

Aberdeenshire School Piping Tuition Pilot & Piping Partnerships

Aberdeenshire Youth Music Initiative (YMI) /TRAD-ARR Partnership



UPDATE November 2008

Dear Piping Colleagues

Piping pilot

The initial six months of the Piping Pilot, Jan –July 2008 ended with most of the 114 chanter learners continuing until July and receiving completion certificates. Creative teaching was encouraged throughout the pilot with tutors Robert Aitken and Donal Brown devising teaching aids and musical games as the pilot progressed.

Later in the pilot we were able to offer support to the existing pipers and recruit some new starts at Alford Academy with Ian Dallas visiting weekly.

Tutors crowned the pilot by bringing twenty learners from the Primaries and four pipers from Alford to the YMI Showcase Concert at Meldrum Academy in June. All the young performers wowed the audience, which included Bruce Robertson, Aberdeenshire's Director of Education, Learning and Leisure, with their skill, confidence and obvious enjoyment.

Now in stage 2, we have followed learners wishing to continue chanter into S1 in three Academies, and have been able to continue tuition for the interested P7 learners in most of the primaries.

We are sorry to lose Donal Brown from the Pilot team, however we are delighted to welcome Julie Brinklow, from Ellon, to join us. Julie is tutoring in schools in the Fraserburgh and Huntly areas. Donal has now settled in the Central Belt with his wife and wee son, but we hope to be seeing him again in future workshops and activities.

Partnerships

Aberdeenshire YMI/TRAD-ARR partnership ran a two day piping course, Pipesplora, in conjunction with Aberdeen International Youth Festival. The course ran alongside The Splora, (Scots word meaning 'party'), aiyf's traditional music tuition week for young people. Despite the intense heat of day one, and accommodation hiccups at Kings College, twenty six young pipers, most of whom enrolled for both days, worked hard with Robert and Ian, and their feedback forms indicated that they had enjoyed the course with all reporting that they had learned new things.

On 25 and 26 October 2008, Aberdeenshire YMI Coordinator and piping partner TRAD ARR hosted a weekend of piping and drumming workshops, delivered by the National Youth Pipe Band (NYPB) of Scotland. Ten young members of NYPB, including brother and sister, Cameron and Kirsten Sharpe from Westhill, worked with thirty North East pipers and drummers, aged between 10-17years. The 'oldies' took a back seat in this fantastic weekend, except to join parents and friends to enjoy the

course concert on Sunday afternoon. The young participants played alongside NYPB members in an exciting selection of standard pipe band tunes plus some funky arrangements of rock tunes – something to take back to their bands with them! The concert was attended and greatly appreciated by Director EL&L, Bruce Robertson, who also took the opportunity to chat to the young folk.

The weekend, which was free of charge to the participants, was part of Aberdeenshire's Youth Music Initiative Programme and NYPB's Outreach programme funded by the Scottish Government's Youth Music Initiative via the Scottish Arts Council

For the future - enhancing provision

Like everyone else in the piping world, Aberdeenshire YMI/TRAD-ARR partnership is keen to enhance provision for young players, whether they are interested in pipe band playing or other playing pathways. In the future we hope to host workshops looking at aspects of piping, perhaps, currently unavailable in the north-east.

Aberdeenshire Youth Pipe Band

We would like to explore the possibility of forming an Aberdeenshire Youth Pipe Band. This would be a non-competitive, performance band, which would allow Aberdeenshire's young players to meet each other and share their enthusiasm. We notice from 'Pipespire' and NYPB course feedback forms that 'meeting new friends from different areas and bands' and 'playing with other young people' features highly. It is envisaged that these young players would take part in an exchange of skills, contributing skills already learned from many and varied sources and taking back new skills to enhance their own and ensemble playing.

If you have any queries, comments or just want to chat about any of the above, please contact either:

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or

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