

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM & WORKSHOP

for tutors and people who support schools pipe band programmes

Monday 20th January 2025.

At the National Piping Centre & Theatre Royal, Glasgow

Time	Title		Content		Session presenters	
09.45 – 10.10 (at NPC)	Welcome: Coffee, pastries & introductions		Introduction from SSPDT / NPC on the day and current activity		Alex Duncan CE SSPDT / Finlay MacDonald , Creative Director NPC	
10.15 – 10.40 (at Theatre Royal)	The Road Ahead? Progression pathways for learning		Overview of opportunities and pathways available to pipers and snare drummers who want to progress during and after school		Derek Doyle Learning Development Lead, NPC	
10.45 – 11.45	Techniques and fun games to encourage musicality and music-making		An interactive session about how to enhance inherent musicality in young people, and improve group music making.		Natasha Sim Suzuki teacher	
11.45 -12.00	Break					
12.00 – 12.45	Prevention of Hearing Loss		Piping and drumming, and the effects on hearing		Jono Heale Director ACS, musician, campaigner on hearing loss	
12.45 – 1.30	Networking lunch – Information stands					
1.30 – 2.00	Piping, Drumming & Injury prevention		How to spot and avoid injuries whilst playing		Dr Katrine Ross Physiotherapist, Nuffield Health	
2.00 – 2.15	Women in Piping & Drumming		How to support pathways for women and girls in piping and drumming		TBC	
2.15 – 2.45	Pipe bands					
2.45 – 3.00	Break					
3.00 – 3.45	Fundraising	How to build a successful fundraising strategy	Jennifer McGlone / Gillian Frayling-Kelly Consultants	Building a Pipe Band Ethos	How to encourage and maintain consistent values in a changing school programme	Panel host: Dr Andrew Bova Grieg Canning Lochgelly schools, Keith Bowes Renfrewshire schools, Simon Grant Prestonpans school, Steven Blake , NYPBS
3.45 – 4.15	SQA Curriculum for Excellence exams How to support pupils - Piping. Graham Drummond , Assessor		SQA Curriculum for Excellence exams How to support pupils - Snare Drumming Tam Barnes , Assessor		SCQF PDQB exams – How to support pupils Tenor and Bass Assessor tbc	
4.30 onwards	Return to National Piping Centre for closing remarks and networking drinks					

SESSION PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

In alphabetical order

Tam Barnes

Tam's drumming journey began aged 9 with the City of Newcastle pipe band, where he was guided by the talented Jimmy Regan. He advanced to grade 2 with Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary Pipe Band in 2012, learning under Gordon Smiles. In 2016, Tam joined the Scottish Power Pipe Band in grade 1, under lead drummer Jake Jørgensen. There, he helped clinch the British Championships in 2018 and played in the drum corps that won the Scottish Championships in 2019. Since 2023 Tam has played with Police Scotland and Federation Pipe Band under lead drummer David Henderson.

Tam currently teaches across North Ayrshire and offers private lessons while crafting scores for bands around the globe. Tam is a visiting assessor for pipe band drumming with the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA). Recently in 2024 he undertook a position on the board of the Society of International Rudimental Drummers (SIRD).

Steven Blake:

Steven Blake is equally at home with traditional piping, contemporary folk music and composition and possesses a unique style of playing which sets him apart from his peers.

Perhaps best known for his work with *RURA*, over the last few years Steven has taken to the stage across the globe from Japan, to the U.S., Canada and all around Europe-including extensively touring the UK playing combinations of whistle, bagpipes and piano across line-ups from within traditional music and beyond. This has included big line-ups such as *The Unusual Suspects* and appearances with *Judy Collins* to intimate solo spots in chamber concerts.

From his beginnings as a finalist in the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2008 Steven went on to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (formerly RSAMD) where he developed his playing style across all 3 instruments, studying piano mainly under Mary Macarthy and James Ross.

Steven's main project *RURA* released their debut album with *Greentrax* in March 2012, won "Up and Coming Act of the Year" at the MG Alba Traditional Music Awards 2012, nominees for 'Folk Band of the Year' 2013 and nominees in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards for the coveted 'Horizon' award. and winners of 'Live Act of the Year' at the MG Alba Traditional Music Awards 2015.

Steven's recent solo work includes a mixture of performing and composition projects including the collaborative Tryst project amongst some of Scotland's leading creative pipers. From a commission as part of Creative Scotland's *20for14* project to appearing in the TV series 'Outlander'. He has also taken the stage as a soloist with quite a few orchestral line-ups including the *Royal Scottish National Orchestra* and the *Royal Northern College of Music's Symphony Orchestra* and the *Orchestra of Scottish Opera*.

Recent recording highlights include appearing as a featured artist on the opening music for the 2014 Commonwealth Games as well as on Adam Holmes' debut album 'Airs and Graces' with John Wood, the producer behind celebrated albums from John Martyn and Nick Drake.

Keith Bowes

Keith J Bowes is a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

He is a full time Piping Instructor with Renfrewshire Council. He is a founding member and Pipe Major of the Renfrewshire Schools Pipe Band, which won Novice Juvenile B World Championships in 2023.

Keith was the Pipe Major of Johnstone Pipe Band between 2014 and 2022. Under his leadership they won the World's in grade 2 in both 2015 and 2016 taking them into grade 1 in 2017.

Keith is a holder of the RSPBA's Advanced certificate and is an SQA and PDQB examiner.

Greig Canning

Greig Canning is a bagpipe instructor for Fife Council's Instrumental Music Service. He is based within Lochgelly High School and also teaches at the school's 5 cluster primaries. As part of this role he is the Pipe Major of the Lochgelly High School and Lochgelly High School Junior Pipe Bands. Greig has played an active role in competitive pipe bands since 1997, achieving success as a pupil whilst attending Lochgelly High. He has gone on to compete and play within the ranks of Dysart & Dundonald, Manawatu Scottish, Shotts & Dykehead and Inveraray & District Pipe Bands. He is currently serving as the Pipe Sergeant of Police Scotland Fife Pipe Band.

Graham Drummond

Graham is a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

He is a full time Piping Instructor with West Lothian Council. He is the Pipe Major of the West Lothian Schools Pipe Band, who won Novice Juvenile A Scottish Championships in 2024.

Graham was a member of Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band for 10 years winning 6 World titles in that time period. He is now the current Pipe Sergeant of Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia.

Graham is a piping examiner for the SQA and has been since 2018.

Alex Duncan

Alex has been the Chief Executive of the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust since 2015, taking it from a regional to a national charity that has a presence currently in 22 Local Education Authorities. The SSPDT has founded and supports over 40 schools pipe band programmes teaching over 2000 pupils every week, as well as a legacy of 1000 pupils learning every week as a result of programmes and roles set up with the SSPDT and sustained independently. The charity has created over 60 new piping and drumming teaching roles, runs the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships welcoming over 70 bands every year, and the new Pipes and Trad Music Fest in Edinburgh. An instrument library lends 400 bagpipes free of charge to help pupils get started, as well as concert chanters and other instruments.

Before SSPDT, Alex led the funding campaigns for the new Christchurch Art Gallery in New Zealand and the new national HQ for Scottish Ballet at Tramway in Glasgow, as well as creating the Development department at the Macrobert Arts Centre, and worked as Communications manager for the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign.

Alex is retiring from SSPDT in February of this year, to work more flexibly on consultancy and projects.

Gillian Frayling-Kelly

Gillian has been leading charities and voluntary groups for 25 years, 16 of these as a career. She is currently Consulting Fundraiser for SSPDT, supporting small charities and community groups running schools pipe band programmes. Experienced in trusts, foundations, Scottish Government grants/contracts, community and events fundraising, Gillian also has tools and tips for ensuring that committees are running well in

order to be able to fundraise successfully. She understands that building relationships and demonstrating impact are vital to raise funds and is keen to share how to do this.

Simon Grant

Simon spent 10 years with the Army, whilst performing and teaching drumming all over the world, including concert tours of America, India and Australia, with the final three years teaching at the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming. He was also a part of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo production team during his final year in the army. Since leaving the army he became a musical advisor to the army cadet force and also taught at Belhaven Hill School in Dunbar. During this time, he ran a drumming tuition company 'DrumScotland' through which he taught worldwide.

Simon is currently the drumming tutor for the Preston Lodge High School Pipe Bands. During his time there the bands have won several major championships.

Simon spends a lot of his free time creating drumming tutorial videos on his YouTube channel, Facebook page and Instagram page.

Simon's experience in grade 1 pipe bands include Clan Gregor Society, Lothian and Borders Police Pipe Band, Scottish Power Pipe Band and Denny and Dunipace Pipe Band. He is currently the lead drummer for the City of Edinburgh Pipe Band. His vision is to bring back a top-level grade 1 band to the capital city of Scotland.

Jono Heale



Jono's background comes from over 35 years of working in the music entertainment industry. He was formally a professional freelance Musician for 15 years, including session work at the BBC. He went on to develop and run a unique national music student network of events and award ceremonies, which was a launchpad for numerous up-and-coming talent at the time including Ed Sheeran. He retrained as a Health and Safety Advisor specialising in noise and hearing health working at festivals and events across the UK. Due to loud music exposure in his early career, he unfortunately has music induced Tinnitus and hearing loss and is now very passionate about raising awareness on hearing conservation in the music industry. Jono sits on the Board of Directors at the world's leading custom hearing protection company ACS. In 2014 he launched a campaign called Play Safe Now - Hear Tomorrow on hearing conservation issues, which has received support from acclaimed names in the music industry and music education institutions worldwide. He lectures on this subject at most of the top music conservatoires and universities in the UK. Jono sits on the Musicians' Health Advisory Board for the charity Help Musicians UK and was involved in helping set up the Musicians' Hearing Health Scheme. He's been an advisor for the Association for Electronic Music's Health Working Group and was an active contributor for the Tinnitus UK (British Tinnitus Association) Plug'em campaign. Jono is now working closely with the Night-Time Industries Association supporting the Listen For Life campaign and has also been invited to join the board of Trustees at the charity Last Night a DJ Saved My Life.

Lee Moore

Lee has led the Preston Lodge High School Pipe Band tuition programme since 2009. He has previously also taught at George Heriot's School. He is a long time member of the St. Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band from Dublin. He is the Lothian & Borders Branch Rep for Education with RSPBA and Sits on the RSPBA Music Board and Format Group.

Katrine Ross

I studied my Doctorate of Physiotherapy at the University of Melbourne, Australia graduating in 2014, having previously done a Bachelor of Science. Since qualifying I have worked in private practice in Australia and after moving to Scotland (after hearing about the great weather) I have worked as a Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist for Nuffield Health in a gym-based location for 5 years and before that an Occupational Health company for 2 years. Through these I have experience in working with clients affected from a broad range of musculoskeletal disorders from acute sporting injuries, chronic conditions, to work related and postural conditions.

Outside of work I am passionate about collecting hobbies. I have played musical instruments since I was 4 (piano, clarsach, flute, piccolo). I enjoy knitting (no I won't make you kilt hose), baking and I also run/weight lift and do Tae Kwondo. You name it I have probably tried it (and forgotten it).

Natasha Sym

Natasha started her Suzuki journey in Australia around the age of 4, growing up in a passionate Suzuki community. Natasha experienced first-hand the magic and love that the Suzuki way can bring through an energetic studio and workshops, leading to achieving an A.Mus.A (AMEB, Distinction) in Australia and moving on to complete the Suzuki Teacher Training course.

Natasha is passionate about music being accessible to everybody, especially in early years development. With music, Natasha promotes and facilitates student and community connections to help foster growth and respect. Working internationally as an Occupational Therapist for 10 years, Natasha worked in different cultural and developmental settings. With this combined life experience influencing her outlook, Natasha is passionate about developing, with each student, their own uniqueness and helping them grow in their love for music and exploration of life. Natasha currently lives just outside of Edinburgh where she has maintained this philosophy through her teaching in her own thriving studio and teaching at workshops.

Jennifer McGlone

I have been working in the creative industry for over two decades. I have a strong passion for the arts and have worked in various roles, including music tutor, tour manager, and Director of Braw Wee Emporium and Braw Wee Craft Club. Through these ventures, I have had the privilege of empowering over 3,000 individuals to explore their artistic talents and unleash their creativity.

My passion for fostering creativity extends beyond the workshop space. During my time with the Youth Music Initiative Team at Creative Scotland, I played a key role in shaping innovative funding streams and providing valuable feedback to countless artists and organisations. As a freelance fundraiser, I have secured significant funding for initiatives such as Findhorn Bay Arts, the Scottish Music Industry Association, Music for Youth, the National Piping Centre, the Glasgow Jazz Festival, and the Scottish Music Industry Association.

Through my work, I have come to believe that the arts have the power to inspire, uplift, and transform lives. I am passionate about fostering creativity and building community, and I strive to create meaningful

experiences that resonate with audiences and leave a lasting impact on the world around us. As a mentor, educator, and advocate for the arts, I believe in the transformative power of creativity and community, and with me by your side, the possibilities are endless, and the journey is unforgettable.