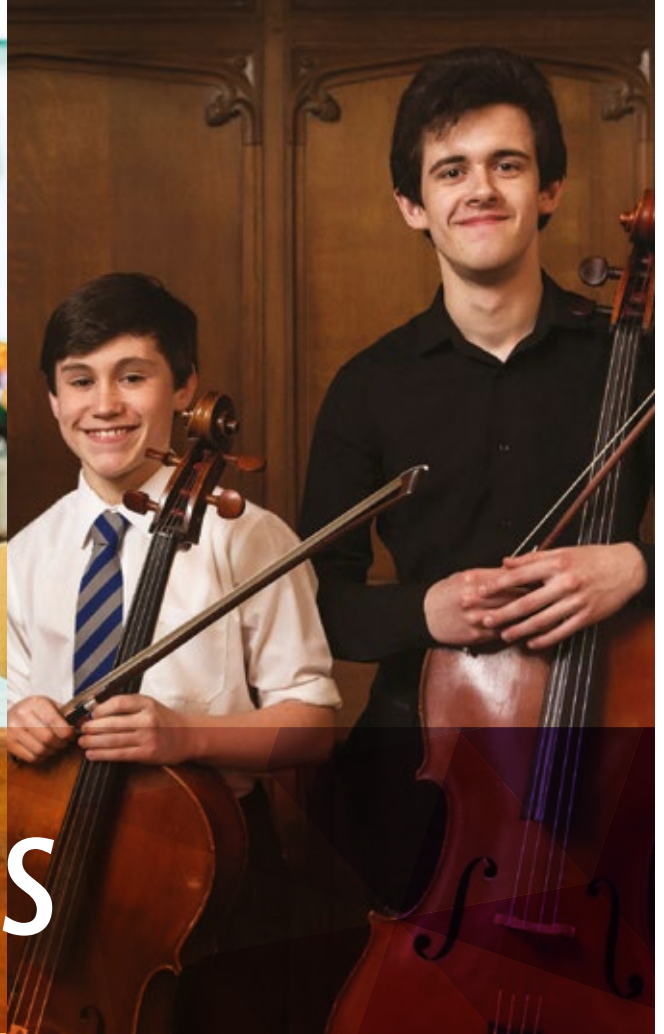




St Mary's Music School
EDINBURGH



Prospectus



Welcome

Contents

Welcome 1, Our Values 2, Our Aims 3, Music Education 4, Choristers 18, Edinburgh 22,
General Education 24, Boarding 26, Entrance Auditions 28, Fees 29, Outreach 30, Fundraising 32.

“St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh enables young musicians to excel in a safe and supportive culture that is creative, inclusive and committed. We are Scotland's only specialist independent music school and also its only choir school, selecting pupils for their musical promise, regardless of means, with up to full financial support available.

Our school is a small, dedicated and energetic centre of learning where we are continually inspired by our surroundings, by the accomplishment amongst us and by the superb teachers who deliver unrivalled tuition both musical and academic to the pupils, from the ages of 9 to 19 (with entry for young instrumentalists possible at any stage). The school was first established in 1880 to educate the choristers of the newly built St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, and that link remains very firmly in place. From 1972, in addition to the choristers, young instrumentalists, composers and singers began to attend the school, and today, as a centre of musical excellence, we welcome pupils from across Scotland and beyond. At the end of their time with us, most of our leavers embark on further music education at conservatoires in the UK and abroad; our alumni number some very distinguished names in the world of music.

I hope this prospectus will give you some insight into our school, which prides itself not just on its musical training, but on the high calibre of its academic teaching and the way in which we nurture and support the development of each and every one of our pupils to be the very best they can be, in every aspect of their lives. Above all, St Mary's Music School resounds not just with the sound of music practice and choral rehearsal, but with conversation, laughter and applause for achievement of every kind.”

Dr Kenneth Taylor

Headteacher,
BSc Hons, PhD, PGCE, PG Dip





Our Values

Our purpose is to enable our young musicians to excel in a safe and supportive culture that is creative, inclusive and committed.

- **Creative** – fostering new and expressive work through inspiration, imagination and reflection
- **Inclusive** – helpful and cooperative within our community, welcoming and respectful to all
- **Committed** – dedicated to our work, responsible and reliable

Our Aims

- To provide specialist music education to exceptionally gifted young musicians and the choristers of St Mary's Cathedral
- To contribute to the cultural life of Scotland and internationally
- To encourage applications from all pupils with the potential to benefit from a supportive specialist musical education
- To develop every element of a pupil's education: musical, academic and personal, to the highest of standards
- To encourage confidence, self-esteem, self-discipline and self-awareness
- To prepare and support pupils socially and professionally for the future
- To promote engagement with the wider community through our outreach programme



Music Education

Instrumental Learning

Our focus is on one-to-one instrumental lessons with specialist professional musicians, many of whom combine teaching with their performing careers. These intensive sessions, which are designed to improve technique and musicianship, introduce repertoire, develop expression and encourage personal interpretation. Pupils receive up to two hours per week on their principal study. The Director of Music is responsible for matching pupils with teachers.

The full range of orchestral instruments is offered, along with voice, organ, clarsach, accordion, recorder, bagpipes and composition, but any instrument would be considered. In addition, all pupils study a second instrument on which they will be given either a half hour or an hour's lesson. One of the studies should be piano or another harmony instrument.

Practising is scheduled each day to run alongside the regular timetable. A particular feature at St Mary's Music School is the allocation of a coach-accompanist with whom a pupil works each week throughout the course of the Senior School. A weekly performance class provides an ideal opportunity for peer evaluation and discussion, while the final hour of the week covers a range of Performance Practice related topics, from instrument maintenance to audition preparation tips and exploring the importance of breathing, relaxation techniques and posture. The latter is also covered by Alexander Technique sessions which are offered when required.



Academic Music

Pupils study Music Theory, Harmony & Counterpoint, Form & Analysis and History of Music throughout. Aural sessions and Listening are part of the rhythm of each day; Composition and Improvisation also play significant roles. Senior pupils undertake rigorous public exams and are encouraged to study towards and beyond Grade 8 Theory and Practical Musicianship. As singing is an excellent way of developing the ear, every pupil participates in Choir on a weekly basis.

Composition

Under the guidance of resident composer Tom David Wilson, the writing of new music is an exciting and thriving element of life at St Mary's Music School. Our Vice-President Sir James MacMillan is a regular visitor to the school, giving talks and workshops on various aspects of composition. Students of composition are expected to rehearse and conduct their work as well as record and present it online. We promote the Isobel Dunlop Composition Award which draws distinguished supporters and judges including, most recently, Stuart MacRae, alongside author Alexander McCall Smith, Sebastian Forbes and Master of the Queen's Music Judith Weir.

The school has commissioned and performed works from composers based in Scotland and beyond, and the Cathedral Choir has long been at the forefront of commissioning and recording works from leading composers. Established composers John De Simone, Helen Grime, David Horne, Liam Paterson and Alasdair Spratt are alumni of the school.







Ensembles

Our ensembles include a large Chamber Orchestra and a String Ensemble which is especially prestigious and develops the best senior string players in the school. Other active groups include Early Music groups, Junior Sinfonia, Brass Ensemble, Wind Ensembles currently including Saxophone, Clarinet and Flute Ensembles, a Scottish Traditional Group, Jazz Combo and Guitar Ensemble.

Every pupil is encouraged to experience small-scale ensemble playing as an important part of their musical education. This is reflected in our curriculum where Chamber Music is specifically timetabled, with three hours scheduled for senior pupils, half of which is tutored.

Pupils also play regularly in youth orchestras such as Edinburgh Youth Orchestra, National Children's Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland, Tommy Smith Youth Jazz Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. Singers regularly participate in the Scottish Opera Connect programme and some also sing in National Youth Choirs of Scotland.

St Mary's Music School encourages traditional Scottish music and improvisation and the timetable makes provision for monthly Jazz Days.



Assessments and Competitions

Pupils are formally assessed on technical matters, performance recitals and presentation throughout their time at St Mary's Music School, except in their final year when the focus shifts to conservatoire/university auditions and public performance.

Pupils participate in competitions, local, national and international and take ABRSM exams to gain experience and as a measure of progress. Our pupils have gained considerable success in high profile contests such as the BBC Young Musician of the Year and the BBC Jazz and Folk Awards along with the Moray Piano Competition, British Flute Society Competition and the Royal National Mòd. Pupils often work towards the Diploma of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.







Performance Opportunities

At St Mary's Music School, pupils gain experience and confidence by performing in public; indeed we believe it is an important element of their development as instrumentalists and singers. Weekly concerts are given in the Cathedral Chancel and at the Edinburgh Society of Musicians during term-time. There are lunchtime concerts in school as well as formal school concerts in prestigious Edinburgh venues such as The Queen's Hall and the city centre churches. Our pupils play for many civic occasions, in front of royalty and in the Scottish Parliament, and give frequent concerts for outside organisations and many charities.

We are lucky at St Mary's Music School to have made a number of recordings and broadcasts, with chamber music and orchestral concerts recorded and broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland and BBC Radio 2 and Radio 3. BBC Television has filmed at the school in connection with BBC Young Musician of the Year. The choristers are heard regularly via radio and television and through the many CD recordings of the choir, several of which are to be found as *Gramophone* magazine recommendations.



Masterclasses

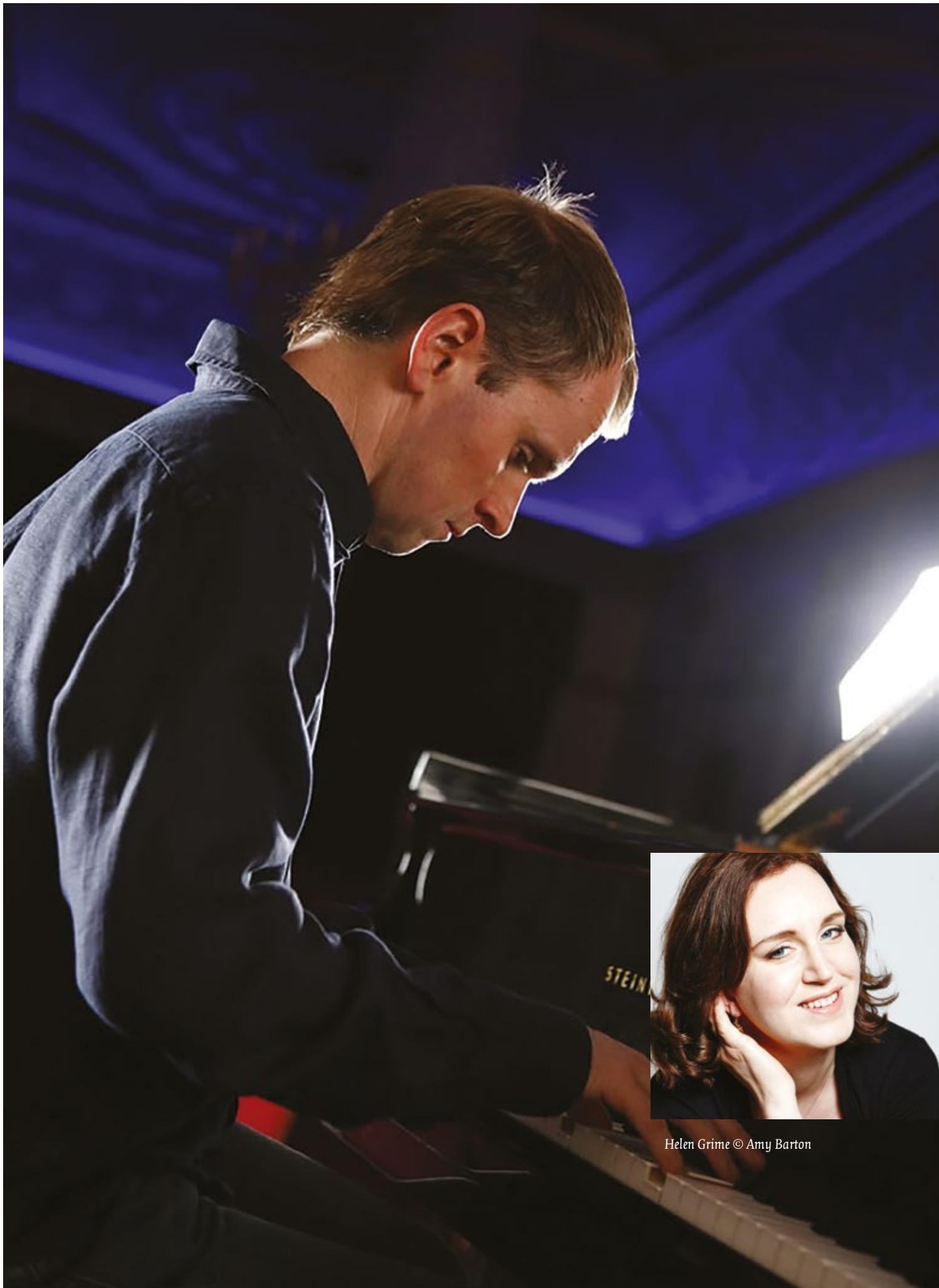
Our programme of masterclasses with distinguished visitors is a central part of our teaching. All pupils either participate in or attend these workshops. Recent roll calls include François Leleux, Martin Roscoe, Helen Krizos, John Wallace, Paul Harris, Sheila Gordon, Jenn Butterworth, with workshops and assessments led by Heads of Departments from British Conservatoires.

Each session, the school promotes the prestigious Nigel Murray Masterclass, on a three-year cycle of piano, violin and cello. We extend the invitation to teachers, to pupils and to other schools. In the past four years we have been honoured to receive world-famous musicians Steven Isserlis, Felix Andrievsky, Joanna MacGregor and Nicola Benedetti.

We have also greatly enjoyed welcoming established musicians such as Susan Tomes, David Watkin and former pupils Simon Smith and Steven Osborne who have on occasion come into school to try out new programmes on a receptive, critical audience.







Steven Osborne © Benjamin Ealovega

Helen Grime © Amy Barton

Careers

Almost every pupil goes on to Higher Education, with by far the majority studying music and entering the music profession. Our dedicated Careers Teacher liaises with music colleges and universities and with academic and instrumental staff to identify the best prospects for each leaver.

Many former pupils have enjoyed success in important national and international competitions and are now pursuing music careers all over the world, including guitarist Paul Galbraith, pianists Steven Osborne and Simon Smith, composers Helen Grime and David Horne, jazz pianist Alan Benzie, soprano Susan Hamilton, mezzo-soprano Monica Brett-Crowther, cellist Philip Higham, conductor Garry Walker, broadcaster and writer Kate Molleson, harpist Emily Hoile and violinist Daniel Roberts. The comedian, actor and television presenter Alexander Armstrong was a chorister at the school.



Alexander Armstrong © David Scheinmann



Garry Walker © Jack Liebeck 2014



Alan Benzie © William Ellis

Choristers



Described by Gramophone magazine as “**one of Scotland’s (indeed the UK’s) musical jewels**”, the Choir of St Mary’s Cathedral enjoys an international reputation. The girl and boy choristers all attend St Mary’s Music School and at the heart of their work is singing for the daily services. St Mary’s Cathedral is unique in Scotland in maintaining a daily choral tradition and in 1978 it became the first cathedral in the UK to offer girls bursaries to sing with the boys as trebles.

Cathedral Life

The daily routine of a chorister is certainly demanding, and the standard required exacting, but performing at this high level every day brings tremendous rewards and satisfaction, developing a superb sense of team spirit. The choristers’ timetable is carefully monitored and a robust and enthusiastic individual usually relishes the chorister experience. The school website gives an informative glimpse into a typical day in the life of a chorister.

Singing at an occasion such as the Christmas Carol Service, a live radio broadcast, and working and meeting with world-renowned composers are unforgettable experiences for a chorister and provide an unrivalled foundation for a lifetime’s enjoyment of music. The discipline fostered by chorister life, together with the ability to concentrate and focus for long periods of time at a young age, are a fantastic training for any future profession.

Chorister Instrumental Tuition

Choristers starting at St Mary’s Music School learn one instrument in school time. As they progress up the school, a second instrument may be taken up in the first year of the Senior School. Regular singing lessons are provided and all choristers are taught Music Theory and Composition and are given performing opportunities both in and out of school.

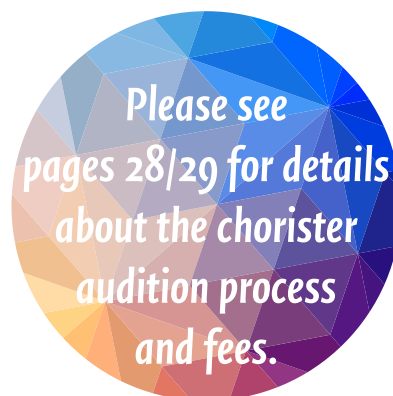
St Mary's Cathedral Choir Touring and Recording

The choir is well known for working closely with numerous leading contemporary composers, commissioning, performing and recording new choral works, and is also acclaimed for its many appearances on BBC Radio 3, Radio 4 and Radio Scotland, including live broadcasts of Choral Evensong. International tours are regularly undertaken and the choir has visited France, Hungary, Norway, Germany, the USA and Canada, Taiwan and Japan. The opportunity to perform around the world is one of the many highlights of singing in St Mary's Cathedral Choir.

In 2016 the choir released a disc of Stravinsky's choral music with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra to critical acclaim. Other recent recordings which have covered music from the 16th to the 21st centuries have all won widespread praise in the press, including earning Editor's Choice in one or more specialist music magazines.

Moving on

Choristers normally start in P5 (age 9-10) and commit to remain in the choir until the end of S2 (age 13-14). Choristers then either leave St Mary's Music School to complete their secondary education elsewhere (choristers regularly win music scholarships to independent schools) or audition for an instrumentalist place at the school.







Edinburgh

Artistic and cultural life thrives all year round in Edinburgh.



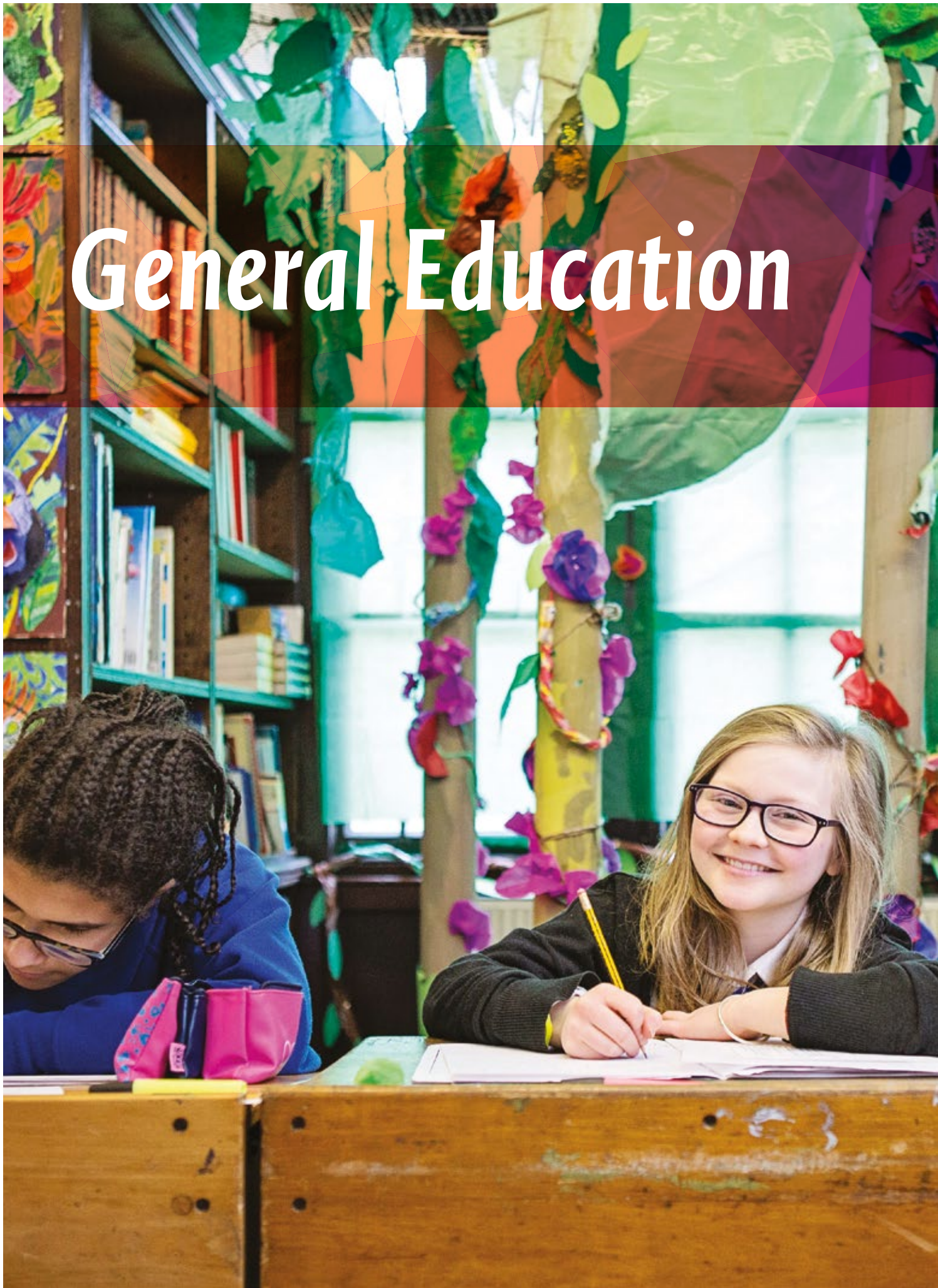
Festival City of Music

Our beautiful city of Edinburgh, one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites, is a captivating mix of elegant Georgian architecture in the New Town, medieval lanes and cobbled streets in the Old Town, and an inimitable sense of atmosphere and vibrancy throughout the city, especially during the month of August when the Edinburgh International Festival and Edinburgh Festival Fringe dominate the city with hundreds, if not thousands of performances and events.

Artistic and cultural life thrives all year round in Edinburgh. Musically the city offers some splendid venues including the grand Usher Hall which is on our doorstep and The Queen's Hall close by, enabling our pupils to hear outstanding soloists and orchestras (including Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Hebrides Ensemble, Scottish Ensemble and Dunedin Consort, all of whom support our work) as well as specialised baroque and contemporary ensembles and live opera. The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is just 50 minutes away in Glasgow.



General Education



General Education

We are a specialist music school but our academic reputation is also strong, and we provide an excellent all-round education whatever the age of the pupil.

Younger children receive a broad-based curriculum in the early years, and as pupils progress through the school (entry for instrumentalists can be at any stage), a more flexible and individually tailored approach develops – a real advantage of our smaller size.

Our classes follow Scottish Government guidelines in line with the Curriculum for Excellence; primary pupils are taught mainly by primary class teachers while senior pupils in S1 (age 12 or 13) and above are taught by subject specialists. Pupils study for SQA National Qualifications in S4 and will usually take a Modern Language, a Social Subject and a Science, in addition to Mathematics and English which are compulsory, as is Music, where the pupils are presented for iGCSE in preparation for the Cambridge Pre-U qualification.

In S5 and S6, Scottish Highers followed by Advanced Highers (both one year courses) are taken, and our policy of flexible timetabling and a structured points system mean there can be some leeway in subject choice and timing.

For detailed information about national examinations and subject choices from S3 and above, please see the school website.

Examination results are consistently excellent. Although most of our pupils proceed to Higher Education to study music, we are careful to ensure that pupils wishing to pursue other options have the necessary qualifications. Each year we usually have pupils applying to Oxford or Cambridge with a high degree of success while others regularly gain scholarships to conservatoires both at home and abroad.



Boarding



Boarding at St Mary's Music School

Around 35 instrumental pupils board at St Mary's Music School, which at present equates to just over a third of our numbers. Our boarding house is a warm and friendly environment for our residential pupils, with comfortable, mostly shared bedrooms (two per room) over two floors, a common room and small kitchen, boarders' sitting room and most importantly, a sense of home from home with a high pastoral staff to pupil ratio. There are four permanent members of staff: the boarding house manager, deputy manager, and two full-time house parents, as well as six part-time house parents, so our boarders are very well looked after and enjoy all the fun of learning and living in the heart of Edinburgh.

Healthy menus, after-school activities and plenty of pastoral support ensure a happy boarding community. After the normal school day, boarders have access to all the practice rooms and can also visit a local leisure centre with gym and pool. Other boarding activities can include baking, movie evenings, arts and crafts, games and themed evenings. At 6pm the boarders receive their evening meal and then participate in supervised prep. These sessions provide support to pupils with their homework. At 8pm a supper snack is served and then there is free time until bed.

On the weekends, the pupils enjoy longer lie-ins and more free time to practise, socialise with friends or return home.



ENTRANCE AUDITIONS

Instrumentalists

Entry to the school is by audition and assessment, based on musical ability and potential. Auditions are held three times a year in October/November, January/February and April. Applications may be submitted at any point during the session.

Advisory Auditions

Advisory Auditions are arranged throughout the year on a monthly basis and are highly recommended before a formal application is submitted. These short, relaxed auditions are an ideal way to test the water and receive swift and constructive feedback as to whether a child would benefit from a specialist music environment. Simply contact the School Office directly to arrange an initial advisory audition.

Choristers

Auditions for St Mary's Cathedral Choir are usually held three times a year, ideally at P3 or P4 stage (roughly aged 7-9 years), although older pupils are considered. We look for a quick mind, a good sense of pitch and rhythm, a clear voice and usually some experience of learning a musical instrument. Candidates just need to bring a simple song to sing, anything from a hymn or carol or a song they have learnt at their current school.

If successful at audition, they then undertake a year's probationary training, three times a week, before entering the school at P5, after which they are admitted as full choristers and as day pupils at St Mary's Music School. Under this system, our choristers are introduced gradually to cathedral life, so that the transition to St Mary's Music School is effected smoothly.

The Cathedral's Organist and Master of the Music, Duncan Ferguson, is delighted to answer questions or to hear a prospective candidate at any stage. Parents and children are encouraged to come and hear the Cathedral Choir before applying. Enquiries may be made through the Cathedral Office (9.30 – 12.30) by telephoning 0131 225 6293 or through the School Office. You can also email the Master of the Music on music@cathedral.net

FEES

It is a fundamental principle of St Mary's Music School that our world-class music training should be offered to gifted children regardless of their financial status or background. To this end, all of our pupils and choristers receive financial assistance appropriate to their means. We are fortunate to be supported by the Scottish Government, the Cathedral, trusts and donors; please see our website for more about our fundraising and supporters.

Instrumental Fees

The vast majority of instrumental pupils at St Mary's Music School are eligible to be supported by the generous provisions of the Aided Places Scheme, funded by the Scottish Government, or by the school itself.

Chorister Fees

Chorister places at St Mary's Music School carry either a Cathedral Bursary, covering around 50% of the fees, or one of a limited number of Scottish Government Aided Places.

For full information on current fees and the Aided Places Scheme, please see the school website.



Class of 2017, the whole school in front of St Mary's Cathedral

Outreach



In addition to our full-time programme, we offer music classes on Saturdays and also a Pathways to Music Specialism Scheme which is aimed at older students who wish to study for an advanced music qualification on a part-time basis.

Saturday Music Classes

Our long-established and very popular Saturday Music Classes for children aged 4 - 14 take place during term time. In a safe and caring social environment, some 150 local children discover the wonders of music, helped by experienced staff, all highly qualified in working with children through the arts. The emphasis is on having fun, while engaging young children in the magic of music-making.

Pathways to Music Specialism for post-Higher students

Our Part-time Pathways to Music Specialism scheme offers specialist music opportunities to a small number of post-Higher instrumentalists, singers and composers who intend to apply for a music course at university or music college and want to gain further qualifications or training. Some Pathways students attend while still at other schools; others come to us during a gap year between school and Higher Education.

Further information about Saturday Music Classes and the Pathways to Music Specialism Scheme can be found on our website, www.stmarysmusicschool.co.uk





Fundraising

Your support is vital to realising the potential of Scotland's young musicians.

Support Us

St Mary's Music School is Scotland's only specialist independent music school, where the criteria for entry are musical ability and potential.

The vast majority of our students benefit from the Scottish Government Aided Places Scheme, Cathedral Scholarships or School Bursaries.

School Bursaries are funded from donations and the Endowment Fund, providing musically gifted young people the opportunity to develop in the best environment possible, regardless of financial circumstances.

There are currently 80 pupils at the school, and in addition the Saturday Music Classes programme enables a further 150 local children to discover the rewards of making music. Our outreach and masterclasses reach over 1,000 aspiring young musicians across Scotland, and our concerts are attended by pupils, parents, families, and those who simply love music.

Annually the school raises funds for bursaries, masterclasses, outreach, instruments and specialist teaching that enhances the student experience.

Our supporters can give in various ways through:

- The Friends and Donors Programme
- The Patrons and Bursary Fund
- A Legacy to the Endowment Fund
- Trusts and Foundations

We need your support now! To help support St Mary's Music School, please contact the Development Office on 0131 538 7766 or email development@st-marys-music-school.co.uk



Friends

Join us as a Friend and help provide vital support to develop the next generation of musicians, and be part of St Mary's Music School's exciting journey of musical development.

As a Friend, you will receive information about our concerts and special events that take place throughout the year, such as student-organised performances, as well as staff and visiting musician masterclasses.

Now is an exciting time to become a Friend and be part of our promising future to grow pupil numbers, extend our outreach programmes and to be a new performance space for Edinburgh.

Please complete the GIVING FORM available to download from our website www.stmarysmusicschool.co.uk or in paper form from the School Office to make a contribution.

Patrons

Patrons contribute to the Bursary Fund that helps to define St Mary's Music School as Scotland's national music school by providing key support in the development of a pupil.

The need for bursaries has never been as important as it is today. Many of our pupils would simply be unable to take up a place at St Mary's Music School without the help of Patrons. This support can change the course of a young person's life and set them on the road to realising their musical ambitions.

Contributions from £5,000 a year are sought for a minimum of 3 years, enabling a pupil to progress through the school. Support is directed through our music faculties, so that the anonymity of the pupil is preserved.

Bursaries can assist Brass, Choral, Keyboard, Strings and Woodwind pupils.

Perfect Harmony

Now is an exciting time to be involved with the school. In partnership with the Royal High School Preservation Trust the school is campaigning to relocate to the former Royal High School on Calton Hill. This development would provide the school with state of the art teaching and rehearsal facilities as well as a 280 seat concert hall, enhancing the pupil experience and expanding our outreach. This move would reinforce our status as Scotland's national music school.



Legacies

If you are inspired by music and want to make an impact on future generations of talented young musicians, we hope that you will consider a legacy gift to St Mary's Music School.

With your legacy, the school can continue to be at the forefront of music education in Scotland.

There are many different kinds of legacies, the most common being a gift of money (pecuniary), all or part of the net residue of your estate (residuary) and non-monetary items. You could also nominate St Mary's Music School as a beneficiary of your pension fund if you have no dependants.

As the school is a registered charity (SC014611), a legacy to St Mary's Music School is tax free in most instances and will reduce any inheritance tax burden on your estate. We recommend that you seek professional legal advice to guide you through the process of leaving a gift in your Will.

We would like to thank you personally for your support, so please let us know if you have remembered, or intend to remember, St Mary's Music School in your Will.

Trusts and Foundations

Trusts and Foundations support a range of needs, from bursaries to special projects, that enhance the student experience.

We welcome the opportunity to speak with trustees to establish partnerships to enable the delivery of the highest quality education to realise the potential of our pupils.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact the
Development Office
St Mary's Music School
Coates Hall
25 Grosvenor Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 5EL

Tel: 0131 538 7766
or email: development@st-marys-music-school.co.uk

St Mary's Music School Trust Limited is a charity, number SC014611
Registered in Scotland number 54504
Registered Office: Coates Hall, 25 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EL
Tel: 0131 538 7766

All images and texts © St Mary's Music School 2017 unless otherwise stated

 Please recycle responsibly

Please follow us:





St Mary's Music School
EDINBURGH

Coates Hall

25 Grosvenor Crescent

Edinburgh EH12 5EL

Tel: 0131 538 7766

www.stmarysmusicschool.co.uk