

Karen Sample

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EDUCATION

BMus (Hons), University of Aberdeen, expected 2.1 2016 - 2020

My degree includes Performance Studies, Composition Studies and Music Theory.

Courses include: Music Theory and Harmony, Harmonic Practice in the Late 18th and Early 19th Centuries, Early Modernism, Composing with Sound, Conducting and a number of composition projects.

Final year courses include a dissertation (a comparative study of music by American choral composers, including Lauridsen, Thompson and Whitacre) and a composition portfolio (including works for string quartet, choir and solo trumpet, and guitar).

In addition, I have received 20 hours of individual tuition on trumpet and piano in each year of study.

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music

Grade 8 Trumpet (2014)

Grade 6 Piano (2012)

Grade 5 Theory (2012)

HND Music, Aberdeen College

2014 - 2016

Courses included: Music History, Recording Techniques for Musicians and Practical Musicianship.

Harlaw Academy, Aberdeen

2008 - 2013

Highers: Music (C), English (C)

Standard Grades: 8, including History and French at credit level 1

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Self-Employed Instrumental Tutor

Aug 2017 - present

I currently teach two students guitar: one adult and a ten year old girl. I prepared both for ABRSM exams at grades 2 and 3 respectively which both students passed with distinction at the first attempt. I thoroughly enjoy planning lessons, exploring different ways of explaining technique and introducing my students to new music. Seeing my students' technical ability and confidence develop is extremely satisfying.

Instrumental Tutor Job Shadowing, Aberdeen City Council

Mar - May 2019

I spent five full days shadowing my trumpet tutor in his role as Instrumental Tutor for Aberdeen City Council. I accompanied him to seven schools and observed him teaching pupils aged 12 to 18 with varying abilities ranging from grade 2 to 7. I was able to observe how an experienced tutor motivates groups and individuals and makes music fun while keeping an eye on results. Travelling with my tutor has also taught me how important organisational and time management skills are for this career.

House Staff, Music Makers Summer School, Hampshire

Jun - Aug 2018

I was responsible for a succession of groups of up to 10 children aged 8 to 18. My role was to ensure that all young people in my groups were well looked after, went to their lessons and workshops on time and took part in the additional non-musical activities. Most children were very enthusiastic but, at times, I also had to find ways to motivate them to practise. Supervising groups of such diverse ages and abilities gave me the chance to gain many new skills. One of these was to stay calm when things went wrong, so that all students could go on enjoying themselves.

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Trumpet

- I have given several solo recitals, most recently, as part of the Cathedral at Noon series at St Andrew's Cathedral with a programme including Bach, Handel, Clarke and Gabrieli.
- I play with a number of ensembles, including the University of Aberdeen Symphony Orchestra, Concert Band and Big Band and was Principal Trumpet on a number of occasions. I have also played for many shows, such as Gilbert & Sullivan operas and the Student Show.
- I was shortlisted for the final of the Ogston Music Prize in 2019 and will audition again this year.
- I was selected to participate in several Masterclasses by the Music Department, working with John Wallace, Mark O'Keeffe, John Gracie and Håkan Hardenberger.

Voice

- I have been singing alto with the University Chapel Choir since my second year and have held a choral scholarship over the last two years.
- I was a member of the University Choral Society from 2016 to 2018. This gave me the chance to be part of large-scale choral works such as Haydn's *Seven Last Words* and the Mozart *Requiem*.

Conducting

- I started conducting in 2017 and have since led small groups of students on a number of occasions, rehearsing short choral pieces.
- Earlier this year, I took part in an intermediate conducting course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and, through the contacts I made there, I was invited to spend a day with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra where I was able to observe a professional rehearsal.

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Supervisor, Thornton's, Aberdeen

Sept 2014 - present

I was promoted to this position after only one year and I am now in charge of the shop on Thursday evenings and Saturdays. I deal with customer queries and sometimes complaints which has greatly improved my communication skills and problem solving skills. I am also responsible for training staff which I particularly enjoy.

INTERESTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Aberdeen Students' Charities Campaign – In addition to playing for the Student Show, the UK's most successful charity musical, I was also a member of the organising committee for the Torch Parade in 2018. I was responsible for planning the order of the floats and assigning the spaces where they were built. That year, the Campaign raised over £50,000 for charities in and around Aberdeen.

Concert Band – I have been a member since my first year and was elected Treasurer in 2017 and 2018. I am responsible for managing a budget with an annual turnover of over £1,500 consisting mainly of members' subscriptions, takings at our concerts and donations. I am also in charge of distributing the money we raise to our nominated charities. Visiting these groups and seeing how our activities help others is, without doubt, the best part of my role.

Travel – I enjoy travelling and exploring other countries. After finishing school, I worked for eight months and then spent four months in Australia and New Zealand. I also travelled around the east coast of the USA for two months with friends.

REFERENCES – Available on request