



The National Piping  
Centre  
Evening Classes



## Getting Started

In order to start learning to play the bagpipes you will need a practice chanter with a reed and our book –*The Highland Bagpipe Tutor Book*. These items can be bought together as a special discounted rate Starter Pack from The Bagpipe Shop in our building, or online:

[Purchase Starter Pack Online](#)



### **Tutor Book Overview**

*The Highland Bagpipe Tutor Book* is an excellent instruction manual which was authored by a number of the world's greatest pipers. The book comes along with a CD Rom which amongst other useful features has video clips which clearly demonstrate all of the finger techniques. The approach used in the book is to introduce embellishments very gradually, two or three at a time, which are then incorporated into a tune. All of the different tune types are represented so by the end of the book students will have learned Slow Airs, Marches, Strathspeys, Reels, Hornpipe and Jigs.

### **Syllabus and Examinations**

Evening Classes will cover all areas of playing and technique including piping music theory, practice techniques, scales, set tunes, and the skills required to sit examinations.

We offer examinations which are validated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority and so it is possible to attain National Progression Awards at SCQF Levels 2-6 and Professional Development Awards at SCQF Levels 7 and 8.

Examinations can be taken at any time of the year by special arrangement and students will be notified of any arranged exam diet dates throughout the year.

If interested, students should email [exams@thepipingcentre.co.uk](mailto:exams@thepipingcentre.co.uk) or phone 0141 353 0220

## Our Teachers

You can rest assured when you enrol for a class or lesson at The National Piping Centre that you will be receiving instruction from experts\*. Many of our teachers are competition prize-winners in the solo and pipe band world and are in demand as performers throughout the world. We also draw on BA (Scottish Music –Piping) students and graduates who have or are currently studying at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to assist with teaching.

Our highly skilled instructors teach at all levels from beginners through to advanced. No distinction is made in the way we treat our students. We welcome anyone who wants to learn. Our goal is to take all of our students and help them to improve and develop to their maximum potential.

*\*It is our policy that all of our teachers are members of the PVG Scheme. The PVG Scheme is managed and delivered by Disclosure Scotland as an executive agency of the Scottish Government.*

## Club Night

Club Night is exclusively available for any student on an evening class course to attend for free on Tuesday evenings from 6pm - 8pm. At the club night students will learn set tunes, will cover extra maintenance help and concentrate on group work skills under the guidance of our tutors. The Club Night is aimed at creating a relaxed, welcoming and social environment for all of our evening class students to get to know one another and be involved in group activity.



# Self Grading

Here is The National Piping Centre's Level Guide which will help you evaluate your level of playing in order to register for the correct class\*.

Beginner	Level 2
<p>Completely new to the chanter.</p> <p>Little or no prior knowledge of reading piping music.</p>	<p><u>Exercises</u></p> <p>On the practice chanter:</p> <p>All doublings (Low G to High A), from any note of the scale</p>
<p><b>Level 1</b></p>	<p>Throw on D from each note of the scale</p> <p>Grips (including Grips with a B gracenote)</p>
<p><u>Exercises</u></p> <p>The scale</p> <p>The scale to F with a G gracenote</p> <p>The scale to C with a D gracenote</p> <p>The scale to D with a E gracenote</p> <p>G, D, E gracenote groupings</p> <p>All strikes</p> <p>Thumb or High A gracenote</p> <p>The Throw on D from Low A</p> <p>Doublings on High A, High G, F, E, D, C and B from Low A</p> <p>Basic monotone exercises in simple time</p> <p><u>Tunes</u></p> <p>Two tunes played from memory.</p> <p><i>*If your instructor feels you may be better suited to a different level they will be happy to discuss this in your first class.</i></p>	<p>Birl and Birl with a G gracenote from each note of the scale</p> <p>Taorluaths to Low A from each note of the scale (including Taorluaths from D with a B gracenote)</p> <p>Tachums</p> <p>C doublings to Low A and B doublings to Low G with E gracenote as used in Strathspey playing (Round movement)</p> <p>Basic monotone exercises in Simple and Compound Time</p> <p>On the practice chanter/bagpipe:</p> <p><u>Tunes</u></p> <p>2 parts of a Slow Air</p> <p>2 parts of a March in 3/4 or 4/4 Time</p> <p>2 parts of a March in 6/8 or 9/8 Time</p> <p>2 parts of a Strathspey</p> <p>2 parts of a Reel</p>

Level 3	Level 4
<p>Monotone Exercises</p> <p>Tap out the rhythm of Simple and Compound Time Monotone Exercises</p> <p>Tunes on the Bagpipe:</p> <p>2 parts of a Slow Air</p> <p>4 parts of a March in Simple Time</p> <p>4 parts of a March in Compound Time</p> <p>4 parts of a Strathspey</p> <p>4 parts of a Reel</p> <p>4 parts of a Hornpipe</p> <p>4 parts of a Jig</p> <p>One Ground of a Piobaireachd and one variation singling and doubling</p> <p>Students will be expected to make a reasonable attempt at tuning their Drones</p>	<p>Exercises on the Practice Chanter</p> <p>Technique required to play Piobaireachd as follows:</p> <p>Vedare</p> <p>Double echoes on B, D, E, F, and High G</p> <p>Harodin/horodin; darodo</p> <p>Taorluath/taorluath a mach</p> <p>Standard crunluath/ crunluath breabach/ crunluath fosgailte/ crunluath a mach</p> <p>Monotone Exercises</p> <p>Tap out the rhythm of any of the following:</p> <p>Simple Duple time</p> <p>Simple Quadruple time</p> <p>Cut Common time</p> <p>Compound Duple time</p> <p>Bagpipe</p> <p>Two competition type 2/4 Marches; Two 6/8 Marches of four parts</p> <p>Two competition type Strathspeys of four or more parts</p> <p>Two competition type Reels of four or more parts</p> <p>Two competition type Hornpipes of four or more parts</p> <p>Two competition type Jigs of four or more parts;</p> <p>One Piobaireachd which includes the taorluath and crunluath variations</p> <p>Students will be expected to set the Chanter and Drones accurately.</p>

If you would like to talk to someone about which level you think you may be, please call 0141 353 0220 and we will be happy to help.

## How to Enrol

To enrol simply fill in our online application form at [www.thepipingcentre.co.uk/eveningclasses](http://www.thepipingcentre.co.uk/eveningclasses) and pay online. Alternatively you can enrol over the phone on 0141 353 0220 or at The National Piping Centre.

## How to Find us

The National Piping Centre is located close to Glasgow's cultural centre, close to two universities and beside the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Theatre Royal and the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

### By Car

There are 3 main car parks within 5 minutes of The National Piping Centre as well as numerous on street parking facilities around the building.

### By Bus

Buchanan Bus Station, is within 5 minutes walking distance from The National Piping Centre with regular bus services also stopping at the top of Hope Street.

### By Train

Cowcaddens Underground, Glasgow Central Station and Queen Street Station are all within easy walking distance.



The National Piping Centre  
30-34 McPhater Street  
Glasgow  
G4 0HW  
Phone: 0141 353 0220  
[eveningclass@thepipingcentre.co.uk](mailto:eveningclass@thepipingcentre.co.uk)

**Contact us Today!**  
**Evening Class Co-Ordinator**

David Wilton  
[eveningclass@thepipingcentre.co.uk](mailto:eveningclass@thepipingcentre.co.uk)

