



# Gift from the Anonymous Sculptor to St Mary's Music School

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# The Sculpture

The anonymous artist, who started gifting intricate paper sculptures in 2011 to Edinburgh's cultural organisations "in support of libraries, books, words and ideas", has created a new sculpture in support of St Mary's Music School and its bid to relocate to the Royal High School on Calton Hill.

Her latest work, which is around 37 centimetres tall, depicts a musician on stage surrounded by flying musical notes. It features an excerpt from JK Rowling's first Harry Potter novel featuring Professor Dumbledore, which reads: "Ah music, he said, wiping his eyes. A magic beyond all we do here." The book pages used for the sculpture appear to be taken from 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie', first published in 1961.

The artist, whose identity is known by only a handful of people, had previously pledged that a 6ft tall sculpture of a child hugging tree, which was delivered to the Edinburgh International Book Festival site, was her final work. However she has decided to follow in the footsteps of the likes of violinist Nicola Benedetti, composer James MacMillan and author Alexander McCall Smith in backing the plans to relocate to the Old Royal High.

In a note to the music school, the artist said: "What makes a place, in this case a city, this city, special? The question of what we do with our buildings has to be key. It is no secret that I think the arts matter, the buildings as well as the contents. The Old Royal High School was designed and built with enlightenment and education in mind, with a hope for the future. As St Mary's Music School, that legacy would continue. In the heart of the city, up on the hill, a centre of musical excellence would speak of the importance of music and music education to every child's life".

Dr Kenneth Taylor, the school's headteacher, who unveiled the sculpture to pupils at St Mary's Music School on 4th September 2018, said "Everyone at St Mary's Music School is delighted that the anonymous sculptor has gifted us with an exquisite sculpture of a cellist and given her pledge of support for our move to the Old Royal High. We're greatly encouraged by the support we have received from her, members of the public in Edinburgh and many high profile figures in the music and arts communities. St Mary's Music School has always had outstanding pupils and teachers. Our learning and teaching would be further enhanced with the facilities which a truly outstanding building would offer."



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