



SHOWCASE CONCERTS

2026

Senior Ensembles Showcase

West of Scotland Schools Symphony Orchestra

Directed by James Lowe

West of Scotland Schools Concert Band

Directed by Chris Mitchell

*Sunday 30th August,
Performance starts at 3.00pm
Grand Hall, City Halls, Glasgow*

Training Ensembles Showcase

West of Scotland Schools Symphony Orchestra

Directed by David O'Connell

West Training Band

Directed by Michelle McCabe

*Sunday 13th September,
Performance starts at 3.00pm
Grand Hall, City Halls, Glasgow*



Visit our website at: wssso.org.uk

A red circular badge with the text "£8" in white, indicating the ticket price. The background of the poster features a large, stylized illustration of a tuba in the foreground and a photograph of a school orchestra in the background, with musical notes floating around.

Contents

Chairman's Welcome	2
General Manager's Introduction	3
Senior Ensembles Showcase Programme	4



Concert Band Programme	5
Concert Band Members	6
Artistic Director – Chris Mitchell	8
Concert Band Staff	10



Symphony Orchestra Programme	11
Orchestra Members	12
Orchestra Leader – Zoe Drysdale	17
Orchestra Staff	18

WSSO Trust Calendar of Events Season 2026	19
Training Ensembles Showcase Programme	20



String Orchestra Programme	21
String Orchestra Members	23
West String Orchestra, Artistic Director – David O'Connell	25
String Orchestra Staff	26



Training Band Programme	27
Training Band Members	29
West Training Band, Artistic Director – Michelle McCabe	31
Training Band Staff	32

WSSO Trustees and Partner Local Authorities	34
Support Us	35
Gallery	36



Chairman's Welcome

It is a privilege to welcome you to City Halls for today's performance. As we reach the showcase finale of our 2026 season, I am filled with pride at how our musical community across the West of Scotland continues to flourish. The vibrancy of our current programme is a testament to the tireless work of our staff and partners, and to the unwavering encouragement provided by the families and friends of our performers. That support remains the heartbeat of everything our young musicians achieve.

The standard of performance you will hear today is remarkable. Our students across all our ensembles have shown incredible dedication, and these showcase concerts are a true celebration of the discipline, enthusiasm and passion they bring to every rehearsal.

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank our General Manager, Derek Hart, and our entire team of directors, tutors and support staff for guiding our young musicians through another stellar season. We also extend our gratitude to our local authority partners, the University of Strathclyde, our commercial sponsors and the instrumental teachers across the region who nurture this talent from the very beginning.

Thank you for joining us to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our young performers!

Dr Allan Hewitt
WSSO Trust Chairman



Photo: Samantha Parker

General Manager's Introduction

Welcome to City Halls!

As we reach the finale of our 31st season, this showcase concert series provides a special opportunity to celebrate a remarkable summer of music-making across the WSSO Trust. Following our landmark 30th anniversary last year, 2026 has been all about building on that legacy – pushing artistic boundaries and giving our young musicians the space to tackle truly ambitious repertoire with confidence and flare.

Bringing a season like this to fruition is a huge team effort. My sincere thanks go to our dedicated tutors, conductors, house staff and administrators, whose energy and expertise guide our performers every step of the way. I am equally grateful for the vital, ongoing backing of our 12 partner local

authorities, the University of Strathclyde and the Witherby Trust, as well as the instrumental teachers in schools who lay the foundations for everything you will hear today.

Most of all, congratulations to our incredible players. The exceptional standard of performance on display today is a direct result of their hard work, talent and commitment. Thank you for joining us to celebrate their achievements – I hope you enjoy the concert!

Derek Hart
General Manager, WSSO Trust



Senior Ensembles Showcase Programme

Sunday 30th August 2026



WEST OF SCOTLAND SCHOOLS
CONCERT BAND

Directed by Chris Mitchell

Dancing Fire – Kevin Day

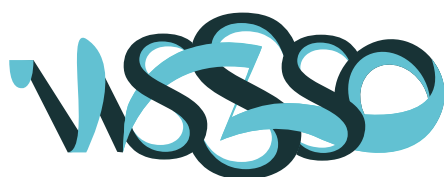
Perseus – Satoshi Yagisawa

Into the Silent Land – Stephen Danyew

Boomba – Michael Barry

Libertadores – Oscar Navarro

Interval



WEST OF SCOTLAND SCHOOLS
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Directed by James Lowe

Glisk – Aileen Sweeney

Scheherazade – Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov





WEST OF SCOTLAND SCHOOLS
CONCERT BAND

Concert Band Programme

***Dancing Fire* – Kevin Day**

***Perseus* – Satoshi Yagisawa**

***Into the Silent Land* – Stephen Danyew**

***Boomba* – Michael Barry**

***Libertadores* – Oscar Navarro**

***Dancing Fire* – Kevin Day**

Kevin Day's *Dancing Fire* is an explosive opener that lives up to its name. Written with an infectious, jazz-influenced energy, the piece depicts the flickering, unpredictable nature of flames. Driven by a relentless percussion section and bright brass flourishes, it creates an immediate 'wall of sound' that demands precision and high-octane energy from the entire ensemble.

***Perseus* – Satoshi Yagisawa**

Inspired by the Greek hero of legend, Yagisawa's *Perseus* is a cinematic tone poem. The music guides us through the hero's quest, from the perilous encounter with Medusa to his triumphant flight on the back of Pegasus. It is a work of grand romanticism, featuring soaring melodies and dramatic transitions that showcase the storytelling power of the modern wind band.

***Into the Silent Land* – Steve Danyew**

In a poignant shift of mood, *Into the Silent Land* offers a space for reflection. Drawing inspiration from Christina Rossetti's poem *Remember*, Danyew composed this work as a tribute to the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School

shooting. The music is built on a hauntingly beautiful chorale that moves from a state of mournful stillness to a powerful, cathartic climax, showcasing the band's capacity for deep emotional expression.

***Boomba* – Michael Barry**

Boomba is a high-speed rhythmic masterpiece that brings a surge of adrenaline. Drawing on minimalist techniques and groove-heavy patterns, Michael Barry creates a mechanical, driving momentum that keeps the listener on the edge of their seat. It is a test of stamina and synchronicity for the ensemble.

***Libertadores* – Oscar Navarro**

To conclude the Concert Band's performance, *Libertadores* is a spectacular two-part epic. The first section transports the listener to the heart of the Amazon, utilising unconventional techniques and 'jungle' soundscapes to evoke the mystery of the rainforest. The second half shifts into a defiant, heroic march – a tribute to the 'Liberators' of Latin America. It is a *tour de force* of percussion and brass that brings the concert to a triumphant, spine-tingling conclusion.

Concert Band Members

Orla Bruce	East Dunbartonshire	1st Flute
Megan Campbell	Independent	1st Flute
Cosima Carroll	East Renfrewshire	1st Flute
Rebecca Grieve	South Ayrshire	1st Flute
Abi Hoodless	Inverclyde	1st Flute
Libby Climie	South Ayrshire	2nd Flute
Cara Gilmartin	South Ayrshire	2nd Flute
Harry Macdonald	East Renfrewshire	2nd Flute
Isla MacPhillimy	Renfrewshire	2nd Flute
Frances McIntyre	Glasgow	2nd Flute
Anouk McRae	East Dunbartonshire	2nd Flute
Lucy Rankin	South Ayrshire	2nd Flute
Savannah Warnock	Inverclyde	2nd Flute
Ana Ryburn-Thomson	Glasgow	Oboe
Cian Miskelly	Independent	1st and Eb Clarinet
Lily Brannigan	East Ayrshire	1st Clarinet
Ava Dean	North Lanarkshire	1st Clarinet
Ethan Hall	South Lanarkshire	1st Clarinet
Antara Russell	Independent	1st Clarinet
Maisie Borland	Independent	2nd Clarinet
Jeffrey Pak-Ching Leung	East Renfrewshire	2nd Clarinet
Dylan McKellan	North Lanarkshire	2nd Clarinet
Hannah Pattison	North Lanarkshire	2nd Clarinet
Eilish Gaffney	Renfrewshire	3rd Clarinet
Jessica Lok	East Renfrewshire	3rd Clarinet
Mia-Lena Seidl	Inverclyde	3rd Clarinet
Kirk Simpson	Glasgow	3rd Clarinet
Abigale Strang	South Lanarkshire	3rd Clarinet
Asher Coleman-Smith	East Renfrewshire	Clarinet (Bass)
Emma Galloway	North Ayrshire	Clarinet (Bass)
Luisa Marletta Cleland	Glasgow	Bassoon
Eva Forsyth	East Renfrewshire	Bassoon
Theodora Gherghe	East Renfrewshire	Bassoon
Sebastian Watson	East Renfrewshire	Bassoon

Amy Brown	North Lanarkshire	Saxophone (Alto)
Fiona MacLeod	South Lanarkshire	Saxophone (Alto)
Ava McBean	East Dunbartonshire	Saxophone (Alto)
Marcel Nalewajko	East Renfrewshire	Saxophone (Alto)
Kayden Carson	South Lanarkshire	Saxophone (Tenor)
Ernest Taylor	Inverclyde	Saxophone (Tenor)
Heilidh McIntyre	Inverclyde	Saxophone (Baritone)
Jamie Forbes	East Dunbartonshire	French Horn
Eilidh McLean	Independent	French Horn
Charlie Scrimgeour	East Dunbartonshire	French Horn
Chrystal Campbell	Inverclyde	Trumpet
Rose Cavanagh	East Renfrewshire	Trumpet
Robbie Friel	Renfrewshire	Trumpet
Bramble Kane	Inverclyde	Trumpet
Oliver Livingston	East Renfrewshire	Trumpet
Mark Maguire	Renfrewshire	Trumpet
Cian McCrory	South Lanarkshire	Trumpet
Aimee McDermott	South Ayrshire	Trumpet
Ava Shields	South Lanarkshire	Trumpet
Benjamin Barenco	Independent	Trombone
Ally Crowson	Independent	Trombone
Esteban de Medina Doig	Renfrewshire	Trombone
Mateo de Medina Doig	Renfrewshire	Trombone
Emily Joyce	West Dunbartonshire	Trombone
Rebecca Madsen	East Dunbartonshire	Trombone
Owen McGrath	North Ayrshire	Trombone
Gregory Blackman	South Lanarkshire	Trombone (Bass)
Ethan Chan	East Ayrshire	Tuba
Stuart Rae	South Lanarkshire	Tuba
Daniel Deakin	East Dunbartonshire	Percussion
Noah Gribbon	East Dunbartonshire	Percussion
Matthew Pak-Hei Leung	East Renfrewshire	Percussion
Chloe Marshall	Inverclyde	Percussion
Pearl Paterson	Inverclyde	Percussion
Tytus Plonczkier	East Dunbartonshire	Percussion
Hugh-Francis Rush	Inverclyde	Percussion

Artistic Director – Chris Mitchell

Chris Mitchell is a conductor, educator and performer, currently serving as Instrumental Coordinator and Brass Instructor for East Renfrewshire Instrumental Music Service, a post he took up in 2024. In this dual role, he is responsible for helping lead and support the delivery of instrumental music across the region, working closely with young musicians and staff to maintain and develop high standards of music education.

Chris began his instrumental teaching career in West Dunbartonshire, where he worked for 17 years before moving to South Lanarkshire Council as a Brass Instructor in 2021. His experience across these authorities has been marked by a strong commitment to musical excellence and youth development.

He studied tuba at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree and a Postgraduate Masters Degree in Performance. His principal teachers included Tony Swainson and internationally renowned guest Professor Patrick Sheridan.

Chris has enjoyed considerable success as a conductor. Since 2010, he has directed the University of Strathclyde Concert Band, leading them on international tours and securing multiple platinum awards at national festivals. Under his leadership, the band has given sell-out performances across the UK and abroad.

In 2015, he was appointed Artistic Director of the West of Scotland Schools Training Band, a role that has seen him work with some of the most talented young wind and brass players. Highlights include annual performances at Glasgow's City Halls and collaborative 'side-by-side' concerts with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. In 2022, following the retirement of Nigel Boddice MBE, Chris was appointed Artistic Director of the West of Scotland Schools Concert Band, where he continues to inspire and develop Scotland's next generation of wind band musicians.



In addition to his work as an educator and conductor, Chris is an accomplished performer. He has worked with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, toured with various chamber ensembles and recorded professionally, bringing a wealth of practical experience to his teaching and artistic leadership.

Chris says,

"As we move into our 31st season, I am struck by the incredible momentum within the West of Scotland Schools Orchestra Trust. Following our landmark anniversary last year, 2026 feels like the start of a vibrant new chapter. While our history is proud, our focus remains firmly on the present: providing a transformative environment where young musicians grow into confident, creative and resilient individuals."

The Trust has always been more than just an ensemble; it is a community. I have witnessed, time and time again, how our programmes foster a profound sense of belonging. Whether through the focused intensity of our residential courses or the exhilaration of performing in a grand concert hall, these experiences stay with our musicians long after the final note has faded. It is a joy to see students who once arrived as shy, uncertain players blossom into leaders, finding their voice both within the ensemble and in the wider world."

This year's Concert Band programme is particularly close to my heart, representing a 'thrilling sonic adventure' through the very best of contemporary wind music. We move from the high-octane energy of Kevin Day's Dancing Fire and the dramatic contrasts of Satoshi Yagisawa's Perseus to the deeply moving, reflective textures of Steve Danyew's Into the Silent Land. Our musicians are also tackling the virtuosic challenge of Michael Barry's Boomba and the spectacular, epic finale of Oscar Navarro's Libertadores."

These pieces require more than just technical skill; they demand emotional maturity and a collaborative spirit. Watching our young people rise to meet the demands of such cutting-edge repertoire reminds me why this Trust is so vital."

I am deeply grateful to be part of this journey as we begin our fourth decade. We aren't just teaching notes on a page; we are making memories and shaping the next generation of Scotland's musical landscape. I hope you enjoy the remarkable artistry on display today."





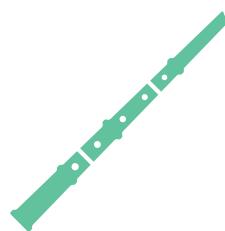
Concert Band Staff



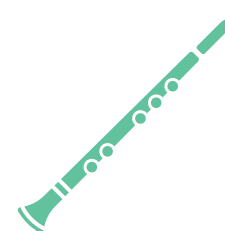
Artistic Director
Chris Mitchell



Course Director
Fergus Kerr



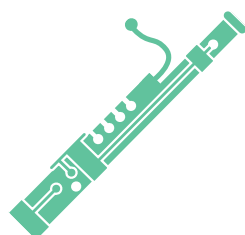
House Tutor – Flute
Kayleigh Sharp



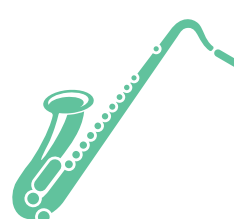
Section Tutor – Oboe
Anne Rankin



House Tutor – Clarinet
Ed Holmes



House Tutor – Bassoon
Katherine Nagl



Section Tutor – Saxophone
Richard Scholfield



Section Tutor – French Horn
Christine McGinley



Section Tutor – Trumpet
Stephanie Kennedy



Section Tutor – Trombone
Andrew Foden

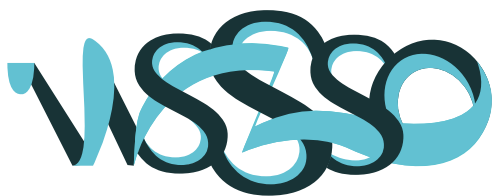


House Tutor – Lower Brass
John Paul O'Hagan
Section Tutor – Lower Brass
Andrew Foden



House Tutor – Percussion
Chris Edwards

Pastoral House Staff
Jack Burrows, Emma-Jane Clark and Eilidh Horn



WEST OF SCOTLAND SCHOOLS
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Symphony Orchestra Programme

***Glisk* – Aileen Sweeney**

***Scheherazade* – Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov**

***Glisk* – Aileen Sweeney**

Aileen Sweeney is one of Scotland's most exciting contemporary voices, and *Glisk* is a stunning example of her ability to blend traditional influence with modern textures. The title is a Scots word meaning a 'glimpse' or a 'passing flash of light', often referring to the sun breaking through clouds. The work is deeply atmospheric, capturing the shifting, unpredictable beauty of the Scottish landscape. Sweeney uses shimmering orchestration and driving rhythms to create a sense of light and movement, providing a perfect contrast with the vivid symphonic textures of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*.

***Scheherazade* – Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov**

Composed in 1888, *Scheherazade* is arguably the most famous example of musical 'Orientalism' and a masterpiece of orchestral colour. Based on *One Thousand and One Nights*, the work is held together by two recurring musical themes: the stern, heavy theme of the Sultan Schahriar and the delicate, virtuosic solo violin theme representing his wife, Scheherazade, who tells him stories to delay her execution.

Across four movements, Rimsky-Korsakov takes us on a journey:

1. ***The Sea and Sinbad's Ship***: A majestic movement where the orchestra swells like the rolling waves of the ocean.
2. ***The Kalendar Prince***: A movement filled with exotic woodwind solos and military fanfares, suggesting a tale of adventure and disguise.
3. ***The Young Prince and the Young Princess***: A lyrical, romantic interlude featuring some of the most beautiful string melodies in the repertoire.
4. ***Festival at Baghdad – The Sea***: A high-energy finale that revisits earlier themes in a whirlwind of percussion and brass, culminating in the shipwreck on the Magnetic Mountain before the solo violin returns one final time, signifying Scheherazade's triumph and the Sultan's mercy.

Orchestra Members

Zuzanna Kujawa	South Lanarkshire	Flute
Mia Li	East Renfrewshire	Flute
Agatha Ludkin-Finnie	South Ayrshire	Flute
Ellie Stewart	East Dunbartonshire	Flute
Autumn Hayden Clark	East Renfrewshire	Oboe
Eve Docherty	East Renfrewshire	Oboe
Evie Finlay	South Ayrshire	Oboe
Ruairidh Nelson	East Dunbartonshire	Oboe
Fraser Cay	East Dunbartonshire	Clarinet
Evan Leitch	East Dunbartonshire	Clarinet
Aaron Rae	East Dunbartonshire	Clarinet
Ellie Whitelaw	Independent	Clarinet
Emily Crump	Independent	Bassoon
Mateo McWilliams Gomez	Independent	Bassoon
Lachlan Timar	Independent	Bassoon
Theo Arkinstall	Glasgow	1st Violin
Anastasia D'Angelosante	Independent	1st Violin
Zoe Drysdale	East Dunbartonshire	1st Violin
Hannah Rose Easdale	Glasgow	1st Violin
Rebecca Greig	East Dunbartonshire	1st Violin
Nellie Heinrich	Glasgow	1st Violin
Ruoxi Li	East Dunbartonshire	1st Violin
Amelia Mashwani	East Dunbartonshire	1st Violin
Emma Mathie	South Ayrshire	1st Violin
Jesslyn Peng	East Dunbartonshire	1st Violin
Kathryn Peng	East Dunbartonshire	1st Violin
Austin Vincent Agarwal	Independent	1st Violin
Emily Welsh	East Dunbartonshire	1st Violin
Araya Zara Ali	East Renfrewshire	2nd Violin
Rose Clarke	Glasgow	2nd Violin
Evan Gibson	South Ayrshire	2nd Violin
Sasha Graham	Independent	2nd Violin
Fergus Hodgins	South Ayrshire	2nd Violin
Andrew Irvine	East Dunbartonshire	2nd Violin
Stephanie Kitchin	East Renfrewshire	2nd Violin
Eric Mitchell	Independent	2nd Violin

Hannah Nicholson	Argyll and Bute	2nd Violin
Luisa Pizey	Independent	2nd Violin
April Sheridan	East Renfrewshire	2nd Violin
Kaimerry Tianfield	East Renfrewshire	2nd Violin
Alyssa Usmani	East Dunbartonshire	2nd Violin
Lily Weir	Independent	2nd Violin
Temiloluwa Mikel Ajibade	East Renfrewshire	Viola
Nirvana Balideh	East Dunbartonshire	Viola
Adam Bishop	East Renfrewshire	Viola
Jennifer Mair	East Ayrshire	Viola
Lucy McGibbon	Renfrewshire	Viola
Johan Thomasson	South Ayrshire	Viola
Gregor Bates	East Dunbartonshire	Violoncello
Claire Esslemont	North Ayrshire	Violoncello
Gemma Gowans	Glasgow	Violoncello
Maeve Hill	East Ayrshire	Violoncello
Jonathan Leung	Independent	Violoncello
Jamie McCreath	Independent	Violoncello
Lia McCulloch	Glasgow	Violoncello
Emily Mooney	Inverclyde	Violoncello
Maciej (Matt) Pec	South Ayrshire	Violoncello
Abhi Verma	East Renfrewshire	Violoncello
Jenna Young	South Ayrshire	Violoncello
Stuart Anderson	East Ayrshire	Double Bass
Lucas Crawford	Independent	Double Bass
Jamie Lowrie	East Dunbartonshire	Double Bass
Thomas Urquhart	East Ayrshire	Double Bass
Lucy Arbuckle	East Dunbartonshire	French Horn
Darcy Cowie	Independent	French Horn
Felicity Dalziel	East Renfrewshire	French Horn
Eryn Furie	East Dunbartonshire	French Horn
Katie Rourke	Independent	French Horn
Hannah Black	Glasgow	Trumpet
Andrew Dixon	East Dunbartonshire	Trumpet
Luke Parkhill	South Ayrshire	Trumpet
Cameron Spiers	East Renfrewshire	Trumpet

Tess Devlin	Independent	Trombone
Patrick Summers	East Renfrewshire	Trombone
Max Wardrope	East Dunbartonshire	Trombone
Callum Ross	East Dunbartonshire	Trombone (Bass)
Rory Allan	Independent	Tuba
Hope Hill	East Dunbartonshire	Tuba
Gregor Chalmers	East Ayrshire	Percussion
Ruaridh Docherty	East Dunbartonshire	Percussion
Ruby MacLeod	East Ayrshire	Percussion
Taonanyasha Masiyazi	South Lanarkshire	Percussion
Michael Nordmann	East Renfrewshire	Percussion
Arianna Gagnon	East Dunbartonshire	Harp





WSSSO Artistic Director – James Lowe

James Lowe began his tenure as the eighth Music Director of the Spokane Symphony in the 2019/20 season. His work as a conductor has ranged over five continents, including collaboration with orchestras in the UK and Europe, Japan, Australia and the USA.

Passionately committed to the belief that classical music is for everyone, he balances his conducting schedule with his work to engage new audiences and a long-standing commitment to youth music.

His work as Artistic Director of the Hallé Harmony Youth Orchestra was featured in a four-part documentary shown in the UK on Channel 4. A recipient of the Bernard Haitink Fund for Young Talent, Lowe has held the position of Chief Conductor with the Preußisches Kammerorchester, Germany and the Vaasa City Orchestra, Finland, the position of Associate

Conductor with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Orchestras Advisor to the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland.

Educated at the University of Edinburgh, James continued his development as Benjamin Zander Conducting Fellow with the Boston Philharmonic, and has studied with leading conductors in masterclasses, including Jorma Panula, Neeme Järvi, Bernard Haitink and Valery Gergiev. He worked as Assistant Conductor to Haitink in performances with the Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam.

In addition to his conducting work, James is active as an educator and teacher of conducting and is undertaking research exploring ways in which orchestras can meaningfully engage with a wider public.

James says,

"Reflecting on our 30th anniversary last year was a moving experience, and as we step into our 31st season, that sense of pride has only grown. This year also marks my 21st year at the podium with this extraordinary ensemble – a journey that continues to be one of life's great pleasures.

'West Week' remains the undisputed highlight of my calendar. It is more than just a residential course; it is a week where the transformative power of music becomes a lived reality and where the foundations of lifelong friendships are laid.

I have had the enormous privilege of watching generations of astonishing young people pass through these ranks. Whether our alumni are now performing on the world's most prestigious stages as professional musicians, or applying that same dedication to fields like medicine, engineering and education, they all carry the 'West' spirit with them: a blend of excellence, resilience and heart.

Because West isn't just about shaping musicians; it's about shaping people. In this orchestra, students learn to listen – not just to the notes on the page, but to one another. They learn that they are part of something much larger than themselves and frequently discover they are capable of far more than they ever imagined.

To our current members, dedicated teachers, supportive parents and our vast network of alumni: thank you for being the heartbeat of this community. As we begin this new chapter together, the music feels more vibrant than ever.

Here's to another year of excellence."

www.james-lowe.co.uk

James Lowe
WSSSO Artistic Director



Orchestra Leader – Zoe Drysdale



Zoe's musical journey began in Primary 1, a natural progression from the early years *Colourstrings* classes she attended as a child. To Zoe, the violin is more than just an instrument; it is a reflection of her own personality, perfectly suited to her love for "big melodies" and the vital, central role the violin plays within an orchestra and across various ensembles.

Now in her third year with West, Zoe looks back on last year's course and the performance at City Halls as a definitive highlight, noting the lifelong memories made while performing exceptional repertoire with great people. She describes the West experience as a perfect balance of being "challenging and engaging, yet fun and enjoyable", and unreservedly recommends it to any young musician.

This summer, Zoe takes on the significant role of leading Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, a task she describes as "every violinist's dream". While the piece presents formidable technical challenges through its famous cadenzas, she has particularly enjoyed the dual responsibility of performing these solos while simultaneously leading the section. Her interpretation is driven by an appreciation of how perfectly the composer encapsulated the story's narrative.

Zoe's musical interests are broad; while she holds a special fondness for the "excitement and joy" of Shostakovich's *Festival Overture*, she is currently immersed in the works of Mahler, Ravel and Barber – specifically Barber's *Violin Concerto*, which she has been studying throughout the year.

Having recently completed six years at the Music School of Douglas Academy, Zoe will move to London this September to begin her undergraduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music on a scholarship. While she aspires to a career in orchestral playing, she remains curious and open to the many paths her professional life may take.

Beyond the concert hall, Zoe is a passionate follower of Formula 1 (having attended two Grands Prix last year) and cherishes time spent with her friends before they head off to their respective universities.

Zoe performs on a Collin-Mézin violin, and she would like to express her sincere gratitude to The Glasgow Eastern Merchants' and Tradesmens' Society for the generous loan of such a delightful instrument.

Orchestra Staff



Artistic Director
James Lowe



Course Director
Jane Ferguson



Assistant Conductor
David O'Connell



House Tutor –
1st Violin
John Robinson



Section Tutor –
2nd Violin
Jacqueline Speirs



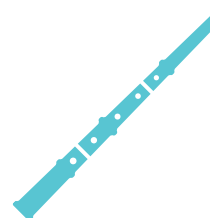
Section Tutor – Viola
Nicola Boag



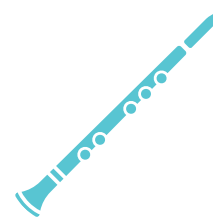
House Tutor –
Violoncello
David O'Connell



Section Tutor –
Double Bass
Christopher Sergeant



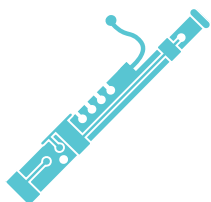
House Tutor –
Flute
Donald Finlayson



Section Tutor –
Oboe
Catherine Earnshaw
Steve West



House Tutor –
Clarinet
Rebecca Whitener



Section Tutor –
Bassoon
Rebecca Roberts



House Tutor –
Trumpet
Al Douglas
David Prentice



Section Tutor –
Trombone
Lance Green



House Tutor –
Lower Brass
Andrew McKreel



House Tutor – Percussion
Calum Huggan
Section Tutor – Percussion
Elsbeth Rose
Scott Vassie



Section Tutor –
French Horn
Alison Murray



Section Tutor –
Harp
Gwen Màiri



Piano
Colin McPhee

Pastoral House Staff

Elise Abson
Sarah Aitken
Paul Tollin

Stage Crew
Michael Cameron
Adam Jacobs
Cameron McCulloch

Volunteer Stage
Assistants
Charles Lloyd
Rosie Wallbanks

WSSO Trust Calendar of Events

Season 2026

STRING ORCHESTRA Directed by David O'Connell		Event	Venue & Details
Sunday	26 April	Taster Day	10am – 4pm, Notre Dame High School, Greenock
Sunday	10 May	Sectional Rehearsals	10am – 4pm, Notre Dame High School, Greenock
Sun–Wed	6–9 Sept	Residential Course	Ardentinny Outdoor Education Centre
Sunday	13 Sept	Morning Rehearsal	Grand Hall, City Halls, Glasgow
Sunday	13 Sept	Afternoon Concert	3pm, Grand Hall, City Halls, Glasgow

TRAINING BAND Directed by Michelle McCabe		Event	Venue & Details
Sunday	26 April	Taster Day	10am – 4pm, Paisley Grammar School
Sunday	10 May	Sectional Rehearsals	10am – 4pm, Paisley Grammar School
Mon–Thu	7–10 Sept	Residential Course	Lendrick Muir, Rumbling Bridge, Kinross
Sunday	13 Sept	Morning Rehearsal	Grand Hall, City Halls, Glasgow
Sunday	13 Sept	Afternoon Concert	3pm, Grand Hall, City Halls, Glasgow

CONCERT BAND Directed by Chris Mitchell		Event	Venue & Details
Sunday	22 March	Taster Day	10am – 4pm, Notre Dame High School, Greenock
Sat–Fri	6–12 June	Residential Course	Lendrick Muir, Rumbling Bridge, Kinross
Friday	12 June	Afternoon Rehearsal	2pm – 5pm, GRCH New Auditorium
Friday	12 June	Evening Concert	7pm – 9pm, GRCH New Auditorium
Saturday	29 August	Rehearsal	10am – 4pm, City Halls
Sunday	30 August	Rehearsal	12.30pm – 2pm, City Halls, Glasgow
Sunday	30 August	Afternoon Concert	3pm, City Halls, Glasgow

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Directed by James Lowe		Event	Venue & Details
Sunday	22 March	Taster Day	10am – 4pm, Paisley Grammar School
Sun–Sat	7–13 June	Residential Course	University of Stirling Campus
Sunday	14 June	Afternoon Rehearsal	2pm – 5pm, Ayr Town Hall
Sunday	14 June	Evening Concert	7pm – 9pm, Ayr Town Hall
Saturday	29 August	Rehearsal	10am – 4pm, Paisley Grammar School
Sunday	30 August	Rehearsal	10am – 11.30am, City Halls, Glasgow
Sunday	30 August	Afternoon Concert	3pm, City Halls, Glasgow

Training Ensembles Showcase Programme

Sunday 13th September 2026



Directed by David O'Connell

Allegro from Concerto for Double String Orchestra – Johann Sebastian Bach

Concertino for Harps and Strings – Maciej Matecki

Sospiri, Op. 70 – Edward Elgar

Sentimental Sarabande from Simple Symphony, Op. 4 – Benjamin Britten

Fantasia on Greensleeves – Ralph Vaughan Williams (arr. David Stone/Martin)

Moderato from Serenade for Strings in E major, Op. 22 – Antonín Dvorák (arr. Martin)

Interval



Directed by Michelle McCabe

Fearless – Carol Brittin Chambers

Suite in E Flat – Gustav Holst (adpt. Robert Longfield)

Goddess of Fire – Steven Reineke

Shadow Dancer – Michael Oare

Nostalgia – Rossano Galante

Rizz – JaRod Hall



String Orchestra Programme

Allegro from Concerto for Double String Orchestra – Johann Sebastian Bach

Concertino for Harps and Strings – Maciej Matecki

Sospiri, Op. 70 – Edward Elgar

Sentimental Sarabande from Simple Symphony, Op. 4 – Benjamin Britten

Fantasia on Greensleeves – Ralph Vaughan Williams (arr. David Stone/Martin)

Moderato from Serenade for Strings in E major, Op. 22 – Antonín Dvorák (arr. Martin)

Allegro from Concerto for Double String Orchestra – Johann Sebastian Bach

Johann Sebastian Bach's music is renowned for its intricate counterpoint, structural elegance and infectious energy. Written during a period when multi-choral and antiphonal instrumental writing flourished, the *Allegro* movement for double string orchestra demonstrates Bach's masterclass in musical dialogue. By dividing the string ensemble into two distinct, equal groups, the music creates an immersive stereo effect across the stage. The movement opens with a bright, driving main theme that ricochets between Orchestra I and Orchestra II, engaging in a spirited game of musical call-and-response before weaving together into a dense, glorious tapestry of polyphonic sound.

Concertino for Harps and Strings – Maciej Matecki

Polish composer and arranger, Maciej Matecki brings a rich sense of lyricism and cinematic colour to the concert platform. His *Concertino for Harps and Strings* is a radiant, highly evocative showcase that places the shimmering,

cascading textures of the harp against the warm, expansive backdrop of the string orchestra. Matecki cleverly balances the delicate attack of plucked strings with long, soaring orchestral lines. The movement shifts effortlessly between lush, romantic harmony and rhythmic, dance-like urgency, offering our performers a wonderful study in tone colour, dynamic contrast and ensemble balance.

Sospiri, Op. 70 – Edward Elgar

Composed in the summer of 1914 on the eve of the First World War, Sir Edward Elgar's *Sospiri* ("Sighs") is one of his most deeply felt and concentrated miniature masterpieces. Originally intended as a light companion piece to his *Salut d'Amour*, the work quickly transformed into a poignant, melancholic adagio reflecting the gathering gloom across Europe. Written for string orchestra, harp and organ (or harmonium), *Sospiri* relies on slow, breathing phrases, soaring violin lines and rich, autumnal harmonies. It demands extreme control, subtle dynamic shading and intense emotional maturity from the young string players.

***Sentimental Sarabande from Simple Symphony,*
Op. 4 – Benjamin Britten**

Benjamin Britten composed his beloved *Simple Symphony* in 1934 using themes and melodies he had originally written as a talented child between the ages of nine and twelve. The third movement, *Sentimental Sarabande*, stands as the emotional heart of the work. Built upon the slow, dignified triple-metre framework of the traditional Spanish court dance, Britten infuses the music with a uniquely British, nostalgic tenderness. The movement builds from a quiet, searching melody into a sweeping, noble climax before gently fading away into a hush of delicate pizzicato and subtle muted tones.

***Fantasia on Greensleeves – Ralph Vaughan Williams* (arr. David Stone/Martin)**

Few melodies in the British folk tradition are as instantly recognisable or universally cherished as *Greensleeves*. Ralph Vaughan Williams famously incorporated this iconic Tudor tune into his 1928 opera *Sir John in Love*, later adapting it into the concert-hall favourite we know today. Arranged

here for string ensemble, the piece opens with a delicate, free-flowing introduction before giving way to the famous, sweeping melody played with lush, modal warmth by the strings. A contrasting middle section brings a light, foot-tapping folk dance (*Lovely Joan*) before the nostalgic *Greensleeves* theme returns to bring the work to a peaceful, lingering conclusion.

***Moderato from Serenade for Strings in E major,*
Op. 22 – Antonín Dvorák (arr. Martin)**

Written in May 1875, during an extraordinarily happy and creative period in Antonín Dvorák's life, the *Serenade for Strings* remains one of the most radiant works in the string repertoire. The opening *Moderato* movement introduces a graceful, elegant theme played in smooth, lyrical octaves that immediately captures the warmth of the Bohemian countryside. Dvorák weaves this gentle opening melody through a series of subtle variations, balancing sweet, song-like melodies with moments of playful rhythmic dialogue. It provides a joyous, uplifting finale that highlights the singing quality and unified blend of the string ensemble.

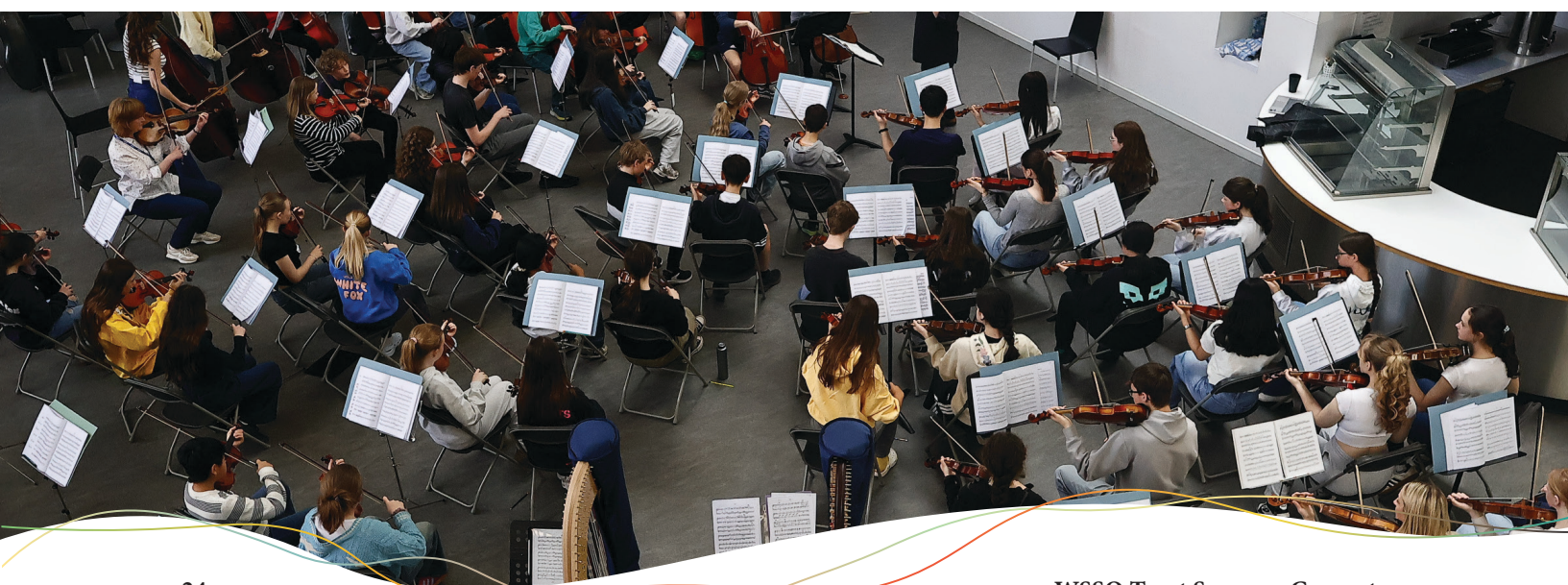


String Orchestra Members

Lauren Bryson	East Dunbartonshire	1st Violin
Rachael Chiu	South Lanarkshire	1st Violin
Annabella Dean	Independent	1st Violin
Maia Fernandez-McCann	East Renfrewshire	1st Violin
Lily Finnigan	East Renfrewshire	1st Violin
Alexa Ford	East Renfrewshire	1st Violin
Emilia Greig	East Dunbartonshire	1st Violin
Katie Longhurst	Independent	1st Violin
Larissa McGookin	North Ayrshire	1st Violin
Sari McMillin	East Dunbartonshire	1st Violin
Talia Padmanabhan	East Dunbartonshire	1st Violin
Fergal Pettigrew	Independent	1st Violin
Lily Pickard	East Dunbartonshire	1st Violin
Alex Ren	Glasgow	1st Violin
Matthew Robinson	South Ayrshire	1st Violin
Mairi Stuart	East Renfrewshire	1st Violin
Carter Wong	Independent	1st Violin
Ruihan (Hannah) Zhang	East Renfrewshire	1st Violin

Rhiannon Brown	East Dunbartonshire	2nd Violin
Lucas Chan	Independent	2nd Violin
Toby Colvin	South Ayrshire	2nd Violin
Isabelle Cooke	East Renfrewshire	2nd Violin
Sebastian Craig	South Ayrshire	2nd Violin
Riley Crossan	East Renfrewshire	2nd Violin
Aviyah Dowse	Independent	2nd Violin
Sofia Edwards	East Renfrewshire	2nd Violin
Elizabeth Ferguson	South Ayrshire	2nd Violin
Julia Fraser	Argyll and Bute	2nd Violin
Tanishka Gijeesh	South Ayrshire	2nd Violin
Ria Gilmour	South Ayrshire	2nd Violin
Aisling Henderson	East Renfrewshire	2nd Violin
Ava Hennessy	South Ayrshire	2nd Violin
Bernadette Kho	East Renfrewshire	2nd Violin
Kimberley McFarlane	East Renfrewshire	2nd Violin
Basil Mitchell	Independent	2nd Violin
Sylvan Owen	Glasgow	2nd Violin
Laura Patorajova	South Ayrshire	2nd Violin
Cormac Rodger	South Lanarkshire	2nd Violin
Rose Russell	South Ayrshire	2nd Violin

Carmen Sheridan	East Renfrewshire	2nd Violin
Nimrit Sumal	South Ayrshire	2nd Violin
Yukio Vincent Agarwal	Independent	2nd Violin
Zi Han Chen	East Renfrewshire	Viola
Orlaith Cowan	Independent	Viola
Zara Henderson	South Ayrshire	Viola
Matthew McKenna	Independent	Viola
Alex Milner	North Ayrshire	Viola
Madeleine Baird	East Renfrewshire	Violoncello
James Bassett	North Ayrshire	Violoncello
Keir Cameron	East Renfrewshire	Violoncello
Sophia Chinn	East Renfrewshire	Violoncello
Emil Enslein Timmerman	Glasgow	Violoncello
Calum Grieve	Independent	Violoncello
Christopher Hendry	Independent	Violoncello
Adam Hill	East Ayrshire	Violoncello
Wenhao Hu	East Renfrewshire	Violoncello
Santosh Karthikeyan	South Ayrshire	Violoncello
Eromi Miller	East Dunbartonshire	Violoncello
Patrick Pettigrew	Independent	Violoncello
Eva Purdie	South Lanarkshire	Violoncello
Sadie Sloan	South Ayrshire	Violoncello
Fraser Wemyss	Independent	Violoncello
Grace Yuan	Independent	Violoncello
Rowan Calvert	Independent	Double Bass
Lachie Macdonald	East Renfrewshire	Double Bass
Kayla McGough	East Renfrewshire	Harp
Amber O'Neill	Independent	Harp





West String Orchestra, Artistic Director – David O’Connell

David O’Connell studied cello with Moray Welsh and Hannah Roberts at the Royal Northern College of Music, where he won the Sir John Barbirolli prize for cello. Further studies continued in Berlin with Ludwig Quandt. His professional playing included working in many internationally acclaimed orchestras, including the BBC Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra London, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Berliner Symphoniker. He was appointed as a tutor in cello at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2003. His passion for orchestral music and playing forms a central role within his numerous roles as a teacher and conductor, drawing upon his wide experience playing under internationally acclaimed conductors, including Sir Simon Rattle, Daniele Gatti, Gennadi Rozhdestvensky and Mark Elder. David is also an independent researcher, with

a special interest in the orchestral music of Claude Debussy, investigating aspects of memory and nostalgia as expressed through orchestral timbre.

David lives with his wife, Fiona, and their two young children, Rory and Maeve, in rural Ayrshire, where he enjoys teaching for the South Ayrshire Music Service. He also enjoys sneaking off somewhere with a fishing rod in his spare time, usually without success.

Alongside David’s role as Artistic Director of West String Orchestra, he also tutors cello for WSSSO and directs the annual Taster Day event.

String Orchestra Staff



Artistic Director
David O'Connell



Course Director
Fergus Kerr



1st Violin
Nicola Connell



2nd Violin
Diane Merson-Jones



Violoncello
Susan Dance



Viola
Maggie Montgomery



Double Bass
May Halyburton



Harp
Sharron Griffiths

House Staff
Emma-Jane Clark
Lucy Pye
Scott Vassie
Jack Burrows



Training Band Programme

***Fearless* – Carol Brittin Chambers**

***Suite in E Flat* – Gustav Holst (adpt. Robert Longfield)**

***Goddess of Fire* – Steven Reineke**

***Shadow Dancer* – Michael Oare**

***Nostalgia* – Rossano Galante**

***Rizz* – JaRod Hall**

***Fearless* – Carol Brittin Chambers**

True to Carol Brittin Chambers' dynamic compositional style, *Fearless* is an energetic, high-octane work designed to showcase the confidence and developing technique of a training band. Built around bold brass fanfares, driving percussion and soaring woodwind melodies, the piece captures a spirit of determination and bravery. Rhythmic, syncopated motifs weave throughout the ensemble, creating a sense of forward momentum that builds to a triumphant finale. It provides a fantastic exercise in articulation, balance and rhythmic precision for our young musicians.

***Suite in E Flat* – Gustav Holst (adpt. Robert Longfield)**

Gustav Holst's *First Suite in E-flat for Military Band*, composed in 1909, is widely regarded as a founding cornerstone of the modern wind band repertoire. Robert Longfield's masterful adaptation opens up this seminal masterwork to developing ensembles, faithfully retaining Holst's iconic thematic material and rich British band

scoring while tailoring the technical demands for a training band. Featuring the famous opening *Chaconne* melody, the lively *Intermezzo* and the noble *March*, this suite introduces our players to classic phrasing, counterpoint and expressive tonal blending.

***Goddess of Fire* – Steven Reineke**

Steven Reineke is renowned for his dramatic, highly programmatic wind band compositions. *Goddess of Fire* is an evocative musical portrait inspired by Pele, the Hawaiian deity of volcanoes and fire. The piece opens in a mysterious, foreboding atmosphere, setting the scene of primordial volcanic landscapes. A lyrical, soaring theme emerges to depict Pele's grace and powers of creation, before giving way to explosive, syncopated brass and percussion figures representing a violent volcanic eruption. Rich in dramatic contrast and orchestral colour, it demands intense dynamic control and vivid storytelling from the performers.

***Shadow Dancer* – Michael Oare**

Driven by a single, relentless tempo, Michael Oare's *Shadow Dancer* is an engaging, rhythmically charged work built on a foundation of syncopated, repeating patterns. The composer ingeniously passes the infectious main theme across every section of the band, ensuring that woodwinds, brass and percussion each enjoy their moment in the spotlight. Sudden accent shifts and unexpected musical interjections create a sense of mystery and playfulness, making it both a thrilling performance challenge for the ensemble and an immediate audience favourite.

***Nostalgia* – Rossano Galante**

Cinematic composer Rossano Galante is celebrated for his expansive, soaring melodies and rich, romantic harmonies. *Nostalgia* captures a sense of wistful affection and warm recollection through two beautiful, expressive themes. Beginning with delicate solo lines and soft ensemble textures, the music gradually layers instruments to build into a sweeping, joyous and ultimately triumphant climax.

The piece challenges our musicians to focus on tone quality, breath control and ensemble balance, producing a lush, full sound across the band.

***Rizz* – JaRod Hall**

Injecting a fantastic dose of modern fun and attitude into the concert hall, JaRod Hall's *Rizz* takes its title from the contemporary slang for charisma and charm. Written in an authentic funk style, the piece is driven by a grooving bass line and punchy percussion patterns. Off-beat accents, catchy brass riffs and sliding woodwind melodies give every performer the opportunity to show off their musical poise and rhythm. It provides a high-energy, infectious conclusion to the ensemble's performance.

For a quick look at how JaRod Hall's *Rizz* sounds when performed by a full concert band, you can listen to the full score audio on *Rizz* by JaRod Hall. This reference recording highlights the funky bassline and syncopated grooves mentioned in the note.



Training Band Members

Asmaa Ahmed Fathi Sayed	Glasgow	Flute
Eileen Bishop	Inverclyde	Flute
Freya Brown	East Renfrewshire	Flute
Iasonas Dimitroulakis	Renfrewshire	Flute
Elsa Galea	South Ayrshire	Flute
Melissa Gardner	North Ayrshire	Flute
Isla Gilchrist	East Renfrewshire	Flute
Sarah Hendry	East Renfrewshire	Flute
Yan Ki Ip	East Renfrewshire	Flute
Alex Lin	Independent	Flute
Cara Logan	South Ayrshire	Flute
Aaron Lovatt	Renfrewshire	Flute
Anya McDonald	South Lanarkshire	Flute
Sophie McKellar	East Renfrewshire	Flute
Rohan Nandi	Independent	Flute
Orla Regan	East Renfrewshire	Flute
Lucia Swail	South Lanarkshire	Flute
Lucy Weston	Inverclyde	Flute
Oscar Wylie	East Ayrshire	Flute

Elsie Doherty	Inverclyde	Oboe
----------------------	------------	------

Magnus Anderson	East Renfrewshire	Clarinet
Sriram Bhaskar	East Dunbartonshire	Clarinet
Ashton Graham	North Ayrshire	Clarinet
Max Haccius	East Renfrewshire	Clarinet
Ryan Henderson	East Renfrewshire	Clarinet
Becki Ireland	East Renfrewshire	Clarinet
Zoe Januszek	South Ayrshire	Clarinet
Rosie Lazonby	East Renfrewshire	Clarinet
Logan McLurkin	East Ayrshire	Clarinet
Anushka Menon	East Renfrewshire	Clarinet
Finlay Milosevic	East Renfrewshire	Clarinet
Connie Nyamurundira	Renfrewshire	Clarinet
Amy Paterson	East Ayrshire	Clarinet
Alan Ren	Glasgow	Clarinet
Rowan Shaw	East Renfrewshire	Clarinet
Sofia Stirling	East Renfrewshire	Clarinet
Betsy Wylie	East Ayrshire	Clarinet
Ewan Drummond	East Ayrshire	Clarinet (Bass)

Rory Cameron	East Renfrewshire	Bassoon
Emma Dean	East Renfrewshire	Bassoon
Isla Mostyn	East Renfrewshire	Bassoon
Jonathan Umar	Inverclyde	Bassoon
Momoreoluwa Ayo-Soyemi	East Dunbartonshire	Saxophone (Alto)
Ciara Biggs	East Ayrshire	Saxophone (Alto)
Lachlan Borland	Independent	Saxophone (Alto)
Ruaridh Davidson	East Renfrewshire	Saxophone (Alto)
Henry Lang	Independent	Saxophone (Alto)
Junhan Liao	East Renfrewshire	Saxophone (Alto)
Emma Rankin	South Ayrshire	Saxophone (Alto)
Lily Doherty	Inverclyde	Saxophone (Tenor)
Jude Dixon	East Dunbartonshire	French Horn
Nancy Kerr	Glasgow	French Horn
Nancy Liu	Glasgow	French Horn
Elsbeth Thorpe	South Lanarkshire	French Horn
Kyle Blackman	South Lanarkshire	Trumpet
Eilidh Dingwall	South Lanarkshire	Trumpet
Isla McGurk	Renfrewshire	Trumpet
Maxwell Minter	West Dunbartonshire	Trumpet
Panav Shah	East Renfrewshire	Trumpet
Ruaridh Douglas	Argyll and Bute	Euphonium
Madeleine Rolland-Raydon	East Dunbartonshire	Euphonium
River Boe Anderson	East Renfrewshire	Trombone
Sophie Doig	Inverclyde	Trombone
Leon Gibbs	East Renfrewshire	Trombone
Lillie Long	East Renfrewshire	Trombone
Aaron Arthur	Inverclyde	Tuba
Caragh Doig	Inverclyde	Percussion
Sam Endall	East Renfrewshire	Percussion
Idara Ewing	North Ayrshire	Percussion
Lily Ford	Inverclyde	Percussion
Murray McKeegan	Inverclyde	Percussion
John Ratter	East Renfrewshire	Percussion

Michelle McCabe

Michelle McCabe studied flute at the RCS, graduating with a BA (Hons), a Postgraduate Certificate in Orchestral Studies and winning the Governor's Recital Prize for Chamber Music. She studied further at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada and then developed her workshop and creative music-making skills at Guildhall School of Music and Drama. During this time, Michelle performed regularly for Yehudi Menuhin's Live Music Now! Scheme, lead creative music workshops for Artlink Central and was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and Camerata Scotland.

As a freelance musician, Michelle has performed with many orchestras and chamber ensembles, including the BBC SSO, RSNO, Red Note Ensemble, Auricle Ensemble and Scottish Flute Trio. For the last 20 years, she has played sub-principal flute with the Scottish Ballet Orchestra, most recently performing all 72 performances of the Snow Queen Tour.

Michelle is Musical Director of the Dunbartonshire Wind Ensemble, Associate Conductor of the Dunbartonshire Concert Band, Musical Director of the High School of Glasgow Wind Bands and Flute Ensembles, and also works with the DCB Clarinets, creating programmes of music for local community concerts.

Michelle works regularly as a Flute Tutor for various groups, including The National Youth Wind Ensemble of Scotland, West of Scotland Schools Concert Band and Training Band, Strathclyde University Concert Band and The University of Scotland Symphony Orchestra.

Photo: Claire Mitchell





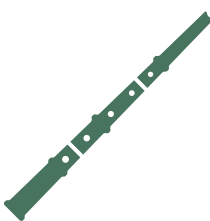
Training Band Staff



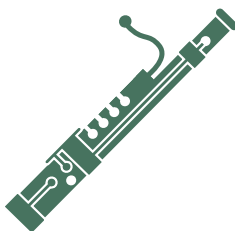
Artistic Director
Michelle McCabe



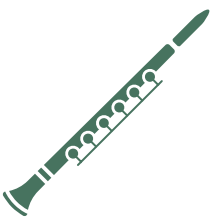
Course Director
Donald Finlayson



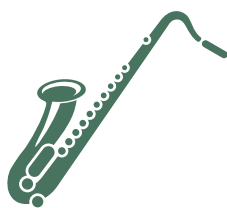
Flute
Laura Bailey



Double Reed
Victoria Douglas



Clarinet
Rachel Finlayson



Saxophone
Fiona Ramsay



French Horn
Jenna Sloane



Percussion
Kirstin Wilkes



Upper Brass
Gregor Beattie



Lower Brass
Chris Mansfield



Tuba
Andrew McKreel

House Staff
Amanda Currie
Ben Finlayson
Molly Gribbon
Paul Tollin

Apply Now for Season 2027

Applications can be made online from 1st September

The recommended level for applicants is shown below:

Senior Ensembles

- Symphony Orchestra (S2 – S6 / Playing level equivalent to approx. ABRSM Gd 6+)
- Concert Band (S2 – S6 / Playing level equivalent to ABRSM Gd 6+)

Training Ensembles

- String Orchestra (P7 – S4 / Playing level equivalent to approx. ABRSM Gd 3+)
- Training Band (P7 – S4 / Playing level equivalent to approx. ABRSM Gd 3+)

Applicants for senior ensembles will be invited to attend an audition at the University of Strathclyde during November. No auditions are held for training ensemble membership.

Please note, Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) grades shown above are for guidance only and are NOT compulsory. Musicians wishing to apply should consult with their instrumental teacher for advice and guidance.

Online application is available from August 2026. Go to www.wssso.org.uk for full details.

WSSO Trust – Make great music and lifelong friends!

Sincere thanks to the following contributors:

Technical and Artistic Support

- Digital Routes of Lossiemouth (technical advice and website hosting)
- Photography:
 - » Rebecca Whitener: St Andrews, New Auditorium and Ayr Town Hall
 - » Lucy Pye: City Halls and Ayr Town Hall
 - » Samantha Parker: City Halls, Taster Day and New Auditorium
 - » Eilidh Horn: Lendrick Muir and New Auditorium
- Witherby Publishing Group

Content Providers

- WSSO Artistic Directors, Course Directors and Staff Members
- Current and Former Members



WSSO Trustees and Partner Local Authorities

WSSO Trust was formed in 1996 by Professor Colin Suckling OBE and is a registered Scottish charity that provides professional training and performance opportunities for young people living in the West of Scotland.

The Trust is managed and administered by the University of Strathclyde on behalf of 12 partner local authorities of the former Strathclyde Region.

WSSO Partner Local Authorities

- Argyll and Bute
- East Ayrshire
- East Dunbartonshire
- East Renfrewshire
- Glasgow
- Inverclyde
- North Ayrshire
- North Lanarkshire
- Renfrewshire
- South Ayrshire
- South Lanarkshire
- West Dunbartonshire

Organisation	Trustee
Chairman	Dr Allan Hewitt, Senior Teaching Fellow, Physical Activity and Health
Argyll and Bute Council	Catriona Garvin, Education Officer
East Ayrshire Council	Julie Carrie, Head of Instrumental Service
East Dunbartonshire Council	Greg Bremner, Chief Education Officer
East Renfrewshire Council	Donald Finlayson, Instrumental Music Service Manager
Glasgow City Council	Pamela Black, Education Support Officer
Inverclyde Council	Sarah Christie, Cultural Services Manager
North Ayrshire Council	Ronan Watson, Music Service Coordinator
North Lanarkshire Council	Kirk Richardson, Instrumental Music Teacher
Renfrewshire Council	James Cunningham, Arts and Learning Officer, Children's Services
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	Matthew Chinn, Associate Head of the Junior Conservatoire (Music)
South Ayrshire Council	Shonagh Stevenson, PT Instrumental Music
South Lanarkshire Council	Elaine Duffy, Instrumental Music Co-ordinator
West Dunbartonshire Council	Neil McAllister, Head of Instrumental Music



Support Us

WSSO Trust would like to say a huge thank you to all our members, supporters, corporate sponsors, trusts and foundations, and donors. Your commitment has enabled us to make some fantastic progress in our ongoing efforts to provide professional training and performance opportunities to as many young people in West of Scotland schools as possible, helping them to realise their full potential and removing barriers to participation.

There is still much to be done, but with your support, we are continuing to widen access, engage with more young people and make a significant and positive impact on the future of music-making in Scotland.

Some of the benefits in supporting WSSO include:

- Invitations to concert receptions
- Regular e-newsletter
- Acknowledgement in WSSO concert programmes and on the WSSO Trust website (supporters may remain anonymous if preferred)
- The chance to meet the musician(s) you are supporting.

WSSO Trust gratefully acknowledges the support received from the following organisations:



The Stoakes Family

Gallery



WSSO TRUST

ENSEMBLES FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

MAKE GREAT MUSIC
AND LIFELONG FRIENDS



FIND OUT MORE
AND APPLY ONLINE

WWW.WSSO.ORG.UK



WEST OF SCOTLAND SCHOOLS
ORCHESTRA TRUST



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow

West of Scotland Schools Orchestra Trust

In partnership with the University of Strathclyde and 12 Partner Local Authorities

Chairman – Dr Allan Hewitt

General Manager – Derek Hart

Office & Finance Manager – Samantha Parker

WSSO Trust

University of Strathclyde
Graham Hills Building
Room 627
50 George Street
Glasgow
G1 1QE

Contact Us:

General enquiries: info@wssso.org.uk

Apply online at: www.wssso.org.uk/apply

Follow us on social media at:

 www.twitter.com/wssotrust



WEST OF SCOTLAND SCHOOLS
ORCHESTRA TRUST

wssso.org.uk

