

Visiting Instructor of Piano (Part-time, Maternity Cover)

Department:	Music
Hours:	To be confirmed in accordance with uptake of lessons – expected to be around 0.5 FTE but this may vary year on year
Working Pattern:	Expected to be 2.5 days per week but this may vary year on year. Days of the week to be mutually agreed
Salary:	£31.80 per hour
Contract Type:	Casual and fixed term
Start Date:	3 June 2024
End Date:	3 April 2025
Reporting to:	Director of Music
Direct Reports:	N/A
Location:	Margaret Harris Building, Euclid Crescent

The Role

Job Purpose:

The High School of Dundee is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic Instructor of Piano (Maternity Cover) to join its thriving and well-established Music Department from 3 June 2024 to 3 April 2025. The successful candidate will be expected to deliver the learning and instruction of piano in one-to-one lessons. Additionally, there may be the opportunity to contribute to co-curricular activities that the Department offers. The successful candidate will be responsible to the Director of Music and work as part of the team of six full-time and two part-time permanent music instructors, and eight visiting music instructors at the High School.

The School

The High School of Dundee was established in 1239. Today the School is a flourishing co-educational independent school for pupils aged 3 to 18. There are currently some 980 pupils at the School.

The School is situated in the city centre of Dundee, only ten minutes' walk from the railway station. Working at The High School offers the opportunity to be part of a vibrant and welcoming community, committed to academic excellence and the highest standards of pastoral care for its pupils. The development of excellence in the education offered to the pupils is the underlying purpose of activities undertaken by all staff.

The High School of Dundee is committed to the safeguarding and welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child-protection screening appropriate to this post, including checks with past employers.

Key Outputs & Responsibilities:

The High School Music Department plays a major role in the life of the school and has an excellent reputation for the high quality of its performing. The Piano Instructor should continue to strengthen this reputation by thorough and effective piano tuition. There is a regular programme of concerts,

competitions and exams for individual performers in which the instructor would be expected to encourage their pupils to take part.

At present, piano is offered to pupils in L3 and above. Pupils may be presented for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Music examinations, both as course awards and as free-standing units, in addition to ABRSM exams (in school) and Trinity exams (externally). The school owns a large number of Yamaha pianos: one C6X, one C5, one C3, one P1, and two U1s, and a number of other pianos, including two further grands.

The successful applicant should have an extensive knowledge of piano repertoire (both solo and ensemble) and should be an expert practitioner. They should be able to produce suitable varied programmes for SQA examinations and will also be required to instruct theory of music as well as the other aspects of musicianship required for pupils to have a full understanding of their instrument, its practice and repertoire. The ability to work as part of a large and enthusiastic team is essential.

Main Responsibilities

To provide pupils with a rounded musical education through the medium of the pupils' instrument and the range of string repertoire.

- To instruct 30-, 45- or 60-minute music lessons to pupils as requested by the Director of Music.
- To set an example of high standards to pupils by demonstrating piano playing in lessons and ensembles as appropriate.
- To provide a considered programme of study through weekly lessons tailored to each individual pupil that allows for continuity from lesson to lesson.
- To ensure that each pupil is aware of their practice requirements for the next lesson and is following those requirements.
- To prepare pupils to perform in concerts and in other public events.
- To prepare pupils for ABRSM, SQA and other exams as appropriate.
- To write reports to parents and guardians at least once a year on each pupil's progress.
- To speak with the parents and guardians of all pupils at the annual Music Parents' Evenings.

Person Specification

Qualifications and Professional Bodies	Must possess a qualification in the taught instrument (or one of the taught instruments in cases where more than one instrument is required to be taught) to at least degree level or hold a BA or equivalent in academic music. However, candidates without these qualifications who nonetheless possess extensive experience working at a high professional level may be considered.
Skills and Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience in instructing individual lessons, general musicianship, and musical games.• The ability and desire to emphasise the encouragement of basic musical skills, physical ease with piano playing, and the enjoyment of performing, through individual or group tuition and ensembles.• The ability to instruct initial musical development, working imaginatively with pulse, rhythm, and pitch to lay the foundations for tuition in piano playing in subsequent years.• The ability to instruct advanced musical development, encouraging concert-going and careful listening to expand and enhance pupils' musicianship.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to explore all elements of music, including note-reading, aural and theory, in an active and stimulating fashion. • An understanding of the place of music in a school such as the High School of Dundee and the ability to support it in their instruction.
Personal Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the highest professional standards of dress, punctuality and politeness and being prepared to demand the same of their pupils. • Must have an ability to relate well to both pupils and other teaching, instructing and administrative members of the Music Department and the School and communicate effectively, both in speech and writing, with parents and guardians as necessary. • Have an exemplary attendance record in his or her present and previous employment. • Have the ability to keep matters relating to the school and its pupils confidential. • The possession of a valid driving licence is not a requirement of being a Music Instructor.

About the Music Department

Staffing

The Music Department is currently composed of a Director of Music, one full-time academic teacher, a further part-time academic teacher, six full-time and two part-time instrumental instructors, eight visiting music instructors, and a Music Department Administrator. The academic teaching covers all school years from Ante Pre-school to F6, with Music an obligatory subject up to F2, taught by specialists throughout. The department offers instruction in all orchestral and band instruments, recorder, piano, guitars, organ, and voice, starting from L3.

Accommodation and Resources

The department is currently housed in the Margaret Harris Building and has: four academic classrooms (including an IT suite and sound-engineering room); an extensive library of scores, parts, CDs, DVDs, and LPs; twelve rooms for individual music instruction; and one large rehearsal hall with a Yamaha C5 piano. In addition, the school has a performance hall with Yamaha C6 piano, and performs two major concerts per session in the Caird Hall, Dundee's civic auditorium and a premier recording venue for orchestral repertoire.

Attainment

The department enters approximately 150 pupils for ABRSM practical exams each session. Typical pass rates since 2012 are 99%, with 55% of candidates achieving Merit or Distinction. In SQA Music Exams at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the department achieved a 100% rate of A grades (60% at Band 1) in the 2017 and 2020 exam diets with 37 candidates. Since 2014, over 92% of pupils taking SQA Music exams have achieved an A grade.

Activities and Concerts

Approximately half of the pupils at the High School receive individual instructions on one or more instruments and voice. The following groups rehearse weekly: Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonia, Chamber Orchestra, Scottish Baroque, String Sinfonietta, Little Heifetz and Tutti Strings; Symphonic Band, Concert Band and Jazz Band; Novice A Pipe Band, Novice B Pipe Band, School Pipe Band, Development Pipe Band, Junior Years Pipe Band; several Woodwind, Brass, Guitar and Percussion Ensembles; Cantabile, L6-7 Choir, L4-5 Choir, Girls' Choir and Boys' Choir. Chamber music includes a variety of string, woodwind, and brass groups. Jazz is encouraged.

Among the wide range of performances, the larger ensembles of pupils perform at two major concerts each year in the Caird Hall. In 2022-23, the pupils performed (among many other pieces): concertos by Vivaldi and Albinoni, Haydn's Symphony No.102, Mendelssohn's "Hebrides Overture", Vaughan Williams's "English Folk Song Suite", music from the films "The Polar Express" and "Frozen II", from the musicals "The Sound of Music" and "Hamilton", The Proclaimers' "500 Miles (I'm Gonna Be)", and ABBA's "Money, Money, Money". In addition to performing on their own in band, our Pipes and Drums combine with other groups in concerts, performing arrangements of "Lochanside" with the Symphony Orchestra, as well as "El Paco Grande" in a concert of traditional Scottish music. There is a regular programme of evening concerts and weekly performance platforms, as well as two evening ensemble concerts in the summer. There are two annual Piano Days incorporating workshops and evening recitals, one for the Senior Years, and one for the Junior Years. Concerts are given from time-to-time outside school, including an annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee and several events at local community venues. There are annual house music and solo performance competitions. The Junior and Senior Years put on a musical alternately each year, with "Matilda" by the Junior Years in 2023, and the Senior Years preparing for "Whistle Down The Wind" in 2024. In 2022, our Competition Pipe Band won the British, European and World Championships in the Novice B grade, with the Drum corps separately winning the European Championships and the Champion of Champions prize for the season.

Several of the school's pupils at any one time are members of the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland and the National Youth Choirs of Scotland. Former pupils include Ricky Ross of the band Deacon Blue, singer KT Tunstall, and classical pianist Christina Lawrie.

The School requires all newly appointed staff to undertake a check with the Scottish Criminal Records Office in line with the Protection of Vulnerable Groups ('PVG') Scheme. Offers of employment are conditional upon satisfactory registration with the PVG Scheme.

Please note we are unable to provide sponsorship for a work visa so candidates should ensure they already have or are able to obtain the right to work in the UK before applying.

The job description is written as an indication of the nature and scope of duties and responsibilities. It is not intended as a fully descriptive or definitive list and jobholders will be expected to carry out other duties assigned which are appropriate to the role.

How your information will be used

To progress your application, for administrative purposes, High school of Dundee will record, keep and hold the personal data which you have provided in this application stored in our HR files. Your data will not be transferred to any third parties outside of High School of Dundee. If you are successful High School of Dundee will retain this data as part of your employee record which will be stored based on our [Staff Privacy Notice](#). In the event your applications is unsuccessful, we will hold the application and the data contained for three months in case of a future vacancy which we may invite you to apply for, following which we will delete it.

If you have any questions about High School of Dundee's use of data please contact us.