

## **Visiting Music Instructor**

### **Pipe Band Tenor and Bass Drumming**

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| <b>Department:</b>          | Music  |
| <b>Hours:</b>               | 5 per week   |
| <b>Dates of Employment:</b> | From as soon as possible after 1 October 2024 to the end of the World Pipe Band Championships in August 2025 (date tba)  |
| <b>Working Pattern:</b>     | Half a day per week in school during termtime, Tuesday 12.30 to 17.30, plus weekend solo and band competitions and championships during termtime and the summer competition season paid extra. |
| <b>Salary:</b>              | £33.08 per hour  |
| <b>Contract Type:</b>       | Visiting Music Instructor  |
| <b>Reporting to:</b>        | Director of Music  |
| <b>Direct Reports:</b>      | N/A  |
| <b>Location:</b>            | High School of Dundee, Euclid Crescent, DUNDEE   |

#### **The Role**

##### **Job Purpose:**

The High School of Dundee is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic Pipe Band Tenor and Bass Drumming Instructor to join its thriving and well-established Music Department as soon as possible from 1 October 2024. The successful candidate will be expected to train our Pipe-Bands' Tenor and Bass sections as well as deliver the learning and instruction of Pipe-Band tenor drumming in one-to-one lessons. Additionally, there may be the opportunity to contribute to the co-curricular activities that the department and wider school offer. There is the possibility of the job expanding to a larger number of days per week if sufficient pupils are recruited; this will be reviewed on a term-by-term basis.

##### **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 940 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. A large part of this reputation is due to the high quality and success of our Pipe Bands under the leadership of our Pipe Major, David Wilton. The Tenor and Bass Drumming Instructor should work in close collaboration with the Pipe Major and the Drum

Sergeant, and other instructors of bagpipes/chanter, with the aim of strengthening this reputation further by thorough and effective rehearsal and tuition. They will need to instruct the members and prospective members of the Drum Corps' mid sections in individual lessons and prepare them for the regular programme of events in which the Bands take part, including both public performances and external competitions.

The Tenor and Bass Drumming Instructor will instruct individual and small group lessons up to Grade One level within the Music Department during termtime to pupils in years L6 to F6. Learning to read drum notation should be an essential part of these lessons. They will also be required to be present at Tuesday Pipe Band rehearsals (16.15-17.30) to train the Novice A Pipe Band drum corps' mid section. In addition to preparing drumming pupils for the pipe band and for solo drumming competitions, pupils may be presented for PDQB exams.

The Tenor and Bass Drumming Instructor is expected to be present when pupils are competing at solo or pipe band competitions and championships at weekends and during the summer holidays, and at any special concerts. The time for this is paid at the same hourly rate in addition to the half day's work per week during termtime.

The successful applicant should have an extensive knowledge of and be an expert practitioner in pipe-band tenor and bass drumming. They should be able to work with the Pipe Major and Drum Sergeant regarding score-writing and enhancing the ensemble between all sections of the Pipe Band, preferably using the Sibelius software programme to notate scores in conjunction with the Drum Sergeant. In addition, they should be able to assist the Drum Sergeant in maintaining the drums for the bands' drum corps, including being able to tune the tenor and bass drums.

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 its repertoire.

- To promote and raise the profile of pipe band tenor and bass drumming within the High School;
- To rehearse the Mid Sections of the High School of Dundee Pipe Bands drum corps;
- To assist the Pipe Major in preparing the Pipe Band (and any other groups as appropriate) for the annual round of performances and competitions, for example:
  - The RSPBA's Pipe Band competing season running from March to August;
  - The High School's Winter and Spring Concerts in the Caird Hall on a Tuesday in mid-December and in late March;
  - Other competitions and events at the discretion of the Director of Music and the Pipe Major, if available;
- To help prepare the Pipe Band for occasional performances, such as playing in the City Square for University of Dundee Graduation Ceremonies, the biennial CCF inspection, and other civic, university, school and CCF events at the discretion of the Director of Music and the Pipe Major;
- To instruct 30-, 45- or 60-minute music lessons in pipe band tenor and bass drumming to pupils as requested by the Director of Music.
- To set an example of high standards to pupils by demonstrating pipe band tenor and bass drumming 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, and to motivate pupils to practise and encourage attendance at Pipe Band events.

- To prepare and encourage pupils to perform in concerts, solo and band competitions and championships, and in other public events.
- To prepare pupils for PBQB and other exams as appropriate.
- To promote the benefits of Teamwork
- To adapt to pupil's strengths
- 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 their pupils at the annual Music Parents' Evenings.

### **Person Specification**

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| Qualifications and Professional Bodies | Must possess a qualification in pipe band drumming 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 and with young people will be considered.   |
| Skills and Experience                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be an expert practitioner on pipe band tenor drum, preferably at Garde One level, as well as having secure knowledge of the skills required for bass drumming.</li> <li>• Experience in instructing individual lessons, general musicianship, and musical games.</li> <li>• The ability and desire to emphasise the encouragement of basic musical skills, physical ease with drumming, and the enjoyment of performing and competing, through individual or group tuition and ensembles.</li> <li>• The ability to instruct initial musical development, working imaginatively with pulse, rhythm, and pitch to lay the foundations for tuition in drumming in subsequent years.</li> <li>• The ability to instruct advanced musical development, encouraging attendance at events and competitions and careful listening to expand and enhance pupils' musicianship.</li> <li>• The ability to explore all elements of music, including note-reading, aural and theory, in an active and stimulating fashion.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> |
| Personal Attributes                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting the highest professional standards of dress, punctuality and politeness and being prepared to demand the same of their pupils.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Have an exemplary attendance record in his or her present and previous employment.</li> <li>• Have the ability to keep matters relating to the school and its pupils confidential.</li> <li>• The possession of a valid driving licence is not a requirement of being a Visiting Music Instructor.</li> </ul>   |

## **About the Music Department**

### **Staffing**

*The Music Department currently comprises 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 Pipe Major is one of the six full-time instructors. 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; fourteen rooms for individual music instruction; and two large rehearsal halls, one 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, as well as additional events in the nearby St Paul's Episcopal Cathedral.*

### **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, almost half of which achieve a Band 1 (85% and above).*

### **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.*

*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. In 2023, the Pipe Band Drum Corps won the Novice A European Championships Drumming prize, and in 2024, the Pipe Band were Scottish Champions and Champion of Champions at the Novice B grade.*

*Among the wide range of performances, the larger ensembles of pupils perform at two major concerts each year in the Caird Hall. In 2023-24, the pupils performed (among many other pieces): concertos by Vivaldi and Corelli, Haydn's Symphony No.104, Handel's "Water Music", Grieg's Piano Concerto, music from the films "The Polar Express" and "Chariots of Fire", and The Proclaimers' "500 Miles (I'm Gonna Be)". 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 is an annual three-day Piano Festival 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.*

*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.