

From the months of September to March, Bell Street Music Centre is home to a wide variety of musical groups. The groups meet weekly and are led by members of the Instrumental Service. Musicians at all levels from every Primary and Secondary School are encouraged to attend the Music Centre Activities which are free to access. Selection for the groups is by invitation and suitability based on a recommendation from the child's Instrumental Instructor. Many of the groups also have the opportunity to attend Belmont Music Camp in March and all will perform on the Caird Hall in March.

As well as re-enforcing the skills learned in instrumental lessons, playing in the Central Groups can also have its own benefits:

- **TEAMWORK** – In an ensemble you are part of a team working towards a common goal. You have to work effectively together to produce a good sound and do justice to the notes the composer has written.
- **ORGANISATION** – Your organisational skills will improve as you will need to practice your part in between sessions as well as committing the time to come to weekly rehearsals.
- **CONFIDENCE** – Though enjoyable, playing in a group requires you to play to as high a standard as possible without making any mistakes! Your ability to do this will stand you in good stead in other situations in life and boost your confidence.
- **SOCIAL SKILLS** – Playing in a group is fun. You get to meet lots of new friends who share your interest in music.

## Testimonials

'My weekly trips to the Music Centre were always the highlight of my school week. The combination of good music, friends and staff were a winning combination. I have fond memories of the Senior Wind Ensemble working with Frank Battisti as well as performing at the National Concert Band Festival. However performing with the SSO at the Caird Hall gave me my first experience of playing in a Symphony Orchestra and was a huge part of my decision to study music.'

*Murray Richmond, Royal Academy of Music 2009-2013  
BMus (Hons) and LRAM, Bassoon.*

'The music centre is an excellent resource provided by Dundee City Council. The staff are committed, enthusiastic and extremely hard working. The impact the music centre has on young peoples' lives is truly meaningful - providing them with new skills, experiences and the opportunity to fulfil their potential. As an ex-member of virtually every ensemble that rehearsed at the music centre, I can honestly say it is a resource that has shaped my life.'

*Amy Strachan - RSAMD BMus (Hons)  
PDGE Secondary Education Strathclyde University.*

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Design by Communications DCC, K11/17



# Music Centre Activities

**DUNDEE SCHOOLS** bands and  
**Orchestras**

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# MUSIC CENTRE ACTIVITIES 2017

## MONDAY

### Junior Wind Ensemble

4.40pm - 5.30pm

The Junior Wind Ensemble is open to wind, brass and percussion players from P5-S1 and has two intakes in the year, one in September and one in January.

As this is often the first experience of ensemble playing for the young players, rehearsals are relaxed and fun, providing a positive and enjoyable beginning to music centre activities.

### Concert Band

5.30pm - 6.45pm

This group is an Intermediate Band consisting of Woodwind, Brass & Percussion players generally but not exclusively from S1 – S3, it is the next step in Wind Ensemble playing. The repertoire encompasses a range of styles from transcriptions and arrangements of popular tunes and film music to original wind band compositions.



## TUESDAY

### Senior Guitar Ensemble

4.15pm - 5.45pm

Senior Guitar Ensemble is generally for S4 – S6 musicians competent enough to play technical, contemporary and classical music. The skill-sets covered in this group are seen as a stepping stone to enable musicians to play at a professional level.

### Percussion Ensemble

4.30pm - 5.30pm

Percussion Ensemble is for all secondary age pupils and its focus is to explore all things percussion using the vast array of instruments in the music centre. They have the opportunity to play a wide range of styles ranging from Kachaturian to Steve Reich.

### Junior Guitar Ensemble

5.45pm - 7.15pm

Mainly for S1 – S3 guitarists from all Dundee Secondary Schools. This group challenges themselves to learn new skills which will enable them to learn more advanced music while making new friends, musical connections and having fun playing the guitar.

### Senior Wind Ensemble

6pm - 8pm

This Premier Group provides a natural progression from Concert Band for Woodwind, Brass & Percussion players. It consists mostly but not exclusively of S4 – S6 musicians who are ready to face more technically challenging repertoire with a higher degree of emotional content. The ensemble has a proud history of offering its members the opportunity to perform and work closely with professional soloists and composers of international standing.

## WEDNESDAY

### Junior Strings

4.30pm - 5.30pm

First introduction to ensemble playing for players mainly in P5 – P7. They play well written music for young string players and very quickly make a fabulous sound. Rehearsals are fun and entertaining with an open rehearsal at Christmas time for the parents to see the progress and a performance on the Caird Hall in March to hear the finished product.

### Junior Rock Band

5.15pm - 6.30pm

A newly formed group which evolved due to the popularity of the Senior Rock Band. The Band is a starting point for introducing players to a varied selection of styles of music and incorporates strings, brass, reeds as well as drumkit, electric and bass guitar and vocals.

### Senior Rock Band

6.45pm - 8pm

Senior Rock Band is open to more advanced players and over the years can now boast a performance platform to include local festivals, award ceremonies, corporate events, local music clubs as well as its annual concert in the Caird Hall. The players themselves are encouraged to have a large input into the choice of repertoire which has led to great variety in their performances.



## THURSDAY

### Intermediate String Orchestra

4.15pm - 5.45pm

This Orchestra is the next step up from Junior Strings and is mainly for S1 – S3 players. Rehearsals comprise of sectionals most weeks followed by a full rehearsal with a break for sweets! The repertoire is fun and varied and can range from arrangements of pop tunes to well known classical pieces. The highlight however is undoubtedly the performance in the Caird Hall.

### Schools Symphony Orchestra

6pm - 8pm

Schools Symphony Orchestra and is for the most advanced orchestral players usually in S4 – S6. The repertoire is predominantly classical with previous programmes including works by Bizet, Beethoven and Mozart as well as Tchiakovsky and Stravinsky all of which not only challenge the players but give them an insight and understanding of the cornerstones of orchestral playing.



**DUNDEE SCHOOLS** bands and Orchestras