



SCOTTISH
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

IN CRAIGMILLAR

INFORMATION FOR STAKEHOLDERS

A five-year programme of cross-artform workshops and performances for residents of all ages in Craigmillar, Edinburgh.



OVERVIEW



Programme

August 2021-August 2026

Handover/legacy phase

August – December 2026

Consisting of

9 ongoing creative projects
2 commissioned community performances
Free access to SCO events

Themes

Connect residents from diverse backgrounds, age-groups, and cultures with each other, themselves, and the SCO

Create inspirational experiences and shared outputs which unlock potential and empower creativity

Celebrate Craigmillar and its people, past present and future

Commitment to

Collaboration
Co-creation
Intergenerational working
Asset-based approach
Amplifying community voices
Intercultural activity
Upskilling people and organisations

Facilitated by

SCO Creative Learning team
8 schools & nurseries
5 key local partners
City-wide network of partners & collaborators

Co-created by

Residents
14+ Lead Artists
SCO Musicians

Guided by

Community organisations
Residency Steering Group
Craigmillar & Niddrie
Community Festival group

Supported by

Residency Champions
Student placements
Peer mentors
Volunteers

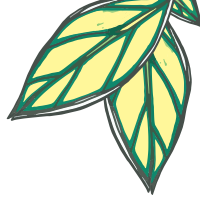
Based on

Community consultation since 2019
Learning from SCO Wester Hailes Residency
Alignment with local and national strategies



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WHY CRAIGMILLAR?



Craigmillar has an extraordinary history filled with some of the most radical social projects of the 20th century. Community Arts have always played a vital role, most notably through the Craigmillar Festival Society, the legacy of which lives on. The Covid-19 pandemic has re-energised the desire for shared, creative experiences across the whole community, and through community-wide consultation we have found

- an increasingly rich and diverse community
- energetic local organisations and community link workers
- strong local support networks for families
- local organisations seeking active partnerships and collaboration
- an opportunity to be part of a community-wide journey towards improved social cohesion
- a desire to participate in creative intergenerational activity
- a history of musical engagement but limited recent opportunity
- schools with a history of effective partnership working, hungry for musical input



Greater Craigmillar encompasses a rich and diverse mix of

- long-term residents
- people with refugee experience
- communities, languages and cultures (including Syrian, Polish and Gypsy/ Traveller)
- relocated families
- new builds marketed to incoming young professionals
- geographic areas covering Craigmillar, Niddrie, Bingham, Magdalene, The Christians



Craigmillar & Niddrie Community Festival

The Craigmillar Festival Society (1962-2002) was one of the most important Community Arts projects of the 20th century and a key milestone in the world-wide Community Arts movement. Founded by a group of pioneering local women led by Dr Helen Crummy MBE, this grassroots organisation used the arts to address a range of social problems and to create opportunities for local people.

Since 2020, the SCO has been part of a collaborative conversation to help re-establish a community-wide annual festival. The inaugural event in August 2021 celebrates the community and its residents with input and support from over 30 local organisations, and includes the launch of the 'SCO in Craigmillar' programme.

The SCO's ongoing role within the Festival is to provide free performances for residents and visitors; to support other festival events with infrastructure and resources; and to support community engagement by contributing to the planning process and facilitating working groups with community organisations and residents.





CORE VALUES AND AMBITIONS

To enhance local school and community culture through positive interactions

To help reduce social isolation and improve wellbeing

To improve local people's confidence

To bring live music-making to audiences who would not normally engage with the SCO

To support the development of transferable skills

To be part of a wider journey towards creative community activity

Alignment with

Nurture principles - building capacity to support positive, safe and developmental relationships with young people, providing activities which support emotional growth and wellbeing. <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/c55ApplyingNurturingApproaches120617.pdf>

Scottish Government performance framework - empowering people and stakeholders, contributing to wellbeing, learning and skills, and investing in creative and cultural development. <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>

Edinburgh North East Locality Improvement Plan (2017-2022) - creating greater opportunities for all (with a current Small Area Priority in Greater Craigmillar - Bingham, Magdalene, Niddrie and The Christians). Revised North East Locality Improvement Plan <https://www.edinburghpartnership.scot/downloads/file/29/revised-north-east-locality-improvement-plan-2017-22>

Scottish Government Cultural Strategy - raising awareness of culture, taking pride in sense of place and cultural identity and providing opportunities for people to lead and engage with culture and the arts. <https://www.gov.scot/policies/arts-culture-heritage/culture-strategy-for-scotland/>

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts (Article 31) <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/>

Universal Declaration of Human Rights - Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits (Article 27) <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>
<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/inc55ApplyingNurturingApproaches120617.pdf>



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KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Key Partners

Caring in Craigmillar
Connecting Craigmillar at the
Thistle Foundation
Craigmillar Now
Eight schools & nurseries
Oi Musica
Venchie Children's and
Young People's Project

Residency Steering Group

City of Edinburgh Council Lifelong Learning
Craigmillar schools and
community organisations
Craigmillar young people
Niddrie Medical Centre
Scottish Chamber Orchestra



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Other Partners/Collaborators

Carr Gomm – Craigmillar Community Grows
CastleRock Edinvar
City of Edinburgh Council Lifelong Learning
Community Renewal
Craigmillar Literacy Trust
Drake Music Scotland
Edinburgh College
Edinburgh International Festival
Edinburgh Napier University
MECOPP (Minority Ethnic Carers of People
Project)
Queen Margaret University
ReACT (Refugee Action Scotland)
Richmond Craigmillar Church
Think Circus
Thistle Foundation
University of Edinburgh

Residency Champions

Chris Jarvis (Children's TV presenter)
Residents including children and young
people



ANNUAL PROGRAMME INVOLVES



- Dots & Lines** Multi-artform guided play: 3 nurseries (8 weeks each)
- Soundmoves** Collaborative music-making: 3 primary schools (8 weeks each)
- Moving Music** Embodied listening: 3 Primary schools (8 weeks each)
- SCO Family Concert** Story-based performances: 2 primary schools (1 day each)
- SCO Vibe** Collaborative music-making: Castlebrae High School (3 days biennially)
- ReConnect** Interactive music-making for members of Caring in Craigmillar (24 weeks)
- ReConnect Buddies** Interactive music-making for nursery pupils and members of Caring in Craigmillar (24 weeks)
- Craigmillar Voices** Vocal project for children and adults (24 weeks)
- Seen & Heard** Collaborative music and visual artmaking for adults (10 weeks)



LEADING TO

'Tapestry' (working title), Summer 2024

A commissioned one-hour performance providing a platform for all participants alongside the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

Community Musical, Summer 2026

Craigmillar's community arts heritage is defined by its community musicals. The SCO will commission a large-scale community musical to be performed by all participants alongside the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.



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DEVELOPING THE CREATIVE WORKFORCE

Supporting creative livelihoods

Creating local opportunities

- Provide training and skill-development opportunities for young people and adults
- Support creative individuals/ projects
- Support professional learning

Placement schemes and employment opportunities for students from

- Edinburgh College
- Edinburgh Napier University
- University of Edinburgh
- Queen Margaret University
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Peer mentorship schemes for children and young people across the programme

Lead Artists include

Caroline McCluskey (Dots & Lines)
Matilda Brown (Soundmoves)
Fay Guiffo, Katelyn Thorn (Moving Music)
Paul Griffiths (SCO Vibe at Castlebrae)
Katharine Waumsley (ReConnect & ReConnect Buddies)
Moirra Morrison (Craigmillar Voices)
Emma Smith, Kate Howard, Louise McLachlan (Seen & Heard)
Tapestry composer – role to be advertised
Community Musical librettist, composer, and director – roles to be advertised





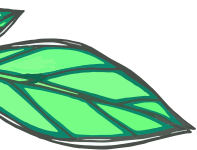
SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The internationally celebrated Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO) is made up of a unique collection of talented musicians who inspire and connect with people of all ages. From re-imagining the classical and romantic greats to sharing contemporary commissions, the world-class musicians of the SCO are passionate about playing: and with inspirational young conductor Maxim Emelyanychev at the helm, our live performances are anything but predictable!

We aim to provide as many opportunities as possible for people to hear live orchestral music by touring the length and breadth of Scotland and around the world as proud ambassadors for Scottish cultural excellence. In recent years, the Orchestra has travelled throughout Europe, Asia, and the USA.

The SCO makes a significant contribution to Scottish life both on the concert platform and beyond, working in schools, universities, hospitals, care homes and community centres through its award-winning Creative Learning programme.

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra Chorus, directed by Gregory Batsleer since 2009, has built a reputation as one of Scotland's most vibrant and versatile choirs. The Chorus appears regularly with the Orchestra in Scotland's major cities and hosts an annual Young Singers' Programme (YSP) to nurture and develop aspiring young singers.



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The Scottish Chamber Orchestra is a
charity registered in Scotland No. SC015039.
Company registration No. SC075079.



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FIND OUT HOW TO JOIN IN AND FOLLOW THE SCO IN CRAIGMILLAR

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Twitter | [@scomusic](https://twitter.com/scomusic)

#SCOCraigmillar

Photography credits:

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THANKS TO

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TIME TO
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