


The logo for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, featuring the words "SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA" in a white, sans-serif font, arranged in a circular pattern.

SCOTTISH
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

A close-up photograph of a young woman with long, wavy red hair and freckles, playing a violin. She is looking down at her instrument with a focused expression. The background is blurred, showing other musicians in an orchestra.

2024-25

CREATIVE LEARNING OVERVIEW

INSPIRING MUSIC MAKING

ABOUT CREATIVE LEARNING AT THE SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

At the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, we believe everyone should have equal access to exceptional musical experiences. Reaching over 10,000 people every year, right across Scotland, our creative learning programme offers plenty of opportunities to get involved in live music and music making.

The values of collaboration, creativity and inclusion are at the heart of what we do, from relaxed concerts and performance events to creative projects and participatory workshops. We are passionate about the impact music can have on individuals, on communities and on our society. We work in partnership with a wide range of community, education, arts and healthcare organisations offering

people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities chances to participate in, create and enjoy music.

This booklet summarises our current creative learning programme.

To learn more about our work and how you can become involved – as a participant, supporter, facilitator or collaborator – please get in touch at connect@sco.org.uk!



Laura Baxter
Creative Learning Director
Scottish Chamber Orchestra

**“NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE BELIEVE THAT ACCESS
TO WORLD-CLASS MUSIC IS NOT A LUXURY BUT
MAKES A VITALLY IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE TO
PEOPLE’S LIVES.”**



RECONNECT

The power of music for people with dementia

Since 2013, our ReConnect programme has brought people with dementia together through music to improve well-being and quality of life.

ReConnect provides a series of weekly music sessions in which dementia patients and those that care for them are supported to connect and enjoy time together. Sessions involve a range of interactive music activities, delivered by a specialist

music workshop leader and SCO musicians and are designed to support all who attend. Occupational therapy staff support the workshops, and members of nursing staff, activity co-ordinators and family members can also join in.

Currently delivered in partnership with **NHS Lothian** and **Caring in Craigmillar** (as part of the Orchestra's five-year residency in Craigmillar, Edinburgh).

"WE SEE A NUMBER OF VERY POSITIVE BENEFITS FOR OUR PATIENTS, INCLUDING NOTABLE POSITIVE CHANGES TO MOOD, REDUCTION IN STRESS AND DISTRESS, DECREASED SOCIAL ISOLATION AND REMINISCENCE INITIATED THROUGH THE MUSIC PLAYED AND SHARED."

Occupational Therapist, Older People's Mental Health Service, NHS Lothian



TEA DANCE CONCERT SERIES

Relaxed concert programme for people with dementia, their friends and family

Our Tea Dance concert series bring moments of joy, connection and true expression to people with dementia, their carers, their family and friends. These relaxed afternoon concerts feature classical favourites and familiar tunes, introduced and performed by our musicians, along

with tea and cake that can be enjoyed as part of the concert experience.

Developed in association with **Alzheimer Scotland** and the **Scottish Dementia Working Group**.

"MY HUSBAND HAS BEEN LIVING WITH DEMENTIA FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND THIS CONCERT GAVE HIM SO MUCH JOY. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR GIVING PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARERS THESE SPECIAL MOMENTS."

Audience member, 2024



SCO IN CRAIGMILLAR

A five-year community residency (2021-2026)

We are proud to take music out of the concert hall and into the everyday lives of people across Scotland, supporting communities to use music to come together, get creative and feel good.

SCO in Craigmillar is a five-year programme of creative projects and performances for residents of all ages

in Greater Craigmillar, Edinburgh. Our residency includes an annual schools' programme for nursery, primary and secondary school pupils as well as year-round creative projects for all members of the community. These include Craigmillar Voices, our flourishing community choir and Seen and Heard, an arts and music programme.

"THIS RESIDENCY IS A REAL COMING TOGETHER OF OUR COMMUNITY AND THE SCO. AND TOGETHER, WE ARE SPREADING A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC"

Community member



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BIG EARS, LITTLE EARS

Interactive concerts for babies and toddlers

Music can provide inspiring shared experiences for the whole family. *Big Ears, Little Ears* is our relaxed concert series for children under the age of five and their grown-ups. These interactive performances are playful, multi-sensory introductions to live orchestral music and enable our

youngest music lovers to enjoy up-close and personal musical performances.

Developed in association with **Starcatchers**, Scotland's Arts and Early Years organisation.

"IT WAS MAGICAL TO WATCH MY SON TAKE IN THE MUSIC AND TO SEE THE CONCERT THROUGH HIS EYES"

Audience member, Inverurie



MUSICAL STORYTELLING CONCERTS

Concerts for children (aged 6+) and their grown-ups

In February each year we bring the full Orchestra to families across Scotland. These interactive musical storytelling concerts are created with younger listeners in mind and offer the perfect introduction to orchestral music - no matter how old you are!

Our family concerts are BSL interpreted.



BSL INTERPRETED

Turn the page to find out more about our 2025 storytelling concert...

**"MY CHILDREN HAD A FANTASTIC TIME AND LOVED
THE STORY AND THE WONDERFUL MUSIC. WHAT A
TREAT FOR ALL OF US!"**

Parent, Edinburgh, 2024



THE GREAT GRUMPY GABOON

The Great Grumpy Gaboon

The Great Grumpy Gaboon is the focus of our family concert series between 2024 and 2026 and is a brand-new orchestral work from the SCO's Associate Composer, Jay Capperault, set to a story created by children's author Corrina Campbell.

Listen very carefully, can you hear a sad tune?
Those are the moans and the groans
of *The Great Grumpy Gaboon*!





Have you ever felt grumpy? That is exactly how the poor Gaboon feels! While the Gaboon's friends try everything to figure out what's wrong, none of them realise that a musical mischief maker is lurking in the shadows of the orchestra who holds the key to the Gaboon's mood.

Join the Grumpy Gaboon and friends on this brand new musical adventure which will tour across Scotland!



BSL INTERPRETED

SCO ACADEMY

A unique, non-auditioned opportunity
for aspiring young musicians

The SCO Academy aims for young people to better understand their musical selves and their musical progression, to develop new skills, explore experiences and aspirations and to create music with peers and inspirational professionals. Our SCO Academy enables young musicians to complement their regular music-

making activities by working alongside SCO musicians and conductors on a special season concert programme. Each Academy involves sectionals, coaching and rehearsals, culminating in a performance as part of the Orchestra's season programme.

"THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY ALONGSIDE PRACTISING MUSICIANS AND PERFORM IN 'REAL' PROFESSIONAL CONCERTS HAS BEEN AN ABSOLUTELY AMAZING EXPERIENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS. THEY HAVE LEARNED SO MANY THINGS THEY WILL TAKE FURTHER INTO THEIR OWN PLAYING."

Tutor, Glasgow CREATE, 2024



VIBE

A fusion orchestra programme for young people

VIBE is an informal music-making opportunity for young people that takes place during school holiday periods. In VIBE, everyone works together to create new music which combines the playing styles and musical influences of everyone in the group. VIBE is a creative community open to all young people - there are no auditions and there is no requirement for

young people to be able to read music. The emphasis is on trying out new ideas, building confidence and enjoying making music together.

In 2024/25, we will start to deliver VIBE in the Borders, working in partnership with **Scottish Borders Council** and **Melrose Music Festival**.

"IT'S A REALLY FUN WAY TO EXPRESS YOURSELF. YOU ARE SUPPORTED THE WHOLE TIME CREATE YOUR OWN MUSIC – IT'S BEEN ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT!"

VIBE participant, 2020



IMMERSE

A live orchestral experience for
secondary school music pupils

Immerse enables secondary school pupils to experience the excitement of a live orchestra up close in concert. Each *Immerse* concert programme is designed to inspire pupils' creativity and enhance understanding of musical concepts used in the featured music. Study materials, designed to help prepare pupils before the concert with insights and classroom activities, are also available.

Immerse 2024-25

Immerse 2024-25 features *The Origin of Colour* by SCO Associate Composer Jay Capperauld. Jay himself will introduce the programme, in conversation with SCO musicians and artist/musician Kirsty Matheson who uses music as an inspiration for her artworks. Kirsty has created a series of paintings inspired by *The Origin of Colour* which will feature as part of this concert.



**“LEARNING FROM THE SCO’S WORLD-CLASS
MUSICIANS IN THIS WAY HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY
BRILLIANT FOR OUR PUPILS”**

Teacher, Glasgow 2023



OPEN REHEARSALS

A live orchestral experience for
secondary school music pupils

An opportunity for secondary school music students to discover how great music comes together and experience the Orchestra's rehearsal process. This is a unique chance for students to watch a professional orchestra at work, see a performance take shape and observe how the Orchestra prepare for a public performance.

**"THE EXPERIENCE GAINED BY OUR YOUNG
PEOPLE HAS BEEN TRULY INVALUABLE"**

Teacher, Edinburgh 2024



TICKET OFFERS FOR SCHOOLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Now more than ever, we believe that providing young people with access to our concert performances is essential in developing the musicians and audiences of the future.

We offer complimentary tickets to schoolteachers and instrumental tutors who wish to bring a group of young people to our season concerts.

Anyone aged 18 or under can attend most SCO concerts for free but under 16s must be accompanied by a paying adult. Students and those under the age of 26 can also receive £6 tickets for most SCO performances.

**“THE FREE TICKETS FOR UNDER 18S IS GREAT, MY KIDS
AND THEIR FRIENDS (ALL TEENAGERS) HAVE BOOKED
THEM SEVERAL TIMES”**

SCO Audience Member





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To find out more and help support our Creative Learning work, please contact Hannah on **0131 478 8364** or email **hannah.wilkinson@sco.org.uk**.

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED.
sco.org.uk /joinin

Cover image
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Email us at **connect@sco.org.uk**



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