

Music

at Heriot-Watt

Calling all music lovers! Do you love singing or want to play in an orchestra? Do you enjoy chamber music or playing in a band?

Heriot Watt University is a wonderful playground to discover the fantastic array of music opportunities.



Why Music?

Music is a great way to make new friends in a welcoming environment whether it be singing in our large choir made up of students, staff and the local community, taking part in our instrumental groups or having the opportunity to perform in beautiful and eclectic venues, Heriot-Watt music department has something for you whether you be an expert or novice!

With an orchestra, a number of singing groups ranging from a quartet to a chorus of 100+, rock bands, a new music ensemble and much more we have something to cater for everyone whether student or staff.

There are numerous performances opportunities across the year ranging from open mic nights in the student's union and informal concerts in the music cottage through to large scale performances in St. Giles Cathedral and Greyfriars Kirk. Our annual music course visits the beautiful Ardtornish estate on the west coast and culminates in a performance in Iona Abbey. A highlight of the year is our annual Christmas Carol Celebration in our very own James Watt Centre Auditorium where the orchestra and choir come together to make a joyful sound and music performances help mark other events such as Chinese New Year, Burns Night, International Women's Day and of course Graduation ceremonies.

Our dedicated music cottage provides a central hub including several practice rooms and a small rehearsal space which is also used for informal concerts. We also have use of one of the larger lecture theatres for rehearsing our larger ensembles.

We have a flourishing music society that puts on several events each year including regular open mic nights in the student union.

If you want more information about how to get involved or want guidance on starting a new group please contact the Director of Music, Matt Brown via M.Brown@hw.ac.uk or pop into the music cottage. We welcome beginners and accomplished players from around the world to build our diverse music community at HWU.

Message from a Heriot-Watt Student

From a student point of view being part of any ensemble at Heriot-Watt is a fantastic experience and a great place to make friends from varying backgrounds and ages. If you are interested you will end up being drawn into as many groups as you would like!

We're always on the look out for new talent, so if you've sung in a choir before, or played in an ensemble, think we sound like a fun-loving crowd, and like the look of what we're planning, contact the Director of Music, Matt Brown or speak to anyone already involved in the various music groups!



Regular Concerts and Events

| Date | Event and Participants | Location |
|----------|--|--|
| November | Autumn Concert Heriot-Watt Chorus and Orchestra | Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh |
| | Remembrance Service Chamber Choir | Playfair Library, Edinburgh |
| December | Candlelit Christmas at Rosslyn Chamber Choir | Rosslyn Chapel, Mid Lothian |
| | Christmas Carol Celebration Heriot-Watt Chorus and Orchestra | James watt Centre, Heriot-Watt University |
| February | Heriot-Watt Anniversary Service Chamber Choir | Currie Kirk, Currie |
| | Choral Concert Heriot-Watt Chorus and Chamber Choir | St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh |
| | Orchestral Concert Heriot-Watt Orchestra | St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh |
| March | Spring Concert Chamber Choir | Rosslyn Chapel Mid Lothian |
| May | End of Year Concert Heriot-Watt Chorus and Orchestra | Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh |
| June | Inchcolm New Music Ensemble Residential | Iona Abbey, Argyll St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh |
| Various | Concerts in the Cottage Informal concerts in the music cottage | The Music Cottage, Heriot-Watt University |

Music Groups at Heriot-Watt

Heriot-Watt Chorus

is open to anyone who enjoys singing - variety is the spice of life and we enjoy singing repertoire from pop songs to major choral works and everything in between! The Chorus gives concerts on and off campus throughout the year, joining with the Orchestra on several occasions.

Students and staff from the campus plus singers from the local community and further afield are all welcome. The Chorus is non auditioned and rehearsals start on the first Tuesday of each semester.

Heriot-Watt Orchestra

gives concerts on and off campus and joins together with the Chorus on several occasions. A wide range of music is tackled from major classical works to short vignettes and from traditional carols to contemporary music!

The Orchestra is open to students, staff and the local community. Rehearsals start on the first Monday of each semester. Musicians should be of at least an approx Grade 6 standard or equivalent - if you're interested in joining contact the director of music.

Chamber Choir

meets Monday lunchtimes in the Music Cottage. The repertoire explores music from 12th century to the present day. The Chamber Choir features in the Edinburgh University's Remembrance Service in November, the University anniversary service in February, as well as the Heriot Watt choirs concert in St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, and its own two concerts in the famous Rosslyn Chapel in November and March.

Chamber Choir members are auditioned - speak to the Director of Music for more information

Graduation Choir

The University Graduation Choir performs at all the Edinburgh and Borders campus graduations.

Chamber Music and Jazz Ensembles

Coaching is available and help is given to form groups. String Quartet and Wind Quintet are University-based chamber music groups and are available for concerts, functions and weddings.

Wind Band and String Group

Both meet on an occasional basis.

Inchcolm New Music Ensemble

is seen as the flagship of music making at Heriot Watt, reflecting the cutting edge of science and technology for which Heriot Watt is celebrated. The group has given concerts in the St Magnus Festival in the Orkney Islands; Inverie in Knoydart; St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh; the Isle of Skye; Ardtornish House; Iona Abbey off the west coast of Mull; Dunkeld Cathedral; Biggar; and Peebles.

To date, the Inchcolm New Music Ensemble has premiered over 50 new works over 20 years, many being repeated at various times.



Music at Heriot-Watt

Music Scholarships at Heriot-Watt

Heriot-Watt University awards many music scholarships each year in the form of free music tuition for talented choral singers and orchestral instrumentalists up to a maximum of £400 per year. These scholarships are generously supported by the Heriot-Watt Alumni fund.

Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be taken into consideration in the award of scholarships:

- Musical ability and potential. Proof of exam results and membership of orchestras or choirs should be provided. ABRSM Grade 8 is the required standard.
- A reference from your last vocal/instrumental teacher.

Duration

One year, with the probability of an annual extension for the duration of the student's period of study at the University. All scholars will be assessed on a continuous basis.

Audition

All new applicants will be auditioned during their first semester. The outcome of this audition and the show of commitment to the choir or orchestra during that semester will be taken into account on whether a scholarship will be offered.

Commitment

All music scholars will be expected to be members of the orchestra or choir, and attend all rehearsals and concerts.

There will be as much emphasis put on commitment as on talent.

For an application form or more information, please contact the Director of Music, Matt Brown.

Wellbeing

Student Wellbeing activities give you the opportunity to take a small break from busy University life to focus on your own physical and mental wellbeing. Whether you want to meet other students, or learn some techniques to manage stress or anxiety- we offer a wide range of activities and workshops.

Our full range of activities can be found at bit.ly/HWWellbeingActivities.

Vocal/Instrumental Tuition

We carry a database of good teachers in Edinburgh who understand the needs and pressures of being a student. Please ask Matt for recommendations.

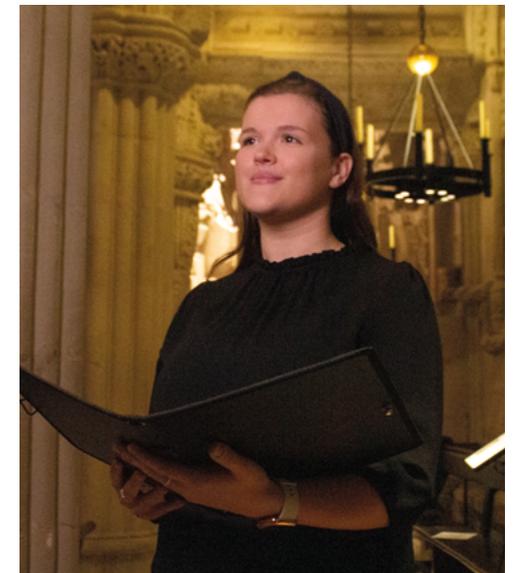
Scottish Composers Competition

Heriot-Watt holds an annual competition each year for unpublished Scottish composers. The winners receive a prize and their piece becomes part of the 'Inchcolm New Music Ensemble' repertoire.

The HWU Music Society

Music Society holds regular events and socials, including Open Mic Night every week (Fridays, 8pm, Student Union). Membership is free and you can find more information on the student union website.

www.facebook.com/HWmusicoc/



For further information, please contact:

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www.hw.ac.uk/uk/edinburgh/music.htm

Telephone: **0131 451 3705**

The music cottage contains a rehearsal space and 3 practice rooms which are available to be booked by student musicians.



We would like to say a huge thank you

to those who give generously to support the music project at Heriot Watt University. This enables us to deliver our student scholarship programme; commission new vibrant music; and generally bring the love of music into the University community enhancing our cultural landscape.

