

# Notes from NESMS

North East of Scotland Music School Newsletter

Spring 2024

So much has been confirmed, and further events planned, since our last newsletter just three months ago that we've had to produce a Spring newsletter to give you all as much notice as possible of what's going on at NESMS.

## What's been going on at NESMS:

### Cowdray Hall Concert

NESMS students, Ishbel Burn, Recorder, Charlotte Slater, Violin and Ehan Abrar, Piano with Ben Marsden providing piano accompaniments, gave a fantastic Cowdray Hall Lunchbreak concert on 15<sup>th</sup> February. They performed a programme of Handel, Chopin, Van Eyck and Mozart to a hall of very appreciative audience members. NESMS is already booked into the Lunchbreak Series for next year; 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 & 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025!



### Scholarships 2024

Applications for our Scholarship auditions are now open! Scholarships are valid to anyone who will be in full time education during the next academic year 2024/2025. The application deadline is the **1<sup>st</sup> May** with live auditions due to take place between 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> June. A full scholarship funds 9 lessons over the academic year (based on monthly lessons), though part-scholarships of 3 and 6 lessons may also be awarded by the audition panel. Apply online [here](#).

It's also not too late to pledge a full NESMS scholarship of £450. Please be in touch with the office if you or a company that you work for are in a position to donate.

### Friends of NESMS

The winding-up process for the charity has now begun but we are glad to see so many previous Friends members are continuing their support in NESMS's future through setting up annual donations and in their willingness to volunteer for us. The list of volunteers being compiled by the office will prove essential for the NESMS 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations in 2025, if not sooner!

The full letter circulated to the Friends announcing the EGM's decision to wind up can be found on the [Our Friends](#) page of our website along with a mandate form, available to download, for anyone wishing to set up an annual donation direct to NESMS.



# 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 pianist Zhaohong Chu who won first place at the Aberdeen Young Musician junior solo performer of the year competition held in the Cowdray Hall on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Zhaohong is a student of local tutor Jeffery Wang but currently holds a NESMS scholarship to have lessons with our own Nigel Clayton.



## Coming soon to NESMS:

### Cathedral at Noon concerts

Two NESMS groups are performing in the ever popular Cathedral at Noon series this next term. Saturday lunchtimes at St Andrews Cathedral, King Street, Aberdeen. Entry by donation. NESMS Flute Choir on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April and NESMS Recorders on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June

### Piano recital

Students of Nigel Clayton, Nicola Bradford and Nancy Birse will be giving a short piano recital of four hand pieces in the Main Studio at 21 Huntly Street on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2:30pm. Entry by donation but with limited seating available please be in touch with the office if you wish to attend

### Piano Four Hand workshop

In June we have Nigel Clayton and duet partner Imma Setiadi returning to give another Four Hand Piano workshop. Exact timings are yet to be confirmed, but we are planning for this event to happen over the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> June. Further details will be advertised nearer the time.

### Scholarship Concert 2024

The annual NESMS Scholarship Concert will take place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 at Aberdeen Springfield Church (previously known as Craigeibuckler Church) and will feature full scholarship holders, Emily Gow, *flute*, Freya Corry, *soprano*, Isla Rippiner, *flute*, Harry Wood, *piano* and Matthew McGuigan, *piano*.

### Lyn Fletcher masterclass

We welcome back violinist Lyn Fletcher for a masterclass on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 12.30pm. £35 for a 45 minute session for anyone wishing to play but audience are free to attend. Please book your place, performer or as audience, via the office.

### Big Sky Studio Concerts

NESMS will be returning to the Big Sky Studio in the Music Hall for two Saturday lunchtime concerts this summer; one in July and one in August. We are currently still confirming students availability before we can advertise the exact dates but we hope this will be soon so both concerts can feature in the next Aberdeen Performing Arts What's On brochure! Tickets for both concerts will be available through Aberdeen Performing Arts box office.

## Lesson fee increase

Please note that a further £2 increase will come into effect for the start of the next academic term from 1st August 2024 with lessons as **£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.

## Get involved with NESMS:

### NESMS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

We will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

Many of you will also remember the booklet produced for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, made up of memories and anecdotes from past and present NESMS students, tutors and committee members. We are hoping to add to these to produce a 50<sup>th</sup> version which will also be made available online via our website. You can submit your recollections of NESMS at any time using the same 50th contact form as above.

### Music Sale open days

Coming this summer, and before the start of the new term, we will invite anyone to come into 21 Huntly Street and browse the 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. Further details including dates will be announced in the next newsletter but each day will run 10am – 2pm on certain weekends.

### 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. Please book in advance via the NESMS office.

Have a great Easter Holiday

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