



New threat to council's cultural hopes in 2021

Music Camps and Central Music Groups run by the Perth and Kinross' Instrumental Music Service (IMS) could soon be a thing of the past for the 700 or so children who enjoy participating, according to proposals set out by Perth and Kinross Council.

At a meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee on 2 November 2016, £60,000 of cuts were approved to the IMS. Proposals include the cessation of the requirement to provide a nurse at Music Camps.

In justification of the latest proposals, PKC's Director of Education

and Children's Services Ms Sheena Devlin wrote to Hilary Whitaker, President of Perth Youth Orchestra, Ms Devlin concludes that 'there is no requirement to have a nurse present at any such residential camp' and a sick child will simply be 'taken to hospital if required.' Ms Devlin also confirmed that 'mini-

mum staffing ratios are the basis for all residential camps'. Responding in support of the existing arrangements, the Perth Youth Orchestra president says, "Given the geographical location of the camps and distance from a hospital, any emergency would leave the already stretched staff who are on duty 24 hours a day, with a real dilemma on their hands. Having no nurse will save the Council £3000."

"The existing arrange-

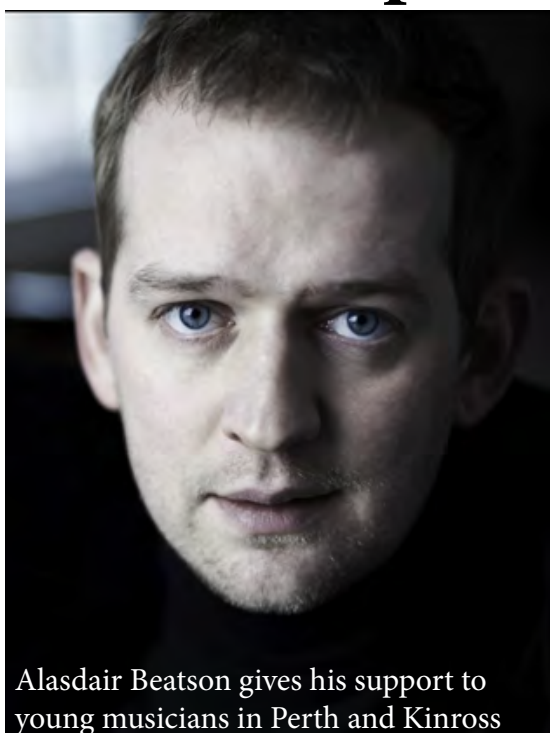


Time to make a big noise about all that's best about our Music Service

ments have proved invaluable over a long period of time, giving families confidence that their child's medical condition is appropriately supported."

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International star warns PKC - 'you had it right before' Act now to protect this regional treasure



Alasdair Beatson gives his support to young musicians in Perth and Kinross

At a time when representatives of Perth and Kinross Council seek to minimise the nature of their proposed cuts on its instrumental music service, international concert pianist Alasdair Beatson took a moment to make this appeal:

'I am appalled to hear of Perth and Kinross's plans to make these cuts, so extreme as proposed to make the future existence of IMS groups and music camps unfeasible.'

'I believe in all children, regardless of financial or geographical circumstances, having

an equal access to music. The value of music's place in education and its comprehensive benefits are indisputable, but in regions more distant from the cultural hubs of Glasgow, Edinburgh or London, it is all the more important to create opportunities for children to come together from different schools, meet and play together in orchestras, under the expert tuition of the IMS teachers and coaches.'

'Perth and Kinross had it right, and we need look no further than the many former P&K school children who now play pro-

fessionally with national orchestras, teach music in school classes or national conservatories, or like myself perform internationally. It was because of our experiences in IMS Groups and the immersion in music made possible at the Music Camps that any such musical excellence was attainable.'

'The council should be protecting this regional treasure. If not, we will feel soon enough the harsh consequences on the region and specifically its musical life.'

Alasdair Beatson, London

(Cont. from page 1)

"A similar reassurance is sought from families who send their children on foreign tours with Perth Youth Orchestra and this is a matter the orchestra's trustees take very seriously. It has been an important factor in making access to these services fully inclusive."

As an independent charity, Perth Youth Orchestra has been supporting young musicians in Perth and Kinross for over 50 years. Its work with young orchestral musicians began a few years before the formation of the local authority music service but their close partnership has been one of the great triumphs of education in the region.

Mrs Whitaker says, "Sometimes it is necessary to ask ourselves of what it is we value most about the service."

"Not content with the £60,000 of cuts which go ahead in April 2017, PKC has approved proposals to consider further ways to 'improve and modernise' the service which will look for a further £15,000 worth of cuts."

"The main proposal is that instrumental tutors' current small pay-

ment for taking central music groups, in the evenings, would be moved to the Working Time Agreement. Many tutors already work up to double the amount of non-contact time and diluting this further would limit their ability to prepare effectively for lessons and complete important administration tasks. Ultimately, that would mean they would be expected to do Central Groups and evening/overnight work at music camps without pay."

"Ms Devlin calls this a good way to 'review and modernise' the service. It is insulting that this valuable service is under fire again and it is demeaning to our tutors who work tirelessly to provide a flagship service which includes and encourages many children with additional supports needs. It is a slap in the face."

"Once again it is our children's education, through the central groups and camps, that are under threat with proposals being rushed through under our noses. If the working time agreement plans go ahead, the valuable groups and ensembles which underpin a rich musical culture of Perth will be thing of the past."

Mrs Whitaker adds, "Ironically these proposals come at a time when our young musicians, of all abilities, are working hard to stage their annual concert in aid of ChildLine. The commitment shown by the players and their dedicated tutor staff is remarkable. The funds that will be raised for ChildLine will amount to at least the amount of the proposed cuts that will threaten the future of that event and so many others."

"Benefits are not limited to music ...it would break my heart."

"Perth as a City of Culture with nothing at its core, shame on you Perth and Kinross Council."

An online petition has been set up for people wishing to show their support for instrumental tuition in Perth and Kinross.

Within 4 days, over 1000 people had signed - many leaving messages to say how important the considered that the service had been in their own lives and also in the future education of our young people.

I have gained so much from taking part in both Central Groups and annual music camps, the benefits of which are not limited to music, but have benefited me in all aspects of life. Depriving future generations of these services would mean limiting their opportunities for not only musical growth, but personal growth too, and academic benefits. The fact that P&K Council are even considering these cuts during the middle of their "City of Culture" bid is just baffling. Musical staff put so much into their work, and some of my most treasured school memories come from my time spent with Central Groups and at music camps. It would break my heart to see them scrapped.

*Iona Gilbraith
Scone*

The amazing work that the music tutors do in Perth and Kinross for the Central Groups and Music Camps is absolutely invaluable. I was lucky to experience the support and encouragement of these dedicated teachers. The life experience and skills that I gained set me up for a career playing and teaching the violin - inspired by the fantastic music service in Perth

and Kinross. Apart from all the happy memories, this is a jewel in the crown of Perth and Kinross and should absolutely be preserved for future generations.

*Liza Johnson (Webb),
Glasgow*

I've signed to keep the funding as what is the point of Perth being a City of Culture if our youngsters aren't nurtured in their learning not just academically but musically as well. My brother and sister were lucky to go to band/camp and I at least had the opportunity to realise that my talents weren't musical - my tutor did try her best. Don't take away Perth's good aspects - if anything pay out a bit less for the A-listers or add an extra £1 to our council tax to help cover this.

*Kirsty Nisbet
Perth*

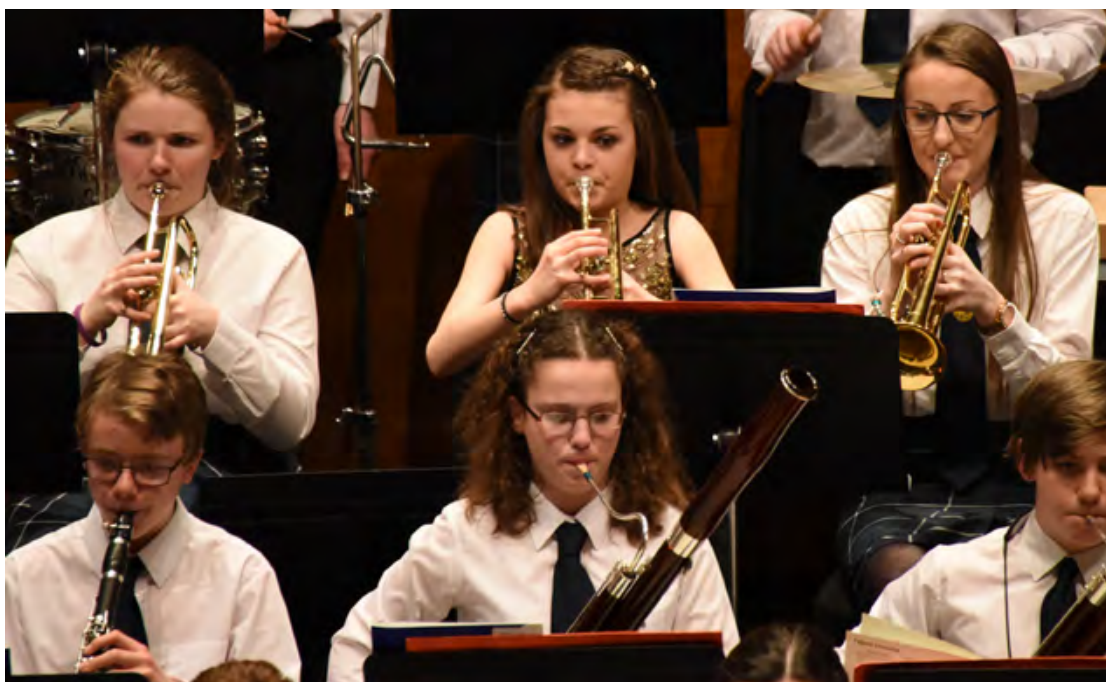
You cannot put a price on the impact of musical experiences on young people. They educate, nurture, inspire, encourage, empower, connect, support creativity & wellbeing, and create a positive life-long interest that will continue to impact on individuals throughout adulthood.

Central groups and music camp are a fundamental part of this rich and important offering in Perth & Kinross and have shaped the talents, confidence and futures of many.

*Helen MacKinnon
Perth*

This is one of Education's most deserving causes. Young people like my son who has autism have thrived





through this service. He will probably not achieve academically so give him the chance to continue achieving musically. This service is the jewel in the council's crown.

Liesa Wallace
Perth

The Central Groups and Music Camp residential courses were an extremely valuable experience for my brothers and me. Two of us have careers in classical music (I'm a member of Royal Northern Sinfonia) as a result of these and the first rate tuition we received from the local music service. But regardless of whether a career in music beckons, these experiences encourage teamwork and confidence in the young people that take part. I've seen first hand through a Sistema project in Newcastle the difference that learning a musical instrument can have on young people's lives. It improves attendance, health and all round academic achievement. It is vital that these brilliant experiences are protected

for future generations of young people in Perth & Kinross.

Michael O'Donnell
Gateshead

I'm signing because my daughter attends central groups and gets a lot from it: musically, friendships and confidence.

Rob Jarvis
Perth

Perth & Kinross have an exceptional array of talented music teachers and tutors nurturing exceptional musicians. These cuts undermine what has been one of the council's greatest success stories. Rethink required.

David Forsyth
Perth

Because I believe that music is a great educator both musically and socially. My children and now I hope for my grandchildren will be encouraged and benefit. Music knows no social strata. Please let this excellent experience continue.

Frances Jacobs
Scone

My child has learning difficulties. The central music groups have been invaluable in helping her find a talent and build her self esteem in ways which are just not accessible to her otherwise. It is these experiences which build rich opportunities for our young people and demonstrate that diversity, beyond main stream academia is valued. It helps our society build a richer cultural base and brings communities together. To cut this service would be an inclusive step.

Fiona Morrison
Bridge of Earn

Having the opportunity to learn to play viola was the best experience throughout primary school and secondary. Having experienced 9 music camps, I believe it is crucial to have a nurse on site, especially when the locations of these camps are so far away from hospitals. The staff that work for our Music Service are so dedicated and enthusiastic, whether it's in your morning lesson or at after school Central Groups. They are sacrificing precious family time to allow us as children to experience what an orchestra is like and to pay them less for this is unfair.

Caroline Wilson
Glasgow

I'm signing because many of the happiest moments of my childhood were at central groups and music camp! I am now in the last year of a music degree at university, and I know for a fact that I wouldn't be here without the enthusiasm and knowledge I gained from the teachers at central groups. For them to stop would be a massive loss to so many children and to the community generally.

Kate Walker
Edinburgh

Sir Andrew Loyd Webber was recently interviewed on this subject, he said money spent on school music came back tenfold.

Alan McCulloch
Crieff

I hope the Council will pay heed to the many voices raised in an attempt to prevent this decision.

Our children and grandchildren have benefitted greatly from the dedicated work of those professionals who have given many children the chance to experience the joy of "making music".

Kate Cowmeadow
Perth

Save our Music Camps and Central Groups

Perth and Kinross Music Foundation, Perth Youth Orchestra Committee, Young Musicians Parents Association (Perth and Kinross)

PRC Instrumental Music Service
Provided by PRC Music Service
© 2011 Video

Share this petition

1,083 supporters

412 needed to reach 1,500

Share on Facebook

Bob Band Save our music camps

<https://www.change.org/p/bob-band-save-our-music-camps>

Perth Youth Orchestra - Tour Prague 2016

Six concerts in eight days and many cultural delights

It was a early 3am pick up for our coaches at Perth and then Kinross and soon we found ourselves settled on an Easy Jet flight for Prague.

Arrival in Prague was 30 minutes behind schedule – but the weather was a little better than we had been used to.

After checking into our hotel we set off on a brisk walking tour of the new and old cities taht gave us a taste of a very different culture, in a country of just over 10 million people whose capital city is just a little larger than Glasgow.

Street signs, shop names transport signs combined with the language and currency told us that we were a long way from Scotland.

We visit two very different squares. Wenceslas Square was first, a wide boulevard of up markets shops elaborately ornate with a stunning variety of architecture portraying the city's long history and then we passed into the mystical Old Town Square.

Tuesday 5th July

Today, a visit to Prague's magnificent castle and St Vitus Cathedral, home to relics of St Wenceslas and the Czech state crown. Also known as the Bohemian Crown, it was made for the coronation of Charles IV in 1347, making it the fourth oldest in Europe.

Wearied by the hot-

ter day, the ascent to the castle and by the compendious footnotes to the scene from our guide, we opted for a gentler pace – returning to the Old Square for an iced drink where we were just satisfied to soak up the compelling atmosphere of this tourist honeypot before heading for an extended rehearsal time at the church of St Simon and St Jude, our first concert venue.

Reunited with the instruments – following a traditional PYO unloading 'chain', the richly ornate platform proved a tight squeeze – but somehow the orchestra fitted in and they were soon to rise the occasion.

A very small, but appreciative audience, mostly from Perth, welcomed the musicians and the performance that followed was one of the best. Soloists Jenny Whitaker (trumpet) and Joe Pickering (clarinet) delighted the audience with assured and masterful performances of their Haydn and Weber works.

Wednesday 6th July

Now we are really in a mood for music – today we are in the spa town of Poděbrady to the east of Prague. For over a century, Poděbrady has been one of the most important Czech spa towns. This is chiefly thanks to its springs, stable weather, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Elbe, with

its stylish cafés.

PYO's Ensembles took centre stage for an after lunch concert which was well attended and enthusiastically received in the beautiful park.

Thursday 7th July

Taking in the sights of Prague this morning from the city's Petrin Tower next to the Strahov Monastery. Built as a mini version of Paris' Eiffel Tower, the Petrin Observation Tower was built in 1891 for the Jubilee Exhibition.

Next was the Maze of Mirror's and a chance to see some different perspectives of the orchestra.

After a pleasant stroll back into the city it was back to business. The smaller PYO instruments and stands were collected from the coaches and carried to the concert venue. The larger kit was brought by Craig and Michael on the RSNO lorry.

Still there was time to sit out by the banks of the Vltava sipping iced tea before starting the rehearsal in the Hhahol Hall, home to Prague's longest established choir, watched over by the busts of Smetana and Dvorak – and all the choir's other past conductors.

Friday 8th July

A visit to Prague Zoo this morning boasting over 5000 animals and 650 species, pleasantly set out. The grounds

stretch from a lush river valley up a steep, rocky escarpment to rolling meadows.

The views at the summit were spectacular. The zoo was badly damaged in the 2002 flood (33 feet above normal). Lots of reconstruction have turned it into one of the world's best zoological gardens.

A short trip across the city, through one of its many road tunnels, brought us to Galerie Harfa, a modern shopping centre. Setting to for an informal performance at its roof-top venue, with its backdrop of the neighbouring O2 arena and nearby Jurassic Park adventure playground, was one of the greatest challenges of the tour.

In full sun, and with temperatures into the 30's the PYO String Group, Big Band, Brass Band and Wind Band entertained shoppers with something to suit all tastes.

Unseen, in the cool depths of the service area, Craig and Michael – and a great team of players pulled together to ensure a seamless performance up top.

Saturday 9th July

Our trip to the Colonnades at Mariánské Lázně always promised to be the most exciting day of our tour. It is the second largest Czech resort town, located about 100 miles from Prague a- just 14 miles from the German border.

Located in a valley surrounded by mountains on three sides it offers extremely rich in natural healing springs. Richly ornate building line its main streets and

its magnificent gardens and include lakes and water fountains.

By now the repetitive nature of the packed lunches had worn thin and walking through the pavement cafés in the town's main street groups of PYO players could be found tucking into pizza and other local delicacies. Our concert here drew the greatest crowds of the week.

Sunday 10th July

After a lazy start to the day, Prague's iconic Charles Bridge and a return to the Old Town was thought to be the best way to end our short stay in the city.

Lunch was in the gardens on the banks of the river. "Oh my God, the sandwiches are normal", exclaimed one player as she explored the goody bag. It seems that the hotel had finally run out of rye bread.

For all musicians, the John Lennon Peace Wall is a 'must see'. Once a normal wall, since the 1980s it has been filled with John Lennon-inspired graffiti and pieces of lyrics from Beatles' songs.

Next we crossed the Charles Bridge – commissioned lined with 30 Baroque statues of religious figures - scene of the notorious martyrdom of St Vitus.

And finally – a short coach journey to Vítězné náměstí – a 'meeting place' in Prague 6. The newly installed decking, in the edge of a busy road intersection, must have had PYO in mind. A café, table and chairs, nearby facilities – and even a KFC – but best of all a wonderful audience.

A souvenir of Prague



Prague's astronomical clock



St Vitus Cathedral at Prague Castle



Time to pose in Prague Castle courtyard



So much to take in



Shrine of St Wenceslas



Hitting the high notes in Prague



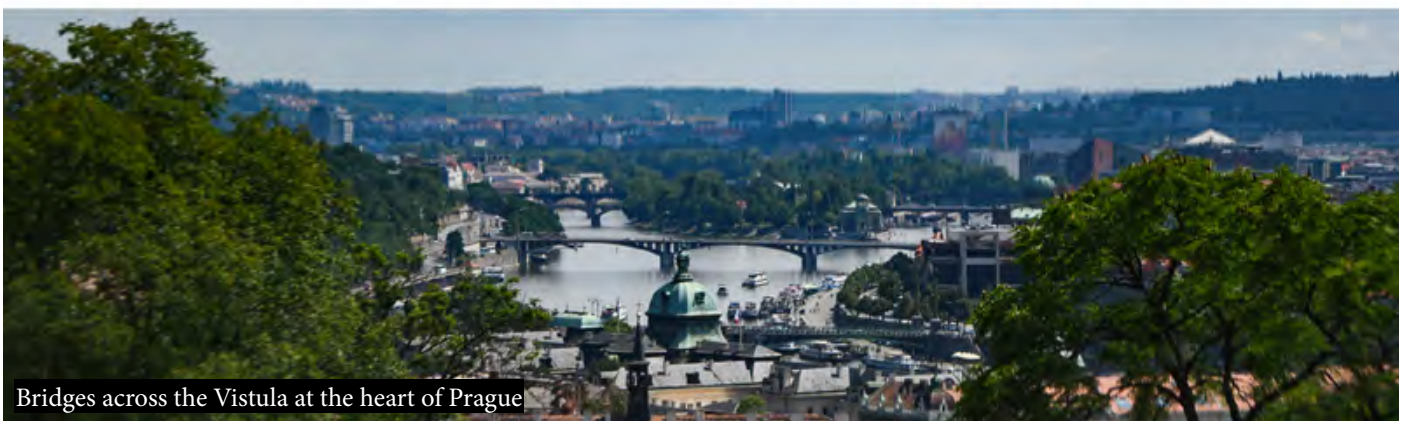
Hitting the high notes in Prague



Harmonious horns in rehearsal



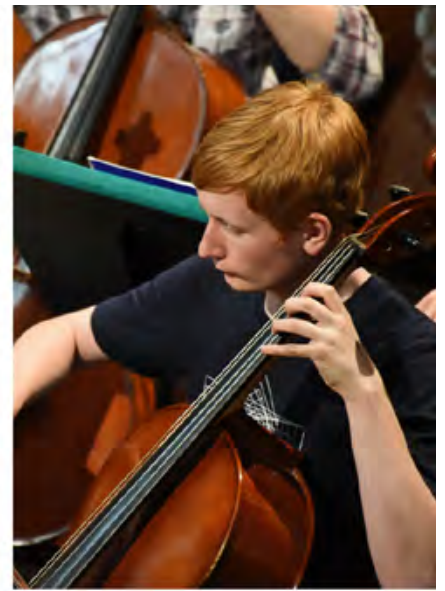
A tight squeeze as our musicians rehearse for their first concert in Prague



Bridges across the Vistula at the heart of Prague

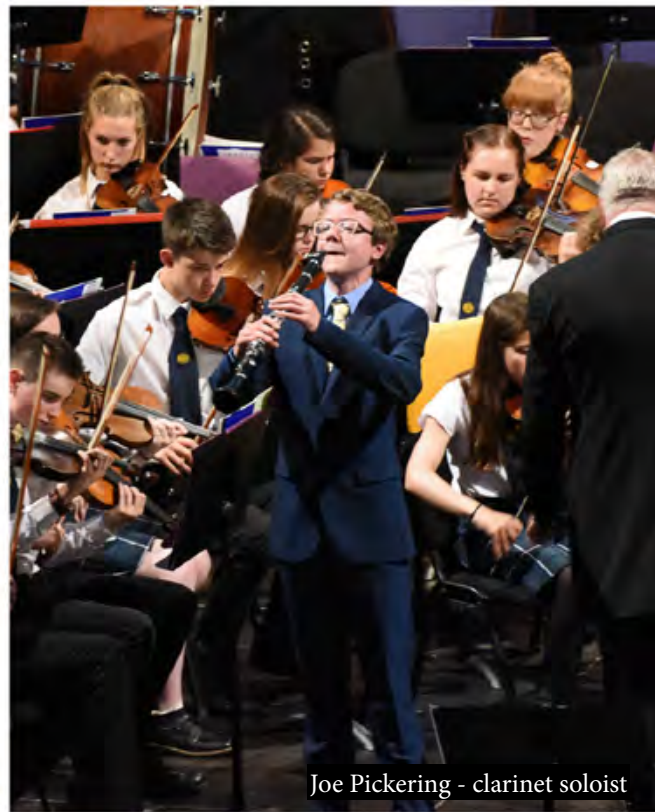


Hitting the high notes in Prague





Jenny Whitaker - trumpet soloist



Joe Pickering - clarinet soloist



In concert at Ss Simon and Jude's, Prague



Under the baton of Mr Allan Young





Outdoor performances in Podebrady



A new perspective - loving the magic



Mrs McGovern directs PYO string orchestra



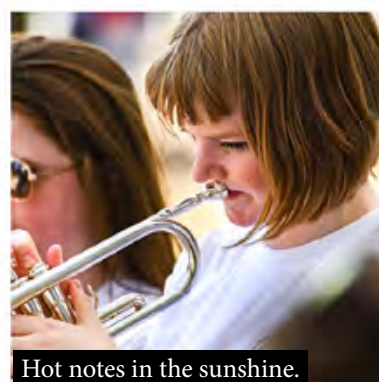
Dr Shepherd joins PYO Big Band



RSNO drivers take a moment to listen



PYO horn section with Anton Dvorak



Hot notes in the sunshine.





Home to the Hlahol Choir (and Perth Youth Orchestra)



Prague viewed from the Strahov Monastery





Team work - yet another PYO unloading



Marianske Lazne - Colonnades



PYO leave their messages on the John Lennon Peace Wall



Crossing Prague's iconic Charles Bridge



More photos - www.perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk/tour-blog

A platform for all young orchestral musicians

Background

Perth Youth Orchestra is one of the longest established youth orchestras in Scotland. It is supported by Perth & Kinross Council and Gannochy Trust and is part of the Perth & Kinross Central Groups provision available to pupils in Perth & Kinross.

Membership

Entry to Perth Youth Orchestra is by audition only. Please see audition requirements section.

Charges

In accordance with the council charging policy for Central Groups, members should complete an IT2 form to enrol as a Central Group member. The annual cost for 2014-15 is £81.05.

Rehearsals

Perth Youth Orchestra rehearses on Monday nights from 6pm - 8.15pm at the North Inch Community Campus, Perth, from October to March with some extra rehearsals in May and June.

Uniform

Girls - skirt or culottes in PYO Douglas tartan, white blouse, dark navy tights (or black or skin-coloured) and black shoes. Members will be given material to make a skirt or will be given information as to who to contact to have them made).

Boys - black trousers, white shirt, PYO tie and black shoes.

We will supply all new PYO members a PYO tie free of charge.

For many pupils, the involvement with Perth Youth Orchestra, the Music Camps and European Tours is one of the highlights of their school experience.

Concerts

The Orchestra has a number of high profile commitments each year. Some of this years concerts and dates are below:

Annual Childline Christmas Concert

1 December 2016

Annual Concert

9 April 2017

Perth Festival of the Arts Service

21th May 2017

Autumn Concert Perth Concert Hall

22 August 2017

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Greyfriars Kirk
24 August 2017 (tbc)

Music Camp

Pupils who gain access to the Orchestra should be aware that they are expected to attend the annual music camp in April (the first week of Easter holidays) as the majority of the repertoire for the concerts is rehearsed at this course. Pupils will only be excused from this in exceptional circumstances.

There will be a separate charge for attendance at this course

Repertoire

The orchestra performs pieces from the full classical repertoire as well as a variety of show and film music. e.g. Dvorak's New World Symphony,

Dvorak's Symphony No.6, Romeo & Juliet Suite Prokofiev, Sibelius 2nd Symphony, Cesar Franck Symphony in D Minor, Borodin Symphony No.2, Planets Suite, Harry Potter, Star Wars, Lord of the Rings and Frozen to name but a few.

Concerto opportunities

Advanced pupils will be encouraged to audition to perform a concerto movement at the annual concerto auditions in February. Successful applicants will then get an opportunity to perform at the Annual Concerts with PYO.

Side by side

Perth Youth Orchestra is regularly invited to participate in Side by Side performances with the country's professional orchestras. Most recently, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the Scottish Ensemble

International Tours

Every three years the orchestra embarks on a European Tour. Recent trips have been to: Estonia 2004, Poland 2007, Germany 2010, Italy 2013 and the Czech Republic in 2016.

Initial plans of our plans for the 2019 tour will be announced shortly before music camp in April 2018.

Friends of Perth Youth Orchestra

Perth Youth Orchestra is also a charitable trust and many of the arrangements for its concerts, overseas tours, music hire, purchase and replacement of instruments etc are

discussed and agreed by the committee of trustees (elected at the Annual General Meeting).

The 2017 AGM will be in the last week in September and all Friends are eligible to join the committee and / vote for its office bearers.

Membership costs £24 per year and each family is encouraged to subscribe, not only for the benefit of the orchestra, but also to be assured of being kept in touch with the orchestra's news.

We are also grateful to those families and friends who have subscribed to our Name a Desk scheme - sponsoring a desk or indeed entire sections of the orchestra - with their subscription of £100 per year.

"Opportunity to learn more music; Improve sight-reading; Chance to play concertos with soloists"

"Confidence; independence; positive outlook; development of musical skills; making new friends."

"Independence and social skills, mixing with a wide variety of pupils and developing new friendships. Continued development of musicianship skills under excellent guidance from music staff. All round development of confidence"

"It continues to be a great experience in many ways - socially, developing skills and abilities and talents. Immeasurable and untold benefits!"

"Fantastic opportunity for children to develop and make group contribution to music making. Developing all 4 capacities of a Curriculum of Excellence"

Auditions

Auditions for the orchestra take place in September for new auditionees.

Pupils will normally be informed by their tutor when they are ready to audition and the procedures involved. Private pupils can obtain an audition form from MHenderson@pkc.gov.uk. All successful applicants must attend rehearsals on Mondays from 6-8.15pm and attend the annual residential music camp in April.

STRINGS

One piece,
grade5-6
Scales *Grade 5*
Sight-reading

WOODWIND

One Piece
Scales
Flute (B flat major, C# minor, 2 octs); Oboe (E flat major, C# minor, 2 octs); Clarinet (E major 3 octs, C# minor 2 octs); Bassoon (B flat major, 3 octs, C# minor, 2 octs)
Sight-reading

BRASS

One Piece
Treble clef
Scales (*Ab major 2 octs; A major 2 octs; C minor melodic or harm 12th; B min melodic or harm 12th*)
Sight-reading.

Bass clef

Scales (*Gb major 2 octs; G major 2 octs; C minor 12th; A minor 12th*)
Sight-reading

HORN

Scales (*Ab maj 12th; A maj 12th; C min 12th; B min 12th*)
Sight-reading

PERCUSSION

see percussion teacher

Dates for Your Diary

February 2017	Soloist Auditions (tbc)
March 2017	Open Rehearsal (tbc)
2nd – 7th April 2017	Senior Music Camp
9th April 2017	PYO Annual Concert Perth Concert Hall
21st May 2015	Perth Festival of the Arts Service St John's Kirk, Perth
21 August 2017	Autumn Concert Perth Concert Hall
24 August 2017	Edinburgh Festival Fringe - Greyfriars Kirk
September 2017	New member auditions

Events are updated on the website
www.perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk

You can become a Friend of Perth Youth Orchestra

Become a Friend of Perth Youth Orchestra by giving a regular donation of at least £30 per person per year. For £120 per year, you can name a desk in the orchestra. You can increase the value of your donation by 25p for every £1, if you are a UK taxpayer, by ticking the YES box in the Gift Aid section overleaf. This increases our funding without costing you anything extra.

The Friends of PYO help the orchestra continue to give young players opportunities to experience being part of team and performing to audiences at home and abroad. Performing in an orchestra gives young people useful skills, confidence and fun!

Contact:

friends@perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk

PYO Committee 2016-17

President - Hilary Whitaker
friends@perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk

Vice-president - Julia Park

Treasurer - Gillian Forsyth

Secretary - Susannah Rae
secretary@perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk

Tour Coordinator - Andrew Mitchell
webmaster@perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk

Members

Morna Blake, Allison MacLeod,
Gosia Stanton, Irene Watt
Alison Wilson, Mary Woodhead

Conductor - Allan Young

Tutor Representative - Gordon Seith

Player Representative - Shona Rae

Released in time for Christmas

Perth Youth Orchestra's first official CD is now on sale - price £8 - order online!



Perth Youth Orchestra - Uniform

Girls - skirt or culottes in PYO Douglas tartan, white blouse, dark navy tights (or black or skin-coloured) and black shoes.

Boys - black trousers, white shirt, PYO tie and black shoes.

We will supply all new PYO members with a PYO tie free of charge. We will also provide the tartan material for the girls' skirts/culottes. However, you will need to supply zip/buttons/lining as required and make the skirt, or arrange to get it made.

You can choose whatever style you like, but please do consider that you will be sitting on stage, possibly facing the audience, and you want to feel comfortable playing your instrument (as well as looking stylish).

Contact details for a dressmaker can be supplied on request but please allow her plenty of time to make your skirt. The first concert this year is the Childline concert at the start of December.

Work out what style of skirt or culottes you want and how much material you will need (it can range from less than 1m to up to 2m). The fabric is 150cm wide with a 15cm pattern repeat so you will need to allow for this when calculating the length required.

Contact Mary Woodhead, uniform@perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk, and she will cut the material and get it to you at the next rehearsal along with your tie.

We would be grateful if you could return any unused material as it is always useful for alterations/decorations etc.

Donations of skirts from members who have left the orchestra are always very welcome - they can be passed on to new members and save us some money.