



NEWS FROM THE AGAR TRUST

December 2018

www.agar-trust.org.uk

We are delighted to bring you up to date with the activities of the Agar Trust. As you may know, the Trust helps young people in rural Scotland who have shown musical talent and dedication to explore educational opportunities beyond their local area.

FIRST AGAR TRUST SHOWCASE CONCERT

A real highlight of this year was the first Agar Trust Showcase in Inverness, in which seven wonderful young musicians played, sang and told their experiences of musical life in rural Scotland. The line-up included Naomi (Papa Westray); Kirsty (Burghead); Archie (Drumnadrochit); Antony (Fort William); Josephine (Kirkwall); Rachel (Fortrose) and Catriona (Culbokie). Many of them have been supported by the Agar Trust over several years and have plans to make music their career. What a joy to meet them and hear them perform!



AGAR TRUST AWARD WINNERS

We regularly attend concerts given by Agar Trust Award Holders and also receive news, photos and updates from them. Here are just a few stories from this year:

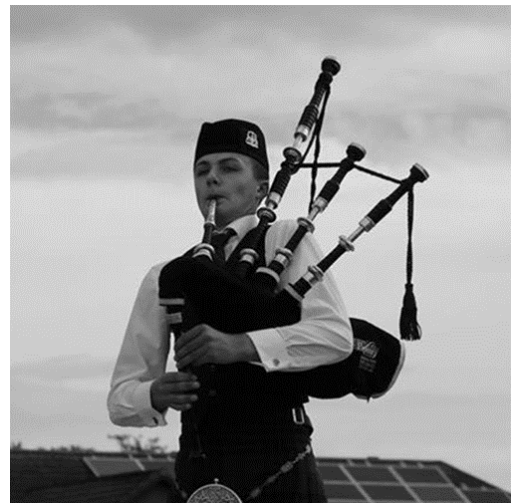
Neil from Taynuilt, plays Piano & Saxophone: Neil received funding in 2017 and 2018 to support his travel costs to Glasgow to attend weekly jazz classes at the Royal Conservatoire Juniors. He comments:



“I get up at 5am to catch the 5:45am train into Glasgow every Saturday, which being a 14-year-old boy, can be a struggle but knowing what the day has in store for me I don't mind as much. My first lesson starts at 9am on my second study instrument which is the saxophone. Then finally at the end of the day I rush straight to Queen Street where I catch the train back home. It's a lot in a day but it's fantastic. The money you have given me has contributed hugely to this opportunity and I appreciate it very much.”

Callum from Thurso, plays the Bagpipes and has received awards in 2017 and 2018 for travel to private tuition and also to assist with his attendance at the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland in Glasgow.

“The award has helped me to gain tuition that is not available locally and is a five-hour trip. This has supported my development in my solo playing and has enabled me to be asked to record for Sky TV in a promotion of Scottish Music. I have supported community events and continued to develop my solo competing. In addition to this I am now a member of the Senior National Youth Pipe Band.”



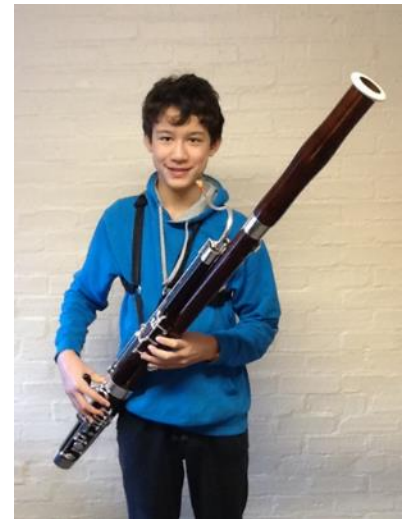
Megan from Fochabers, plays the Trombone and has received awards in 2016 and 2017 to attend the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland.



“I used the funding to help with travel to Central Belt as the NYOS courses were at least a four-hour drive away for me! The course was well worth it- I got to play a part of the Nutcracker which I am now going to see at the theatre this week in Inverness! At home, my teacher told me that after I played the trombone to the Primary school, he got five more children wanting to play the trombone, so I am glad I have left a 'legacy.' In September I will be going to Chethams School of Music to study. I wouldn't have been able to do it without funding from the Agar Trust, and the support from my teachers.”

Tom from Garlieston, plays the Bassoon and has received awards in 2016, 2017 and 2018 to attend various short courses as well as Junior Conservatoire in Glasgow.

“I got to play in lots of concerts and meet new people. It also gave me and other people who live in rural areas the chance to perform at big concerts in Glasgow. The advice I would give to musicians like me living in rural areas is to get involved in as many musical activities as possible. Learning music helps you meet new friends. Music is not only fun, but it can be used to entertain and raise money for good causes.”



Oscar from the Isle of Lewis, Voice and has received awards in 2017 and 2018 to attend residential courses and concerts by the National Boys' Choir. He comments:

“I realised that there are a lot of teenage boys like me who like singing. There aren't many here and it gave me confidence to enjoy my singing and keep going with it. Sometimes I have been tempted to give up my singing, but I won't now.”

WHY SUPPORT THE AGAR TRUST?

According to the Scottish Government's urban-rural classification, around 90% of Scotland's land mass is classified as being rural, with a fifth of Scotland's population living there. However, unsurprisingly there are far more services in urban areas, and this brings challenges for rurally-based youngsters who want to develop their musical ability. Apart from a lack of provision it can often feel quite lonely for a teenager without friends alongside, who also enjoy singing and playing.

We aim to address some of these issues. Over the last four years, we've made nearly 250 awards, mainly to assist with travel and subsistence costs (click on [map](#) which shows where they live).

In 2017, 33 of our 54 Awards were to youngsters who we have previously supported and it's a joy to see them going from strength to strength with their music. Nearly half of the Award Holders got support to attend national orchestras, bands and choirs, often in the Central Belt. A further 20% were able to take short courses: 15% attended the Junior Conservatoire in Glasgow, while the remainder benefited from private lessons, travel to residential music school or conservatoire and auditions. Rural Scotland certainly has a lot of musical talent to be proud of!

The Agar Trust is based in Strathpeffer and was founded by Janet Macdonald in memory of her father. It is led by a much-valued Board of Trustees who all have backgrounds in music or education and our day-to-day administration is undertaken by Julie Davidson. The Trust is privately funded and we are so very grateful for the kind support we have received this year. If you support the aims of the Trust, do consider joining us. The Trust website has more details and why not visit, and "Like", our Agar Trust Facebook page which has up to date news of our Award Holders, as well as news of forthcoming educational activities in various parts of the country!

Many thanks for all your support during 2018 and we look forward to continuing our good work in the coming year and listening to lots of wonderful music.

With very best wishes to you all.