

Take Note!

Welcome to the Renfrewshire Music Service Newsletter!

Welcome to the very first edition of 'Take Note'!

Read on through this term's newsletter to hear about a range of exciting activities and

Arkleston Primary 4 drum up a storm through 'widening access'!



musical goings on throughout the Renfrewshire Instrumental Music Service (IMS).

Each term we hope to bring you the latest news celebrating the successes of our young musi-

cians in schools, communities and showcasing their contributions nationally.

This first edition will introduce you to some the exciting projects that are currently taking place both within the Youth Music Initiative (YMI) programme funded by Creative Scotland and through the IMS. Read on to hear about projects in your area including traditional music, jazz, and African drumming. To hear about some of the outstanding achievements of our young musicians, please check out our back page!

Don't forget to keep an eye on the 'what's on' column to find out about musical events all over Renfrewshire. If you are working on a musical project or would like to tell the world

about achievements by pupils or colleagues and you would like to tell your story in our next newsletter, please contact my colleague Emma Anderson on 0141 840 8925 or emma.anderson@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Want to hear more about the diverse opportunities that our music service can offer? Why not check out our web content: <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/ilwcm/publishing.nsf/Content/els-jg-musicEnsemble>

James Cunningham
Music Co-ordinator.

Widening Access: report by Abigail Wilson (S4 Paisley Grammar School)

The "Widening Access" scheme has been introduced in consultation with Creative Scotland in order to widen access to music for pupils of all ages. Renfrewshire is providing this programme using funding from Creative Scotland's 'Youth Music Initiative'

The volume of applications has been overwhelming, but the first grants have now been

made, with an 'African Drumming' partnership between Arkleston Primary and Renfrew High School Music department being one of the first to start. Staff from Renfrew High School led the activity with help from staff from Arkleston Primary and pupils from Renfrew High.

The Renfrewshire YMI team were lucky enough to see the project in action on 28th Octo-

ber (see picture above) as pupils prepared for their performance on 8th Nov.

Abigail Wilson/EA

N.B. A wide range of projects have been funded to date—watch this space for information about projects involving everything from music technology to ukulele!

Dates for your Diary

14th December: Gleniffer High School Carol Concert. Tickets: 01505 813116.

15th: St Benedict's High School Concert: tickets from school office: 01505 327500

15th December: St Andrew's Academy Christmas Concert. Tickets from School office: 0141 887 5201

Monday 19th December: Castlehead school concert. Tickets available from school: 0141 887 5411

20th December: Gryffe High School Christmas Concert. Tickets from School office: 01505 690633

Inside this issue:

Ceilidh Band	2
Jazz Orchestra	2
ABRSM/TG Exams	2
Internal Exams	3
Pipe Band	3
Heriot Concert	3
Pupil Achievements!	4

Violinists in action at our 2011 Spring Concert Series in Paisley Town Hall



Following last year's outstanding response to our traditional music, the Ceilidh Band resumed rehearsals on 10th October, once again as part of Renfrewshire's Youth Music Initiative portfolio. All of our YMI activities are made possible through the continuing support of Creative Scotland.

A wide range of musicians take part in the group, including some who have never had formal music tuition outside of the school curriculum before, and this year's intake is testament to the growth in popularity of this

group.

The YMI Development Officers are receiving enquiries about performance availability of this group on a regular basis, and the group looks set to become a showcase for Renfrewshire's musical talent for years to come. Forthcoming events include the 'Alternative Burns Night' fundraiser for the 2013 Mòd which will be held in Paisley not to mention our own spring Concert series.

Rehearsals are taken by specialist instructors and take place on

Monday evenings for an hour and a half in Paisley Grammar Music Department. Rehearsals started in the 10th of October. New members of any age from around grade 3 standard upwards are welcome: Please contact Emma Anderson on 0141 840 8925 or email:emma.anderson@renfrewsire.gov.uk

Abigail Wilson/EA

Jazz Orchestra: Project Report by Paula O'Malley (S4 Paisley Grammar School)

Last year, Renfrewshire started a new project, where staff from Strathclyde Youth Jazz Orchestra and Strathclyde University coached secondary school pupils the basics of jazz notation and improvisation.

The first rehearsal was really different to what we are used to as most school pupils were used to reading music from a page.

Our conductor, Mr Forbes, got the pupils to echo the notes he was playing on his saxophone. The following week, Mr Forbes started teaching us how to 'solo' Before we knew it, he was asking pupils to play solos of 16 bars in length.

After only 7 rehearsals, the group took part in two fantastic performances, firstly as part of

the Spring Concert series and then in a Side-by-side event with Strathclyde Youth Jazz Orchestra at Renfrew High School.

Paula O'Malley

Jazz band will be starting up again shortly, so watch this space for further information!

"The enthusiasm shown by Renfrewshire's young musicians in playing jazz music and improvising was overwhelming"

Stewart Forbes: conductor.

External Exam Success for Renfrewshire's Musicians!



We are grateful to Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative for supporting so many of our projects.

Once again, the Instrumental Music Service (IMS) had a 100% pass rate for external graded exams. A number of IMS pupils sit graded exams each year and while most teachers enter their pupils individually, Renfrewshire IMS also organizes a special large entry visit each summer. At this year's Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) event around 25 pupils were examined. Several teach-

ers also organised their own small visits from both ABRSM and Trinity-Guildhall. Pupils were entered in a range of instrumental disciplines with entry levels ranging from Grade 2 to the highest graded level, Grade 8. For those of you not in the know, external exam grades fit with the school curriculum as follows:

Grade 3: SQA Standard Grade

Grade 4: SQA Higher

Grade 5: Advanced Higher

Grade 7/8: Usual minimum for university entrance for Music courses.

Passes at grades 6-8 can also be counted as qualifications for university/college entrance

Your child's teacher will be able to advise you if you would like

Internal Exams Pilot Project

Renfrewshire Instrumental Music Service has been developing an 'internal' examination system over the last year, with the pilot session taking place in June.

The aim of the project is to allow children to participate in exams similar to those offered by external bodies. The advantages of this are numerous, and include giving children the opportunity to become exposed to formal performance situations well before they face them in the context of formal school examinations.

Five children took part in the

initial pilot project, sitting exams at grade 1-3 level on woodwind and percussion Instruments. The results were excellent, with our examiners matching ABRSM almost exactly.

Exams were conducted by a pair of examiners, one specialist, one non-specialist. The project also provided an excellent professional development opportunity for IMS staff through sessions relating to materials selection, accompanying and examiner training. The exams were a great success, and the IMS is

once again very grateful to Gleniffer High School for providing both a venue and an accompanist!

We anticipate that internal exams will be offered again in the coming year. Pupils and parents who would like further information should speak to their child's teacher.

Pipe Band

Many readers will remember that several years ago, Renfrewshire's YMI team invested heavily in a partnership with Paisley Pipe Band. Children from schools all over Renfrewshire who had never played an instrument before were provided with free instruments through Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative, with the band providing expert tuition free of charge to

the project participants.

The band has been a regular feature in the local press and has enjoyed success at competitions all over the country, as well as national and even international events.

The original recruits have now reached the age where they move on to adult bands, and while

they will be sadly missed, the YMI team will shortly be looking for new recruits.

Information about recruitment will be distributed through school music departments early next term, so watch this space!

Cluster Concert Success at Heriot Primary!

Pupils from four primary schools got their first taste of public performance in June, taking part in a cluster concert held in Heriot Primary School. P6 and P7 woodwind and percussion pupils from Heriot, Lochfield, Brediland and St.John Ogilvie Primary schools had been preparing since before Easter in their individual schools and most had never played in an ensemble outside of their own school be-

fore. In addition, some had only been playing since October. This, then, was a leap in the dark for most of them and one which was not without its risks; due to pressure of time and other commitments, the first full rehearsal was in fact the only full rehearsal! Senior pupils from Gleniffer High School, Paisley Grammar and Trinity High School provided mentoring and support as the band performed spirited

and confident renditions of "Dom Pah Pah", "The Entertainer" and "Montego Bay." Eilidh Murphy and Cameron Lyle from Brediland performed their Grade 3 pieces and the Gleniffer pupils provided an item of their own. The evening ended with an encore of "The Entertainer" and enthusiastic applause of proud parents and teachers!



Some of our talented young players from our YMI funded traditional music initiative!

"My son started the pipes at the beginning of the initiative and has now moved to a grade 3a band who are European Champions and Champion of Champions 2010 and 2011 in their grade. Without this scheme he would probably never have taken up piping - now I can't imagine life without it!"
Parent.

Paisley Junior Pipe Band with a selection of their trophies!



To find out more about our Music Service, please go to: <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/ilwwcm/publishing.nsf/Content/els-jg-musicEnsembles>

Achievements: Summer Term 2010-11

ABRSM Exams

Grade 2:

Megan McFadzean (flute)
Eryn Haywood (flute) both Gryffe,
Robert Pollock (clarinet) Paisley Grammar.

Grade 3:

Eilidh Murphy (clarinet)
Cameron Lyle (clarinet) both Brediland Primary.
David Canavan (flute)
Andrew Orr (clarinet)
Jordan Edgar (clarinet) All Paisley Grammar.
Bryony Lovett (flute)
Hannah Ross (flute) both Gryffe.

Grade 4:

Jenna MacFarlane (clarinet)
Megan Brawley (clarinet) both Gryffe.
Louise Lynch (sax)
Rachel Elliot (sax)
Jennifer Stewart (oboe) all Paisley Grammar.
Monika McNeill (oboe) Gleniffer
Lauren O'Malley (percussion) Paisley Grammar. **Grade 5:**

Yvonne Stillie (clarinet) Gleniffer
Duncan Webb (sax) Gryffe.

Grade 6:

Dawn Thomson (oboe) Gleniffer.

Grade 8:

Mr. E. Gibb (percussion) teaching assistant at Gleniffer High School.

Internal Exams

Grade 1:

Lauryn Scott (Percussion), St John Ogilvie Primary.

Beth Thomas (flute), St John Ogilvie Primary.

Grade 2:

Matthew Wilson (clarinet) Gleniffer High School.

Grade 3:

Eilidh Murphy (clarinet)
Cameron Lyle (clarinet) both Brediland Primary.

Trinity Guildhall Exams

Grade 1:

Sarah Cunningham (violin) Wallace Primary.

Grade 4

Lauren Easton (flute) Renfrew High School.

National Youth Orchestra of Scotland

Charles Dunn and **Rachel Elliott** (both violin, Paisley Grammar) were accepted for the NYoS training programme

SYJD Jazz School

Paula O'Malley (percussion)
Lauren O'Malley (percussion) both Paisley Grammar School.
Euan Lyons (Drums) Johnstone High School.
Graeme Docherty (clarinet)
Harry Weir (sax)
Martin Wilcox (sax)
All Gleniffer High School.

National Youth Wind Ensemble of Scotland

David Stirrat (Percussion) St Andrew's Academy
Dawn Thompson (Oboe) Gleniffer High School

West of Scotland Schools Symphony Orchestra and Band:

Kelly Chan (violin) Paisley Grammar

Blair Collins (trumpet) Paisley Grammar

Grace Cummings (trumpet) Castlehead
Miriam Donald
Charles Dunn (violin) Paisley Grammar
Rachel Elliot (violin) Paisley Grammar School
Mark Habo (sax) Trinity High
Jenna MacFarlane (clarinet) Gryffe
Ciara McPherson (Eb Horn) Castlehead
Paula O'Malley (Percussion) Paisley Grammar
Alexandra Weir (clarinet) Renfrew High

Royal Conservatoire Junior School: New admissions

Charles Dunn (violin)
Lauren O'Malley (percussion) both Paisley Grammar

University and Music College entrants

Erin Gilmour (percussion) formerly Paisley Grammar School to Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester.



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Wind quintet perform as Renfrewshire celebrate their success at the Local Government Awards