



Newsletter

Issue 17
July 2026

Welcome to the 17th issue of Perth & Kinross Music Foundation's 6 monthly Newsletter. The Trustees hope that you and your families are all well, and were able to enjoy a nice Easter break and the recent fine weather?

In this issue, we bring you up to date with what we have been up to over the last 6 months.

What have we been up to over the last 6 months?

Things have been relatively quiet for the Trustees and the Foundation over the last 6 months. However, we did stage a fundraising concert at North Inch Community Campus in February 2026. This involved several of the Instrumental Music Service (IMS) Central Groups, as well as Perthshire Youth Brass band. The evening raised almost £1,400 after expenses were deducted.

Once again, we were very generously supported by the Forteviot and Thomson Charitable Trusts. In addition, during 2025/26 we also received a grant from Soroptimists International Perth Branch to support young women with their Central Groups Fees.

The 2025/26 Music Foundation grant to the IMS was £,7500, and we also supported 13 young people with their fees associated with attending Central Groups (this is up from 4 in 2024/25). The grant was used by the Service to purchase additional instruments and other teaching resources/equipment to allow the Music Instructors to continue to meet the increasing demand for individual tuition.

At the Council budget setting meeting in March 2026, the Council agreed to keep Central Groups fees at £100 for academic year 2026/27.

Finance – An Update

Including the 2025/26 grant paid by the Music Foundation to the IMS, the grants paid to the IMS since individual tuition fees were abolished by the Scottish Government in Summer 2021 now totals £58,789. When the Scottish Government abolished fees across Scotland it did not provide Councils with additional money to meet the expected additional demand. The Music Foundation

grants over the last 5 years have been invaluable in allowing the Service to purchase additional instruments and other teaching resources, thus allowing them to meet the increased demand for individual tuition since it became “free to all” in Summer 2021.

And There's More!

The PKC Big Band was crowned Scottish Young Musician Ensemble Champions in March 2026. This follows the success of the PKC Percussion Ensemble the year before. We wait with anticipation to see what the 2027 competition brings for PKC IMS Groups



In May 2026, the staff of the IMS, in collaboration with Perth Festival of the Arts, staged “The Big Sing”. This event involved 550 P4 children from 22/23 primary schools across Perth & Kinross. It was staged at the George Duncan Sports Arena at Perth Grammar School. This was a fantastic showcase for both the young people who took part, as well as the dedicated and very talented musicians who are the IMS and who made up “the band”.

The IMS staff group also rounded off their “Follow the Band” on-tour week with a superb concert in Perth Concert Hall at the end of June. This had around 1,100 youngsters from schools across the area attending and having a great afternoon of “making music” with the IMS staff team. Unfortunately, due to a technical glitch there is no video of this event this year.

Click on the Facebook link below to see all that has been happening within the IMS over the last year. A new website is currently under construction and should be live over the summer.

www.facebook.com/PKC-Music-Service-711163135694930

At the end of June, a few members of the IMS staff group were invited to attend the Royal Garden Party at Holyrood House. The photo below shows them all looking very smart. Lynsey and Iona were also presented to HM King Charles III and had the chance to tell him all about the work of the PKC IMS.



(from left to right – Michelle Henderson, Lynsey Paterson, Iona Crosby and Lorna McGovern)

The Trustees once again say a massive thank you to all our funders, sponsors, supporters and Friends, for your support over the years.