



STRATHALLAN
SCHOOL

Opportunities for all to excel



Candidate Brief

Teacher of Music (Maternity Cover)

Start: April 2024

Introduction

We are seeking an enthusiastic, inspirational Teacher of Music to cover Maternity Leave from April 2024 until April 2025, with the potential of a permanent post coming available.

The successful candidate will have the ability to teach Music from ages 5-18, and will be creative, innovative, efficient and committed to raising standards. They should have excellent subject knowledge and will join a department which constantly strives to provide an inspiring and exciting Music experience for all students.

We believe passionately in an all-round, balanced education and we work extremely hard to balance the main priority of academic work with the social, extra-curricular and sporting opportunities that are on offer. This is not always easy, but it is central to what we do and the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to our extra-curricular, social and sporting activities.

The School



Strathallan School is a leading co-educational boarding and day school with an outstanding reputation academically, in sports and the arts. With a growing school roll, there are 605 pupils of ages 5-18, divided between Strathallan Prep School and Strathallan Senior School. There are three senior Girls' Houses and the four senior Boys' Houses and a junior boarding house. Approximately 65% of the pupils are full boarders.

The School is situated in the beautiful Earn Valley on a self-contained wooded estate of 153 acres at the edge of the village of Forgandenny. Perth is the nearest town some ten minutes away by car and access to the motorways puts Edinburgh (45 mins), Glasgow (1 hr) and the Scottish Highlands within easy reach.

The school is well-resourced with a mixture of traditional and modern buildings. The Main Building, a Grade B listing, was once a large private mansion, bought by the School's founder, Harry Riley, in 1920 when he moved the School from its original 1913 location in Bridge of Allan.

Strathallan employs 215 members of staff: 98 teaching staff, 99 support staff and 18 instructors.

The school exists to provide an inclusive all-round education for its pupils in a nurturing and caring environment. Our aim is to engage pupils to be their best and prepare them for the demands of further study and future work in an increasingly diverse and global university and employment market. We do this through opportunities that inspire and challenge and by expecting effort and hard work from each individual pupil in achieving their best, based on values of respect, kindness, honesty, hard work, humility and excellence all underpinned by the fundamental value of love.



Music at Strathallan

Music is integral to life at Strathallan. When walking around at Strathallan in term time, music is regularly heard drifting across the campus in a variety of forms and from many locations – practice rooms, classrooms, Chapel, studios, boarding houses, common rooms and halls. A student roll of 605 enjoy 250 weekly music lessons. Twenty-seven ensembles practice regularly, and staff take part in some of these alongside pupils, notably the School Choir, which as a choir is as much for fun as it is for performance. Music is played, rehearsed and enjoyed, often for its own sake or for its social and restorative benefits as much as it is for performances, Associated Board exams or major concerts. Music lifts the spirit and gives voice and expression to our feelings and emotions and at Strathallan, it is supported, encouraged and celebrated precisely because of these very human needs.

Among the wide range of concerts, the large groups of pupils perform at our annual Christmas Concert in Perth Concert Hall. There is a regular programme of evening concerts and recitals. There are house music competitions in the Prep and Senior School and Musicals are usually put on every year by the Prep School and alternate years by the Senior School.

Music at Strathallan is both traditional and innovative. It celebrates the school's heritage and marks the year at key stages, but always finds new ways to add, adapt and develop the talents and interest of musicians here and now. Music binds the community; it thrills and impresses, and it salves and supports at times when that is needed too. As in society at large, music in a community gives expression and feeling to hopes, fears, dreams and more and is a unifying force.

Chapel Music

The Chapel is located at the centre of the school for a reason. It gives expression, location and voice to the school as a community. Our Chaplain engages superbly with pupils and staff and works tirelessly for the school community. Taking two and three services a week, he works closely in all he does with the school's music staff. The Chapel is where the school finds its collective voice in song (not the obligatory annual House Music competition!). Congregational singing practices underpin this and take place as an enjoyable and instructional weekly rehearsal of the next hymns, songs and choruses being used in upcoming services. Perhaps dated and traditional in some eyes, the Strathallan pupils nevertheless still enjoy this weekly feature, and it shows in how they respond and how they sing, as mentioned already. Visiting Chaplains always comment on the good heart of the school because of our singing – our pupils invariably respond as good hosts to visiting speakers in Chapel by singing up and out, often to the pleasant surprise of our guests, especially if it is their first visit!

Organ tuition and recently introduced organ scholarships also add to these occasions when pupils omnaccompany hymns; a chapel band brings variety to the singing too to ensure the range of musical tastes and styles is used to full advantage, both in the Prep and Senior schools. There is scope to extend scholarships and to develop music in the Chapel further and the creation of a Chapel Choir for contributions to regular services is high on the headmaster's wish-list going forward.

Links with Piping, Traditional and Folk Music

Strathallan has three senior Pipe Bands and a Prep Pipe Band. Piping is a serious pursuit at the school, and has its own programme, competitions, CCF links and trips. Based in the Piping 'Hut', the Director of Traditional Music and Scottish Culture organises the piping and drumming programme and all aspects of this element of music in the school.

Music and the Expressive Arts

Dance, drama, LAMDA and musical theatre also flourish in the school and the bi-annual senior musical that combines these strands is always a sell-out event. Recent productions have included 'Once' The Musical, D.N.A and Oliver Jr, which was performed by our Prep School. A newly established Performing Arts Showcase has been enthusiastically received by pupils, staff and parents alike. The school regularly enters multiple pupils for 'Perform in Perth' and does extremely well each year in a variety of disciplines.

The Music Department

The teaching Music staff are three in number and share academic teaching across both schools. There is a Music Department secretary and over 16 Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs). All report to the Director of Music. There is a strong sense of collegiality, purpose and shared endeavour in the Music staff at school and this is fostered and engendered first and foremost by the Director of Music.

The Department itself is located in the Senior and Prep schools with dedicated teaching spaces in both and a common music practice suite of rooms known as the 'Green Hut', located near the main building and next to Chapel. The main base of the Department is in the senior school, and it occupies its own floors and rooms, all fully refurbished in 2018, when a new digital recording studio was added. Teaching spaces are well equipped with class- sets of instruments, breakout spaces all with integrated sound systems, a suite of 12 Macs installed with Sibelius Ultimate and Logic Pro X as well as up-to-date teaching resources and a healthy departmental budget for renewal, development and performance.

Academic Music is taught as curriculum lessons from Year 1 onwards and pupils can opt for GCSE Music, and in Sixth Form SQA Higher Music, SQA Higher Music Technology or A Level Music.

For further information please contact Mr Jason McAuley – Director of Music – staffjmca@strathallan.co.uk



Job Description

Job Title:	Teacher of Music
Reporting to:	Director of Music
Responsible for:	N/A
In liaison with:	Music Secretary, current pupils and parents, prospective pupils and parents, Senior Management Team, Heads of Department, members of staff.

Core Purpose

The post-holder is expected to uphold the values and ethos of Strathallan School and act as an ambassador for the school.

The Teacher of Music is responsible for the academic and pastoral care and development of pupils, delivering outstanding lessons and activities to enable pupils to achieve their full potential. The successful candidate will be enthusiastic, inspirational and motivational, acting as a role model for both pupils and colleagues in line with the strategic vision and values of Strathallan School.

Teacher responsibilities:

1. Teaching & Learning:

- Maintain awareness of curriculums and curriculum changes. In liaison with the Director of Music, following courses of study, teaching materials and programmes and methods of teaching to deliver outstanding lessons.
- Maintain awareness of the quality of lessons, reflecting on own practice and responding to feedback from lesson observation and participation in departmental reviews.
- Plan and deliver courses, schemes of work and individual lessons appropriate to the needs, abilities, interests, experience and existing knowledge of pupils in accordance with departmental syllabuses, schemes of work and examination requirements.
- Set challenging goals for those pupils, setting and marking appropriate work and providing regular and constructive feedback.
- In liaison with the Director of Music consistently assess, record and report on the development, progress and attainment of pupils, including writing reports and references as required.
- Participate in the department's self-evaluation process and collaborate with colleagues where required and share best practice.
- Support and participate in the arrangements for preparing pupils for public examinations and in assessing pupils for the purposes of such examinations.
- In addition to the timetable, organise and offer rehearsals, performances and events, organise and participate in competitions and other music-focussed activities, where possible.
- Ensure all department members build and maintain co-operative relationships with parents and communicate with them on pupils' learning and progress, drawing attention to skills and talents as well as areas for improvement and difficulties.
- Attend Parents' Evenings and other meetings with parents as required, and provide parents with information about a pupil's effort, attitude, performance and prospects.

2. Pastoral:

- Maintain good order and discipline among the pupils and safeguard their health and safety both when they are authorised to be on the school premises and when they are engaged in authorised School activities elsewhere.
- Be familiar with the School's Handbook, with particular focus to child safeguarding and internal reporting.

3. Tutoring and Duties:

- Along with all teaching staff, assume the role of tutor and undertake tutor and school duties within normal school hours as required by the school.
- Undertake cover duties to supervise and, so far as practicable, teach any pupils whose teacher is not available to teach them.
- Take a leading role in the co-curricular life of the school.

4. Department Administration:

- Attend and positively contribute towards department meetings.
- Meet prospective parents and pupils, if required.
- Notify the Director of Music if pupils need to be assessed by the school assessor or other specialist when their learning needs suggest that this is necessary.
- Make full use of the suitably wide range and variety of different resources and oversee the use of textbooks and other resources, ensuring appropriate care of textbooks and resources.

5. Marketing.

- Promote an enthusiasm for academic study and increasing the awareness of, and interest in Music throughout the School.
- Be a powerful advocate for Music throughout the School and at parents' evenings, course choice events and Open Days.
- Promote links and co-operation with other departments within the school and departments in other schools.
- Work with the External Relations department to meet prospective families, when required.
-

National and School Standards (all staff):

- Keep abreast of changes to Scottish (SQA Highers & Advanced Highers) and English (GCSE & A Levels) curriculum/education systems.
- Maintain professional expertise by undertaking regular CPD.
- Adhere to the GTCS Code of Professionalism and Conduct the School's Code of Conduct.
- Undertake regular Child Protection training and complying with child safeguarding requirements (GIRFEC) and understanding the reporting responsibilities.

Person Specification

Attributes	Essential /Desirable
Qualifications	
Educated to degree level with postgraduate teaching qualification.	E
Ability to gain GTCS registration by start date.	E
Experience	
Experience of teaching Music.	E
Experience of working in an Independent School.	D
Experience of conducting and leading ensembles, choirs, orchestras etc.	D
Skills	
Ability to teach throughout the age range 5 to 18 (GCSEs, Highers, Advanced Highers & A Levels).	D
A well-organised classroom practitioner.	E
Ability to lead, manage and develop a team of staff.	D
Understanding of Health & Safety & Child Protection legislation within Education.	E
Understanding of the pedagogical and wellbeing needs of pupils.	E
Competent user of IT and the ability to share this technical knowledge with colleagues.	E
Good observation skills to record, document and share key information	E
Personal characteristics	
Exceptional time management and organisational skills with the ability to prioritise their own needs as well as those of colleagues and pupils.	E
Excellent interpersonal and communications skills; ability to establish good links with pupils, parents and colleagues.	E
Outgoing, confident, affable, positive and approachable.	E
Flexible and adaptive approach to work.	E
Ability to work on own initiative.	E
Act as a role model for pupils and colleagues.	E
Reliable, methodical and trustworthy	E
Neat, tidy and professional appearance	E
Be a person who is able to mix easily with persons of any culture or background	E
Ability to maintain close and harmonious relations with work colleagues at all levels	E

Terms & Conditions

Remuneration

- Competitive salary; commensurate with experience.

Other Benefits

- Membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme with SPPA.
- Meals, when on duty and during term-time.

Other Info

As the work is in a school context, you will be required to attain PVG membership. You should, if possible hold a valid full UK driving license and must be eligible to live and work in the UK. Full or provisional GTCS registration is also required.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Further details of the School are available on the School's Website www.strathallan.co.uk

A completed application form along with a CV and covering letter should be emailed to claire.adam@strathallan.co.uk or posted to the HR Manager, Strathallan School, Forgandenny, Perth, PH2 9EG.

The deadline for applications is Friday 1st December 2023.

Interviews will most likely be scheduled for the week commencing Monday 11th December 2023.