/£5(students). This concert will feature the following full scholarship students:

Charlotte Hay, cello  
Hannah Magill, oboe  
Aaron Magill, piano  
Scott Manson, piano

### NESMS Concerts

Two concerts taking place over the summer will provide an afternoon opportunity to hear NESMS students perform in the *Big Sky Studio* within the Music Hall: Saturdays 16<sup>th</sup> July and 13<sup>th</sup> August

NESMS will also be providing two *Cowdray Hall Lunchbreak Concerts* during the next academic year; Thursdays 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Complete programme details of those students performing in these wonderful venues will be advertised nearer the time so please look out for an email or postal flyer coming to you.

### Keynotes Lunch 2022

We ask that you continue to save the date for this year's Keynotes Lunch due to be held at the Marcliffe Hotel on Sunday 20th November. With fantastic live music, a delicious meal 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.

### Hire a NESMS studio

As mentioned earlier, 21 Huntly Street has returned to being a busy hive of musical learning once more but we still try to accommodate anyone wishing to rent a NESMS studio. Perhaps 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. All studios are £7.50/hour and anyone wishing to hire a studio should book in advance via the NESMS office.

Have a great summer holiday everyone. Here's hoping people avoid any travel issues and that it'll be a sunshine-filled time wherever you are spending it!

Colin Brookie  
Manager

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