



St Mary's Music School
EDINBURGH



We are Scotland's national music school

Annual Review 2016 | 2017

We are Scotland's national music school


Our mission is to open our doors to outstanding young instrumentalists and choristers from Scotland and beyond - regardless of their means or circumstances - allowing them to flourish and excel, musically and academically, in a safe, supportive and inspiring environment.

Our school was first established in 1880 to educate the choristers of the newly built St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral. In 1972, in addition to our choristers, we began to welcome young instrumentalists, composers and singers from all over Scotland and further afield.

We pride ourselves as much on the high calibre of our teaching as we do on our musical training, and also in the way we nurture and support the development of every pupil, enabling them to be the best they can be, in every aspect of their life.

St Mary's Music School is a place that resounds not just with the sound of music and singing, but with conversation, laughter and applause for achievements of every kind.





“I’m leaving St Mary’s Music School after eight years and it’s been a huge part of my life so far. To really grow as a musician, you have to get out there and experience great performances and play with great musicians of your own age. Working with everyone at St Mary’s has really kept me inspired – it’s been an amazing experience.”

Sophie Williams, Violin

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We are united in our purpose

St Mary's Music School exists to provide a unique resource for Scotland and for musically gifted young people, from Scotland and beyond. Yet, for a great many years, St Mary's Music School was something of a 'hidden gem' – a school that was nurturing incredible musical talent but modest about promoting its work and achievements.



Today, our focus is firmly fixed on growing the school's impact in Scotland and further afield. During 2016/17, we addressed financial viability, stakeholder relationships, sustainability, marketing and communications, fundraising strategy, and policies and procedures.

A focus on strategic planning

In 2016/17, our Strategy Committee engaged external consultants to support us with our medium and long-term planning. Taking into account our existing Aided Places Scheme funding by the Scottish Government (which accounted for 58% of our income and supported 51 of our 79 pupils this session), we drew up a robust and detailed assessment of our challenges and opportunities. This provided context for our *School Improvement Plan 2017/18* which focuses on learning and teaching, attainment and achievement, pupil welfare, staff development, quality assurance and whole school development, giving us the blueprint for a sustainable and exciting future.

"We never want to turn talent away for the sake of money – we exist to open doors and let exceptional talent in – and the Scottish Government's Aided Places Scheme allows us to do just that."

Caring for our students, caring for our staff

In 2016, we ran two training sessions that focused on the holistic care of our pupils – Child Protection Policy (delivered by Greg Murray, Head of Guidance) and Towards an Ethical Musical Education (delivered by Kathryn Jourdan, Academic Music teacher) – and in February 2017, we welcomed Alistair Hector (Former Principal of George Heriot's School) to the board as Chair of our Education Committee. He has been instrumental in building governance around the holistic care of our young people, including pastoral care of our boarders (who numbered 31 in 2016/17).

Maintaining secure financial foundations

Our Finance and General Purpose Committee ensures that the school's financial position is clearly understood, with money spent appropriately on maintenance, instruments and equipment. With an eye on future growth and sustainability, we invested in marketing and communication materials this session and, in January 2017, we appointed an external Fundraising Consultant to help us focus our efforts on developing fundraising as a critical income stream.

At the end of the 2016/17 session, I can confidently say that St Mary's Music School is ready for the future and I'd like to thank the board for their expert contribution and unstinting support. We understand our opportunities and challenges, we know what we can and should do, and we're ready to do it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Moyes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William Moyes, Chairman

We are in tune with our pupils

Our whole curriculum is pupil driven, with music at its heart. In other schools, music is often bolted on or replaces other lessons — here, it's embedded, but not at the expense of academic achievement. Our aim is to turn out well-rounded, confident and caring young people who have been allowed to make the most of their musical gifts.

Delivering a broad and inclusive curriculum

St Mary's Music School has always had a strong academic record and our exam results in 2016/17 bear testament to that with pass rates of 97% for SQA National 5, 88% for SQA Higher, 87% for SQA Advanced Higher, and 100% for A Level exams. We made a change to our exam diet this session, presenting S4 pupils for the Cambridge iGCSE (100% pass rate), starting work on the two-year Cambridge Pre-U with S5 pupils, and preparing some senior pupils for the ABRSM Practical Musicianship Exams in recognition of their need for a greater academic music challenge. During 2016/17, we maintained our class ceiling at 15 and, as ever, our teaching staff were admirably flexible in their understanding that, every so often, music does need to take centre stage!

“St Mary's Music School is about musical immersion – yes, the pupils need to show the motivation and discipline to practise, but music is fundamentally a social thing, it's about sharing what we do with other people.”

Contributing to the wider community

I believe that every school has a duty to make a contribution to its immediate and wider community and our cohort of choristers (18 in 2016/17) does this on a daily basis through their sung performances in the Choir of St Mary's Cathedral. Our community involvement has a wider reach too and, during 2016/17, we opened our doors every Saturday morning to 150 young people who came to us for music classes, workshops and instrumental lessons. We performed at the Murrayfield Care Home, Stewart House Men's Club and an Ovarian Cancer Action charity concert at St John's Episcopal Church on Princes Street, and we enthusiastically took part in fundraising activities to support The British Heart Foundation, Help Refugees, Macmillan Cancer Support, Save the Children and Ehlers-Danlos Support UK.

The art of performance

Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of 2016/17 was the masterclass featuring Nicola Benedetti, in May 2017. Facilitated through the Nigel Murray bequest to St Mary's Music School, this was held at Stockbridge Parish Church and attended by 60 staff and 270 pupils from a wide range of Scottish schools. In addition to our daily Cathedral commitments, our young people also gave a total of 63 performances in Scotland and further afield, bringing the joy of music to new and diverse audiences. Paul Stubbings, Director of Music, took pupils to 32 performances, outwith school hours, introducing them to new and exciting musical influences.

St Mary's Music School is a happy, vibrant and productive place that allows pupils to balance their passion for music with the everyday academic, social and cultural interests that they share with young people across Scotland.



Kenneth Taylor, Headteacher

We are performing with confidence

Our pupils, our school, our achievements

Curriculum for Excellence

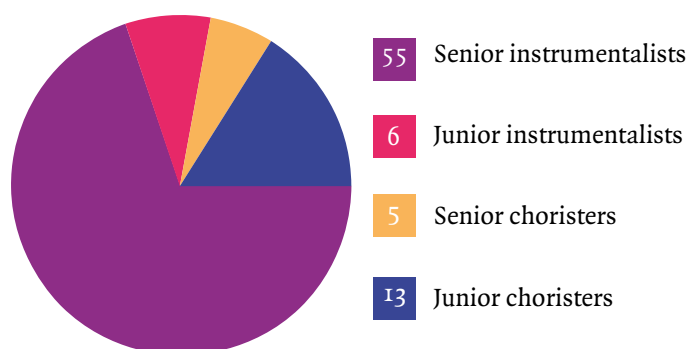
Our classes follow Scottish Government guidelines, in line with the Curriculum for Excellence, helping our pupils to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors. The Curriculum for Excellence supports schools to plan learning suitable to their own context and, in the case of St Mary's Music School, specialist music education is woven through the fabric of each pupil's individual timetable.

This includes:

- Aural classes
- Academic music
- Specialist instrumental teaching
- Coaching with a pianist
- Choir
- Chamber music
- Orchestra
- Performance classes
- Jazz
- Individual practice

School Roll 2016/17

79 pupils (48 day pupils and 31 boarders)



Subjects Taught

Art & Design
Biology
Chemistry
English
ESOL
French
Geography
German
History
Italian
Latin
Mathematics
Modern Studies
Music
Physics
RME
Spanish



Gardening Club



Who wants to be a Mathematician?



Debating Society



Running Club



Science Club



Edinburgh Schools Athletics Competition



Scottish Maths Challenge



Eco-Schools Club

Exam Results 2016/17

SQA National 5
97% (68% at A)

SQA Higher
88% (67% at A)

SQA Advanced Higher
87% (47% at A)

A Level
100% (60% at A)

iGCSE Music
100% (80% at A)

ABRSM Practical
40 distinctions & 9 Merits (Grades III – VIII)

ABRSM Theory
1 distinction, 5 merits, 1 Pass (Grades V and VIII)

Practical Musicianship
3 Distinction, 2 Merits, 1 Pass (Grade VIII)

Instrumental & Musical Teaching

Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Saxophone (Jazz & Classical), Percussion (Jazz & Classical), Harp, Clarsach, Bagpipes, Accordion (Classical & Traditional), Guitar (Classical), Organ, Harpsichord, Composition, Alexander Technique, Voice (Jazz & Classical)



Music Ensembles

Chamber Orchestra	String Ensemble	Early Music Group
Junior Sinfonia	Saxophone, Clarinet & Flute Ensembles	Chamber Groups and Choirs
Scottish Traditional Group	Jazz Combo	Guitar Ensemble

Performing, Listening and Learning

We gave **63** performances

We attended **32** 'unmissable' concerts in Scotland

We took part in **15** masterclasses

In 2016
our pupils came from...

Scotland (71)

Edinburgh 45, Borders 2, Glasgow 2, East Lothian 5, West Coast 2, Fife 3, Stirling 2, Perth 3, Highlands & Islands 7

England (5)

London 2, Blackburn 1, Cambridge 1, Derbyshire 1

Overseas (3)

Spain 2, France 1

And in 2017
our leavers went on to...

Scotland

Glasgow University (French/Russian); Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (Bassoon/Piano); University of St Andrews (Physics)

England

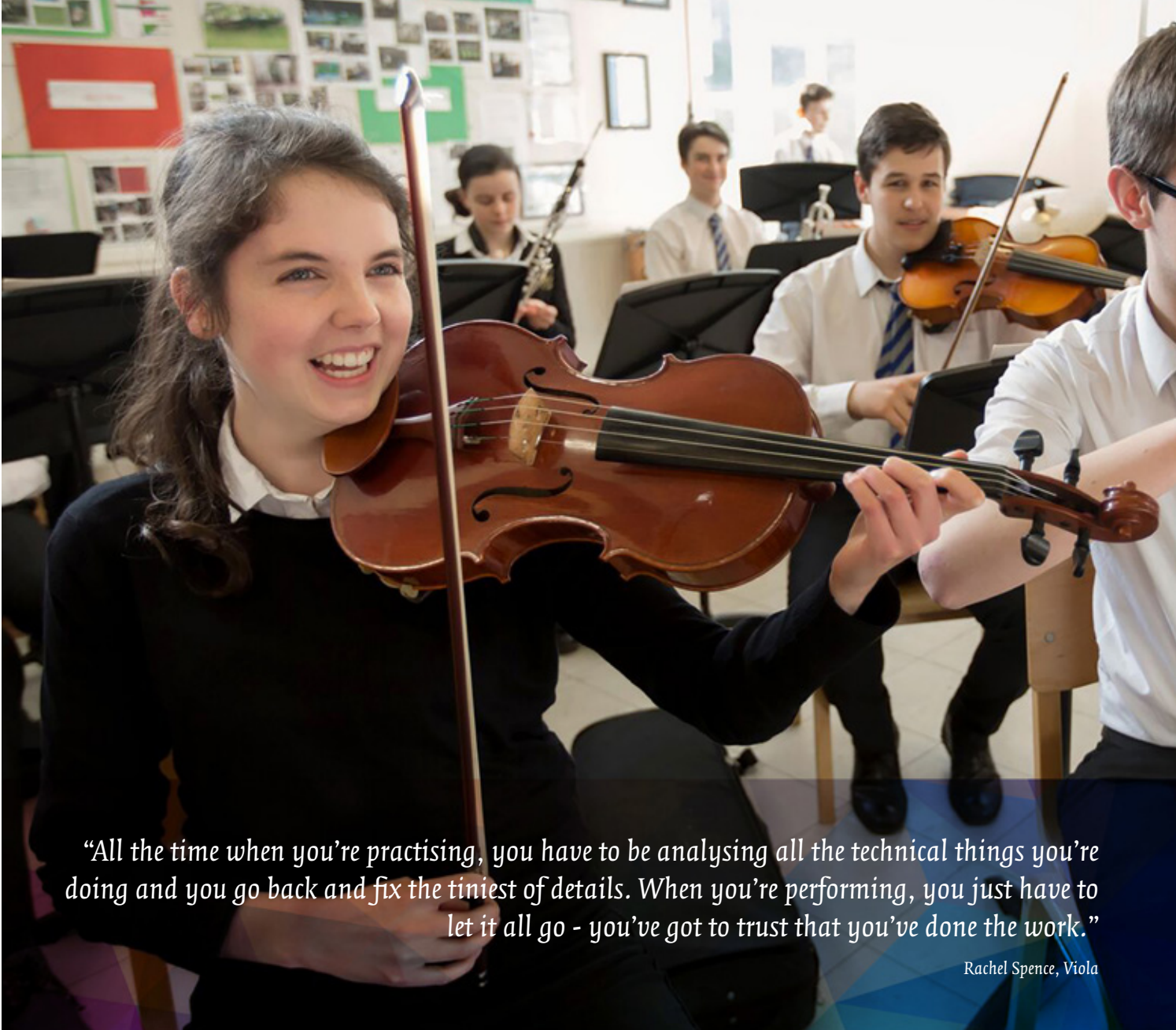
Birmingham Conservatoire (Piano); University of Cambridge (Physics); Royal Academy of Music, London (Cello); Royal College of Music, London (Violin); Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester (Cello)

Overseas

McGill University, Montreal, Canada (Liberal Arts)

We play and sing with...

National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, National Children's Orchestra, Edinburgh Youth Orchestra, National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland, Tommy Smith Youth Jazz Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, Scottish Opera Connect, National Youth Choirs of Scotland



"All the time when you're practising, you have to be analysing all the technical things you're doing and you go back and fix the tiniest of details. When you're performing, you just have to let it all go - you've got to trust that you've done the work."

Rachel Spence, Viola

We are in pursuit of excellence

Gavin Gemmell was a director of Archangels from 2001-2017 and is still an active investor. He spent the majority of his career with Baillie Gifford & Co, retiring in 2001 after 37 years with the company, including 12 years as joint senior partner. Gavin's other notable appointments include Chairman of Scottish Widows, Director of Lloyds TSB Group and Chairman of Court at Heriot-Watt University.



"This is a very well run school and the trustees provide the necessary experience at board level to give teachers the confidence to move forward. It's up to us to provide the background against which staff and pupils can thrive – we are responsible for making sure the right resources are available to them."

Q What inspired you to join the Board of Directors of St Mary's Music School?

A I was Chair of the Standing Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church in 1995, when the school purchased the building we occupy now. I thought at the time that the staff had done a stunning job in developing the school and, when I was approached to join the board in 2010, I felt that my experience in business investment and fundraising would be extremely useful.

Q What does attending St Mary's Music School mean to its students?

A Our staff are hugely committed and our pupils not only progress musically, but also academically. St Mary's Music School is in a completely different league from other specialist music schools in Scotland – regular lessons are fitted around musical activity and the school's excellent academic record gives parents reassurance that their children will leave with a wide set of skills and good exam results. Although the majority of our pupils will pursue a musical career through conservatoire, university and beyond, not everyone will be a Nicola Benedetti, so we ensure that our students are prepared for a life outside music too.

Q What impact does St Mary's Music School make?

A The musical talent of our students is just outstanding. The school is all about excellence and I'm in favour of excellence. The arts and music worlds need outstanding people and St Mary's Music School gives young people with tremendous talent the opportunity to develop it and become the leaders of the future. I often think that orchestras in particular are very good at encouraging teamwork and there's a discipline in classical music that translates well into other aspects of life.

Q Why is fundraising so critical to St Mary's Music School?

A Like all arts organisations, year on year, we need to raise funds to fill the gap between the cost of running the school and the income we generate which, in the school's case, is the fees paid by parents, most of whom receive financial support through the Scottish Government's Aided Places Scheme, Cathedral Scholarships and School Bursaries. To be sustainable, and to grow our school roll, we need to secure reliable inward investment and so we've developed a robust fundraising strategy. As Chair of the Fundraising Committee, that's my area of expertise – being a trustee is about sharing your skills with others in a way that will help them most.

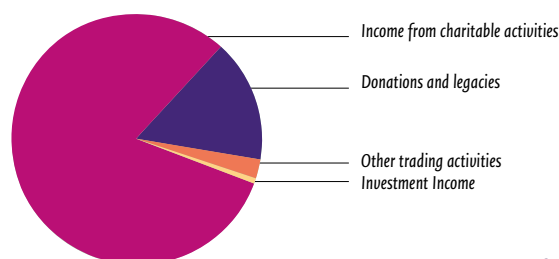


"Our staff are hugely committed and our pupils not only progress musically, but also academically."

We are financially stable

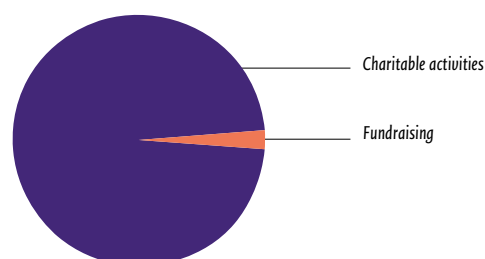
Summary financial report for 2016/17

2016/17 Income Summary



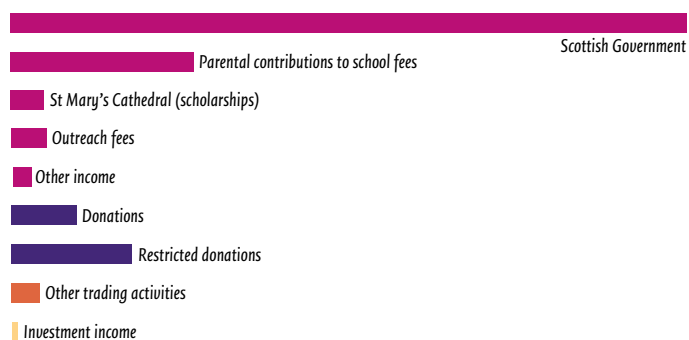
	£	Percentage
Income from charitable activities	1,771,382	81.1%
Donations and legacies	348,660	16.0%
Other trading activities	52,201	2.4%
Investment income	11,495	0.5%
Total	2,183,738	100%

2016/17 Expenditure Summary



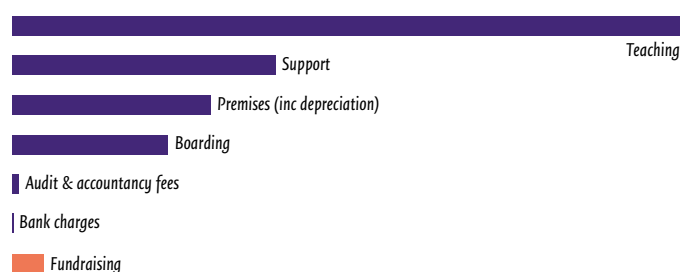
	£	Percentage
Charitable activities	2,063,219	97.6%
Fundraising	51,417	2.4%
Total	2,114,636	100%

2016/17 Income Detail



	£	Percentage
Scottish Government	1,264,116	57.9%
Parental contributions to school fees	343,002	15.7%
St Mary's Cathedral (scholarships)	64,132	2.9%
Outreach fees	64,982	3.0%
Other income	35,150	1.6%
Donations	123,351	5.6%
Restricted donations	225,309	10.3%
Other trading activities	52,201	2.4%
Investment income	11,495	0.5%
Total	2,183,738	100%

2016/17 Expenditure Detail



	£	Percentage
Teaching	1,066,155	50.4%
Support	420,470	19.9%
Premises (inc depreciation)	316,168	15.0%
Boarding	247,008	11.7%
Audit & accountancy fees	11,008	0.5%
Bank charges	2,216	0.1%
Board costs	194	0.0%
Fundraising	51,417	2.4%
Total	2,114,636	100%

We are in perfect harmony

During 2016/17, the Perfect Harmony campaign was launched – a partnership between St Mary's Music School and the Royal High School Preservation Trust. Its aim is to support the school's proposed relocation to the former Royal High School building on Calton Hill.

Originally designed by Thomas Hamilton, and opened in 1829 to put education physically and morally in a prime position, new plans for the building were drawn up by the architect Richard Murphy, and gained planning permission from City of Edinburgh Council during 2016/17. A rival bid to build a large hotel on the site has twice failed to gain planning permission and has become the subject of an ongoing appeal. A decision is likely to be reached early in 2019 and, if our bid is successful, this new location will provide the ideal setting for St Mary's Music School as Scotland's national music school.

State of the art teaching and rehearsal facilities, as well as a 280-seat concert hall, will not only enhance the pupil experience but allow the school to throw open its doors, expand its outreach, create new partnerships and embrace diversity. It's a fitting ambition for a building that is one of the world's finest examples of democratic architecture.

"This is one of Edinburgh's most famous buildings and it makes absolute sense that it should become a place to nurture music. We shouldn't just be consumers of musical talent, but custodians."

William Gray Muir, Chairman, Royal High School Preservation Trust
For more information, please visit rhspt.org



Our Board

William Moyes (Chairman), Paul Baxter, Graham Burnside, James Cook, Jo Elliot, Gavin Gemmell, Brian Gill, Kat Heathcote (appointed March 2017), Alistair Hector (appointed February 2017), Jacqui Low (resigned January 2017), Neil Short, Brian Smith, Pauline Taylor (resigned June 2017) and Chris Torkington.

St Mary's Music School Trust Limited is a charity, number SC014611.
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We are developing a national cultural asset

We are Scotland's only independent specialist music school, and also its only choir school, welcoming pupils for their musical promise – regardless of their means – with up to full financial support available. Your support not only enables these talented young people to excel, but ensures that we are developing a national cultural asset that makes a vital contribution to musical excellence on the

national and international stage. We aim to bring the joy of music to the widest possible audience, making it accessible and relevant to everyone.

If you would like to support us in our ambitions, please contact the Development Office on 0131 538 7766 or email development@st-marys-music-school.co.uk



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