

# MEPG

## October 2020

### **Message from John**

We are all learning to cope with the situation we find ourselves in as music educators. I think we are all busier, but in different ways, than ever before, and the half-term break did not come a moment too soon for those working in the school systems.

The pace is hotting up again towards the end of this autumnal month and screen fatigue is something we are all having to guard against. MEPG are running a series of online training sessions for those of us who want to raise our skills levels online starting from now (list below). We are also running webinars through November on common concerns such as retention and recruitment in the interests of sharing ideas and initiatives.

We are continuing to prepare for the long term, post-Covid and the medium term Covid-recovery as well as the present emergency measures to thwart the overwhelming effects of the virus in all aspects of our society.

Music education does not seem to have the priority any of us would like. However we are straining every sinew to demonstrate the effects of music on the health and well-being of our young people to those in positions of responsibility for our common welfare, and MEPG are going to be running a sequence of doorstep carols and Christmas events to bring some cheer to what promises to be the most unusual Festive Season in recent history.

Keep up the great work everybody. The world needs you.

### **MEPG Youth Forum**



We were delighted to receive our MEPG Youth Forum badges which have been sent to our members.

# News from our Partners



We've been working hard at NYCOS to keep singing with our 2,500 participants and to encourage even more people to sing in Scotland and beyond. If you haven't seen it already, [please do watch our latest episode of NYCOS TV here](#). We've also posted an article all about our lockdown activities: <https://www.nycos.co.uk/keeping-scotland-singing/>.

The senior players from the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland have been working on a project with the Scottish Ensemble to perform Philip Glass: Symphony No. 3 - *A magical train ride fuelled by musical steam*.

Please see below for details.

<https://scottishensemble.co.uk/concert/philip-glass-symphony-no-3/>

**nyOS**

**National  
Youth Orchestras  
of Scotland**



Music Mark will be running its Annual Conference virtually this year. **Play On – the Music in Music Education** will focus on musical learning rather than about specific country curricula, strategy or policy. Click [here](#) to view details and how to book and [here](#) for a pdf of the full programme. We are delighted that Drake Scotland will be providing a session for us, and a lecturer from Aberdeen Uni will be speaking as part of the Voices Foundation session, but actually all the sessions will focus on ‘the music in music education’ and will be relevant to all music educators and leaders wherever they are based. The delegate ticket provides access to the live event on the 20<sup>th</sup> November (with 4 panel discussions, 8 webinars and two keynote speeches) as well as to the pre-recorded content which will be available from the 16<sup>th</sup> November and all the live content as recordings after the 20<sup>th</sup>. There is also an exhibition for delegates to explore populated by Music Mark’s corporate partners who will be keen to tell you about their new products and services to support your work. Everything will be housed on a microsite which will stay live for over 6 weeks, so you don’t actually need to be available on the 20<sup>th</sup> to attend. At a **special price for MEPG Scotland members of just £120 + Vat**, it’s great value for over 25 sessions to access as often as you would like to! Music Mark has been discussing this great opportunity for personal CPD with Creative Scotland who have made us aware of the YMI CPD and Training Fund which supports individuals, organisation and networks who work outwith school settings to undertake training and CPD. Book now, and find out more about the possibility of Creative Scotland support [here](#)



## Scottish Chamber Orchestra News

We had a wonderful time with 27 young musicians from all over Scotland at **VIBE Online** during the October holidays. Unusually, 85% were new to the project and to creative composition, and hailed from Dumfries & Galloway, Aberdeenshire, Argyll & Bute, Fife and across the central belt. Further courses are now in planning. [www.sco.org.uk/vibeonline](http://www.sco.org.uk/vibeonline)

**SCO Academy**, in partnership with St. Mary's Music School, returns with two free online courses in November for school-aged string and wind musicians who have reached Grade 7 or above. SCO String Academy is directed by SCO Violin Gordon Bragg and offers coaching to violin, viola, cello and double bass players, focusing this November on Shostakovich's *Chamber Symphony*. SCO Wind Academy is led by St Mary's Music School oboe teacher Fraser Kelman and is open to flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon and French horn players. This autumn's Wind Academy will focus on Farkas' *Early Hungarian Dances* and Arnold's *Three Shanties*, and there will be short masterclass opportunities for participants to work on their own choice of repertoire. Registration is open until Thursday 5 November - full details and sign-up can be found at [www.sco.org.uk/academy](http://www.sco.org.uk/academy)

This year's online **Masterworks** resources for upper secondary school music pupils have already been used by around 2000 pupils and teachers across the country and remain freely available online. Rachel Leach introduces the Scottish Chamber Orchestra's performance of Anna Clyne's *Sound and Fury*, conducted by Catherine Larsen-Maguire, and provides a detailed listening guide. The performance is supplemented by a suite of video resources designed to support listening, learning, and composing in the classroom. [www.sco.org.uk/soundfury](http://www.sco.org.uk/soundfury)

**Pictures at an Exhibition** is a partnership project with [caithnessmusic.com](http://caithnessmusic.com) which enables beginner and more advanced amateur orchestral musicians of all ages to continue making music 'with' our musicians online. Videos are published weekly and remain online for continuing use – we are now halfway through term 1 but newcomers are welcome to join in at any point. Term 2 will run from January to March 2021, leading to an online playthrough in April as well as local live events if circumstances allow. [www.sco.org.uk/pictures](http://www.sco.org.uk/pictures)



## News from St Mary's Music School

The autumn term has started well at St Mary's Music School, albeit in challenging circumstances with the blend of classroom teaching and online learning for some individual lessons.

Woodwind teaching has been particularly demanding but through some creative thinking we have been able to continue our teaching output and have even delivered a live concert with flautist and accompanist in separate rooms, with a sound relay and broadcast to the rest of the school on Zoom.

Live performance is such a critical part of what we do, not only to develop our pupils' skills but also to encourage them and stimulate their enthusiasm so we have been delighted that we have been able to attend a number of 'bubble' concerts, exclusively for our pupils and held in the Chancel of St Mary's Cathedral. Steven Osborne opened this series for us, and the joy of hearing live music once again had a real impact on us all.

Otherwise our Celebrity 6 Series, whereby eminent musicians have dialled in to hear pupils play and also to share their own insight and expertise has also been extremely well received. Angela Hewitt, Gautier Capuçon, Rachel Podger, Lorenza Borrani, Tommy Smith, Lorna McGhee all generously gave their time and for both pupils and staff it has been a real boost to encourage discourse and creativity in spite of the difficulties we are all facing. We are hoping to extend this programme in coming months and open events more widely.

Meanwhile we have been pleased with the success of our Virtual Open Days which have taken a webinar format of live presentations, pre-recorded material and live Q&As and the last in the series for this term will take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 9.15am with a Virtual Introduction to Being a Chorister taking place on the Friday afternoon 6<sup>th</sup> November. All are welcome and you can register at [www.stmarysmusicschool.co.uk/admissions/open-days](http://www.stmarysmusicschool.co.uk/admissions/open-days). As we develop our digital output, we will be shortly launching short online woodwind sessions led by Lis Dooner to help develop technique, particularly important for young wind players out there who are so frustrated at the shortage of opportunities available to them. Teachers and students are all welcome to join these free sessions.

And lastly, our partnership with Scottish Chamber Orchestra continues this term as the Wind Academy and String Academy also go digital. The Academies take place over three Sunday afternoons and begin in November. They are aimed at Grade 7 player and above. We are particularly keen on hearing from wind players, double bassists and bassoon players. Please do help spread the word about these superb opportunities, which are entirely free, to learn from the musicians of the SCO. Find out more at <https://www.sco.org.uk/join-in/all-projects/sco-string-academy>



# Celebrity 6 Series

FRIDAYS 3.30PM TO 4.30PM ON ZOOM

(The session with Gautier Capuçon will begin at 2.30pm)

The Celebrity 6 Series is an exclusive online programme which brings outstanding musicians together with St Mary's Music School pupils to combine music, insight and conversation. The Series is open to friends and alumni of St Mary's Music School by invitation.



**4 September**  
**Angela Hewitt** (*piano*)

One of the world's leading pianists, Angela appears in recitals and as a soloist with major orchestras throughout Europe, America, Australia and Asia. She has become established as one of the foremost interpreters of the music of JS Bach.



**11 September**  
**Gautier Capuçon** (*cello*)

A true 21st century ambassador for the cello, Gautier performs internationally with many of the world's leading conductors and instrumentalists. Founder and leader of the *Classe d'Excellence de Violoncelle* at the Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris and a multiple award winner, he is noted for his expressive musicianship and exuberant virtuosity.



**18 September**  
**Rachel Podger** (*violin*)

Rachel Podger has established herself as a leading interpreter of the Baroque and Classical music periods. She was the first woman to be awarded the prestigious Royal Academy of Music/Kohn Foundation Bach Prize in October 2015 and was named Gramophone Artist of the Year 2018. She is the founder and Artistic Director of Brecon Baroque Festival and her ensemble Brecon Baroque.



**25 September**  
**Lorenza Borrani** (*violin*)

Leader of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and artist in residence for both the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra and the Orchestra della Toscana, Lorenza's musical leadership skills have taken her around the world as both concert master and ensemble director as well as performing solo and chamber work. She is a co-founder of Spira mirabilis, described by *The Guardian* as "a transformative vision of what a symphony orchestra can be..."



**2 October**  
**Tommy Smith**  
(*jazz improvisation*)

Tommy Smith is a leading light in European jazz, first and foremost as one of the finest saxophonists of his generation, and latterly as the founder and current director of The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra (SNJO). These career-defining achievements are framed by his status as an international recording artist; a composer and arranger of extraordinary ambition; and not least, as a jazz educator.



**9 October**  
**Lorna McGhee** (*flute*)

Scottish-born Lorna McGhee was appointed principal flute of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in 2012 and is a highly sought-after teacher. Known for her "exceptionally rich and vibrant tone" (*Washington Post*) Lorna has performed as guest principal with Chicago Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, London Symphony, London Philharmonic, Academy of St-Martin-in-the-Fields and Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

[www.stmarysmusicschool.co.uk/events](http://www.stmarysmusicschool.co.uk/events)



**Edinburgh**

**Live Music Now Scotland begins a project with care homes, focusing on sounds from the natural world**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen the older people in our communities become more isolated than ever, with many finding themselves totally disconnected from their families and friends. We wanted to create a project that could bring social connection and joy during this most difficult time, and to find a way for the voices of isolated older people to be heard.

'City Sounds of Nature' is generously funded by the OneCity Trust and will allow care home residents to build a relationship with young professional musicians via online singing sessions. The idea for City Sounds of Nature came in the early stages of lockdown after many people found they could hear and enjoy the beautiful sounds of bird song, wind and rain, thanks to there being less traffic. The central theme of the project is therefore the natural world, and the outdoor connections and memories of the residents.

Launched at the beginning of October, Live Music Now Scotland singers Iona Fyfe, Hannah Rarity and Josie Duncan have been leading online music sessions with care homes in Edinburgh, where they've had a chance to sing together with the residents and chat about what the music evokes for them. These special memories will provide the inspiration for two brand new songs to be composed over the Winter by award-winning Scottish songwriter, Karine Polwart. The songs will then be arranged and recorded, and a video of the songs inspired by City Sounds of Nature will be shared in Spring 2021.

This special project aims to bring joy and comfort for the care home residents and their loved ones, the care home staff and the wider community during this most challenging time.

For audiences, including those living with dementia, it is widely evidenced that participating in music activities can be beneficial for mental and physical wellbeing as it lifts moods and decreases anxiety levels. Live Music Now Scotland's online concerts are a way of offering fairly paid performing opportunities to artists when their diaries continue to remain empty of live engagements.

*"It was such a pleasure to connect digitally with the care home and get the chance to have face-to-face conversations with residents as well as sing, albeit with the challenges of working online, it was still a total pleasure. At a time when we are all lonely, it really lifted my own spirits to get to sing and chat with residents and have some time to focus on getting to know others.*

*It was lovely to meet via Zoom with the other artists, Hannah, Josie and Karine. We had the chance to bounce song ideas off of each other which was brilliant!" – Iona Fyfe*

[www.livemusicnow.org.uk/scotland](http://www.livemusicnow.org.uk/scotland) [YouTube](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)  
[Vimeo](#)



# Events

## Online Training and Mentoring for Music Practitioners and Instructors

In conjunction with the Youth Music Initiative, MEPG are offering free training sessions and mentoring to support music teachers, instructors and freelance tutors in the delivery of online tuition. Training sessions will be led by professionals who are currently delivering online and most will offer a hands-on experience for attendees.

Sessions can be booked through Eventbrite and all sessions are free to attend. Additional funding is available to cover time spent attending sessions for freelance tutors. Please contact [mae.murray@mepgscotland.org](mailto:mae.murray@mepgscotland.org) if you have any difficulties booking or to enquire about having your attendance time reimbursed.

### Introductory training sessions

#### November

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1.00 – 3.00pm	An Introduction to MS Teams for those who have never used Teams before
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> 3.00 – 5.00pm	An Introduction to G Suite for those who have never used google G Suite before
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> 1.00 – 3.00pm	An Introduction to Zoom for those who have never used Zoom before
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> 3.00 – 5.00pm	An Introduction to Vscene for those who have never used Vscene before
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> 3.00 – 5.00pm	An Introduction to GLOW for those who have never used GLOW before

## Training sessions to support your teaching

### November

Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> 3.00 – 5.00pm	How to make a Video Session 1
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> 3.00 – 5.00pm	Virtual Group Music Teaching
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> 1.00 – 3.00pm	Music Making Online - Ideas, strategies and technology to help reach pupils with additional needs
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> 3.00 – 5.00pm	How to make a Video Session 2 – this will follow on from Session 1 on the 17 <sup>th</sup>
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> 3.00 – 5.00pm	Virtual Group Music Teaching – this will be a repeat of the session on the 18 <sup>th</sup>
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> 1.00 – 3.00pm	Music Making Online - Ideas, strategies and technology to help reach pupils with additional needs - this will follow on from Session 1 on the 19 <sup>th</sup>

### Advanced training sessions

### December

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> 3.00 – 5.00pm	Creative and Advanced use of MS Teams
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3.00 – 5.00pm	How to create a SWAY embedding resources including video
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> 3.00 – 5.00pm	Creative and Advanced use of G Suite
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> 3.00 – 5.00pm	Creative and Advanced use of Zoom
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> 3.00 – 5.00pm	Creative and Advanced use of Vscene

## MEPG Webinars

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 4.00 – 5.30pm **'Recruitment for Instrumental Music Teaching both in and out of school'**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 4.00 – 5.30pm – **'Sharing of experiences of face to face instrumental reaching'**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 4.00 – 5.30pm – **'Sharing of experiences of online instrumental reaching'**

**All webinars can be booked on Eventbrite**

## Musical Christmas Cards



*MEPG will host Musical Christmas Cards for the 17<sup>th</sup> till the 24<sup>th</sup> December. We will have performances from our partners, Christmas Symphony of a Thousand and a Doorstep Jingle Bells just for Santa!*

*Very exciting!*

*Watch the space for details*