

Report to Members, Funders and Donors

2025/26



Background

Perth Chamber Music's Workshop Programme takes groups of professional musicians into schools to play to, and inspire, the pupils there. Now in its 13th Year, it has reached approximately two-thirds of all schools in Perth and Kinross region. It has done this thanks to ongoing grants from local Trusts and businesses and donations from PCM's members.

Onwards and Outwards

Thank you again for supporting the work of Perth Chamber Music. The contributions of our sponsors, individual donors, Trust Funds and local businesses during 2025/26 have underpinned one of PCM's most successful seasons, both of recitals in St John's Kirk and its programme of interactive performances in schools across the Region.



During the year several important developments have been introduced, taking PCM's work in new and exciting directions:

- new partnerships with Perth Festival of the Arts, Live Music Now Scotland and Dunkeld Summer Music to expand work and share costs
- pilot to attract wider, more diverse and inclusive audiences
- extra support for school initiatives and school instrumental groups
- a project to develop new workshop material with a local Perth and Kinross theme

The Concert Series

A season of six concerts was organised in St John's Kirk, featuring two string quartets and four duos for piano with violin, clarinet, voice and cello. All were of the highest quality.

At its heart in January was the vocal recital by tenor, Liam Bonthron and pianist Benjamin Mead. Born and bred in Perth, and a past member of local groups Jambouree and Chansons, Liam is now singing at opera houses throughout Europe, including Covent Garden and Glyndebourne. His programme of German lieder and Burns songs drew a record audience of almost 150.

That record was then surpassed in May when PCM ran an extra concert, its first partnership event with Perth Festival of the Arts. The afternoon recital by Resol string quartet was designed as a taster for people unfamiliar with chamber music as well as more seasoned audience goers. Given its success, this partnership will be developed in future years.

Other firsts are the introduction of a Free Place scheme for the carers of people with disabilities and the agreement with Dunkeld Cathedral Summer Music to fund four outreach concerts at the Camphill Corbenic Community in Dunkeld to be held during this summer.



Education Programme

Alongside the concerts, PCM's programme of school visits during 2025/26 has taken professional ensembles across the region. Half and full day events have taken place from Kinross to Pitlochry and from Alyth to Braco.

Although most of the events have focused on primary age children, two half day workshops were arranged for pupils with special needs at Bertha Park High School in a new collaboration with Live Music Now, Scotland. Further sessions at Tulloch Primary school continued PCM's commitment to provide events for children with additional support needs.

The Programme also included small group sessions for nursery children at Abernethy and Tulloch Primary Schools.

The other workshops were led by Thistle Wind Trio and Sequoia Violin and Cello Duo, the one with its theme of The Sorcerer's Apprentice, the other using music to focus on green issues. Two interactive sessions at Braco and Dunning primaries involved existing string groups within the schools and their string instructors.

The REMOTE fund-raising initiative has continued to support three events in the further-flung parts of the region.



Looking ahead, PCM is sponsoring a new workshop currently being developed by Sequoia Duo based on the life of Dunkeld postie and naturalist a musical folk tale about the extraordinary life of Charles 'Tosh' McIntosh, naturalist, postman and friend of Beatrix Potter.

Partnerships

PCM has valued the following collaborations this year:

- St John's Kirk (all the concerts)
- Perth Festival of the Arts (May 26 recital)
- Strathearn Music Society (events in the west of the region)
- Live Music Now, Scotland (Bertha Park special needs sessions)
- Dunkeld Summer Music (Corbenic Camphill Community Concerts)
- Kinross Primary Parents Council (June 26 Sorcerer's Apprentice Day)

Thank you again for your support



I loved learning about all the instruments. I really liked the giant clarinet – Primary 5 pupil

I loved guessing all the songs, I knew Toy Story and K-pop Demon Hunters – Primary 3 pupil

The feedback from the children was all extremely positive, I know that within my workshop the children were engaged and really enjoyed creating magic and dancing to the music.

It was really fun, I loved it when we made the magic happen – Primary 2 pupil



The different instruments were cool, I had never seen anything like that before. – Primary 7 pupil

I enjoyed listening to all the different sounds they could make – Primary 4 pupil