

# Notes from NESMS

North East of Scotland Music School Newsletter

Winter 2022

“Time flies when you’re having fun!” This must be true as this autumn term has rushed past at an incredibly fast pace this year. The summer holidays and even the last few pandemic restrictions that were still in place just before them seem but a distant memory. One useful hangover from pandemic times is still the use of online teaching, which has only really been used recently when travel conditions for tutors and students were affected by various strikes and winter weather.

## What’s been going on at NESMS:

### Big Sky Studio Summer Concerts

After a two year absence we were glad to present two superb afternoon concerts during the Summer Holidays. Each concert provided an opportunity to hear NESMS students perform in the *Big Sky Studio* within the Music Hall. The July concert, *Summer Strings*, featured Caitlin Williams, violin, Gemma Ramsay, cello with Daniel Silcock, piano and a programme of Bach, Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Saint-Saëns. The August concert, *An Antique Summer*, featured Emily Gow, flute, Emily Smith, piano, Laura Smith, clarinet and Colin Sinclair, piano with a programme of Ireland, Enescu, Rutter and Beethoven. See picture galleries from these and other events [here](#).

### Guest Tutor visits

In October we welcomed guest tutors violinist Lyn Fletcher and pianist Murray McLachlan to the building to each give a full day of 1-1 lessons to students. Celebrated teacher, coach and performer Lyn Fletcher was the leader of the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester for 22 years before retiring from the post in 2019. NESMS vice-president and Head of Keyboard at Chetham’s School of Music, Murray Mclachlan had previously offered online sessions for students during the pandemic but this was his first time back in the building for a few years. We are planning for both Lyn and Murray to each return with an open masterclass before the end of the Academic Year.



### Cowdray Hall Concert

This autumn saw various Cowdray Hall Lunchbreak Concerts being given by performers with a NESMS connection; piano tutor Joseph Long continued his Mozart series, singing students Moira Docherty and Barbara Scott gave a concert of duets with even NESMS Manager Colin Brockie had his own concert. The school itself had a concert on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and featured students Eve Begg, voice, Charlotte Slater, violin and Chenghong Zhu, piano with Daniel Silcock on piano. Click [here](#) to read the full review on our website.



### Keynotes Lunch 2022

In late November our annual Keynotes Lunch took place in the Grand Ballroom of the Marcliffe Hotel. This year the guests were entertained between courses by members of the NESMS Flute choir and violinist Charlotte Slater accompanied by Blair Cargill.

Guests are still talking about the generously portioned, delicious meal we enjoyed that day. A short raffle of themed goodie bags, bottles and of course some NESMS Gnomes ended the event.

### Jazz Workshop

One of the very last in-person NESMS events before lockdown was a Jazz workshop on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020, mere days before Lockdown. The first workshop in a series of three returned at the end of November; a welcome refresher to those who have attended past workshops before and a great introduction for others new to Jazz Theory, Harmony and Arranging. We intend to run the next workshop on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

### Friends Scholarship Concert

The annual *Friends of NESMS* Scholarship concert took place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Craigiebuckler Church and featured the following full scholarship students: Charlotte Hay, cello, Hannah Magill, oboe, Aaron Magill, piano and Scott Manson, piano. Click the picture to read the review.

### Friends at Gate 63

At the end of September the *Friends of NESMS* enjoyed a lovely evening with a meal at Gate 63 within the Hospitality Training Centre of the North East of Scotland College on Gallowgate. NESMS violin student Luca Roderick Sant Angelo entertained the guests upon their arrival with unaccompanied violin and fiddle pieces.

### Friends future

The future of the *Friends of NESMS* continuing as a separate charity will be brought into question at their next Annual General Meeting, the date of which is yet to be announced. An email will be circulated to current Friends with the full agenda of the online meeting. Make sure to check the [Friends](#) page on our website for the AGM announcement and any decisions made.



# Congratulations to NESMS students

Well done to the following students who sat music exams and had successful auditions recently.

Emily Gow, flute - ABRSM Grade 8 Distinction  
Olwenn Stewart, flute - Trinity Grade 8 Distinction  
Olivia Kemp, flute - ABRSM Grade 7 Distinction  
Ishbel Burn, recorder – Trinity Grade 7 Distinction

Caitlin Williams, violin – National Youth Orchestra of Scotland – Symphony Orchestra

Scott Manson, piano – Offers to study undergraduate courses at Birmingham Conservatoire,  
Royal Northern College of Music and Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

A list of NESMS student exam, diploma and audition achievements are listed and continually updated on our website. If your exam achievement is missing from the full list or needs updating please let us know.

## Coming soon to NESMS:

### **Murray McLachlan Piano Masterclass & Recital**

A piano day with Murray McLachlan will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February at Queens Cross Church with a public Masterclass and a ticketed afternoon recital. Details of the recital ticket price will be circulated in the New Year. A limited number of 1-1 lessons will also be available with Murray at 21 Huntly Street on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Cowdray Hall Concert**

We'll be back at the Cowdray Hall on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 for another Lunchbreak concert given by NESMS students. Remember this concert series is free to attend, 12:45pm – 1:30pm.

### **Singing Masterclass**

Although the date is to be confirmed, we are pleased to announce that international Mezzo-soprano Linda Ormiston OBE has agreed to visit us for a Masterclass in the spring term. This will be open to all singers to attend and/or take part in who are looking to polish their performance skills. Linda has worked extensively throughout the UK and abroad and teaches at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, on the Music Theatre Course at the Dance School of Scotland and is a regular tutor at the Oxenfoord International Summer School.

### **Scholarships 2023**

We may only be half way through the academic year but it will soon be time to start organising the applications for funding our 2023/2024 Scholarship Auditions. Scholarships are valid to anyone who will be in full time education during the next academic year. If you would like to donate or work for a company who are in a position to donate a scholarship please be in touch with the office.

### **Four hand piano Masterclass**

To coincide with their Cowdray Hall Lunchbreak Concert on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023, NESMS tutor Nigel Clayton and his duet partner Imma Setiadi plan to offer a Masterclass session on piano duets over that following weekend, 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May. This masterclass will take place in the Main Studio within the NESMS building. Exact timing and further details will be advertised after Easter.

### **Keynotes Lunch 2023**

Advance notice to save the date for next year's Keynotes Lunch due to be held at the Marcliffe Hotel on Sunday 19th November. 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 may be a small organisation but we're always looking to engage with more and more people. We have some ambitious plans in mind for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which is slowly creeping towards us in 2025, but we need your help. If anyone feels they can volunteer their time in helping to organise existing events like the Keynotes Lunch, help setting up new events or even just putting your name down to help out on the door of a concert or two, please be in touch with the office.

### **Library music**

Those of you who regularly use our Library will notice there's been a reshuffle in the room to allow for an additional shelving unit. We were at 98% shelving capacity before the summer, so the welcome addition of more shelves now allows for more space per section. We also slowly started a stocktake to double check that all the items listed on the website catalogue were still current. Not surprisingly with over 7,500 different items, this took longer than planned but we now have a full record of missing items. Some of these items we know were signed out, but others we suspect have been scooped up with music at the end of a lesson and taken home, very easily done. We ask that you search your own music piles at home and please let us know if you come across anything with an embossed NESMS stamp on it. We're not asking for anything to be immediately returned and no fees will be issued, we'd just like to know where they are!

### **Hire a NESMS studio**

21 Huntly Street has long returned to being a busy hive of musical learning but we still try to accommodate anyone wishing to rent a NESMS studio where we can. 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 but anyone wishing to hire a studio should book in advance via the NESMS office.

Wishing everyone a great Festive holiday and a happy and healthy 2023

Colin Brockie  
Manager

---

Dorothy Hatley Music Centre,  
21 Huntly Street,  
Aberdeen,  
AB10 1TJ



Email: [office@nesms.org.uk](mailto:office@nesms.org.uk)  
Website: [www.nesms.org.uk](http://www.nesms.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01224 649685  
Charity No: SC000197