



Spirit of Calton
On Your Marks in 2016/17 with Glasgow Piano City



Foundation
Scotland



SPIRIT
OF 2012

Fourteen

Spirit of Calton *On Your Marks* Photo Gallery Contents

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Rosemary at CHLC

We aim to create more opportunities for people to have greater '**Permission to Play**', citywide, and that includes looking inside the mechanism of a piano as you play while being allowed to draw on a shiny new piano too. Something we are not supposed to do . . . ever ! Well, that's the magic of clear plastic film that can be easily peeled off, leaving the piano ready more doodling.

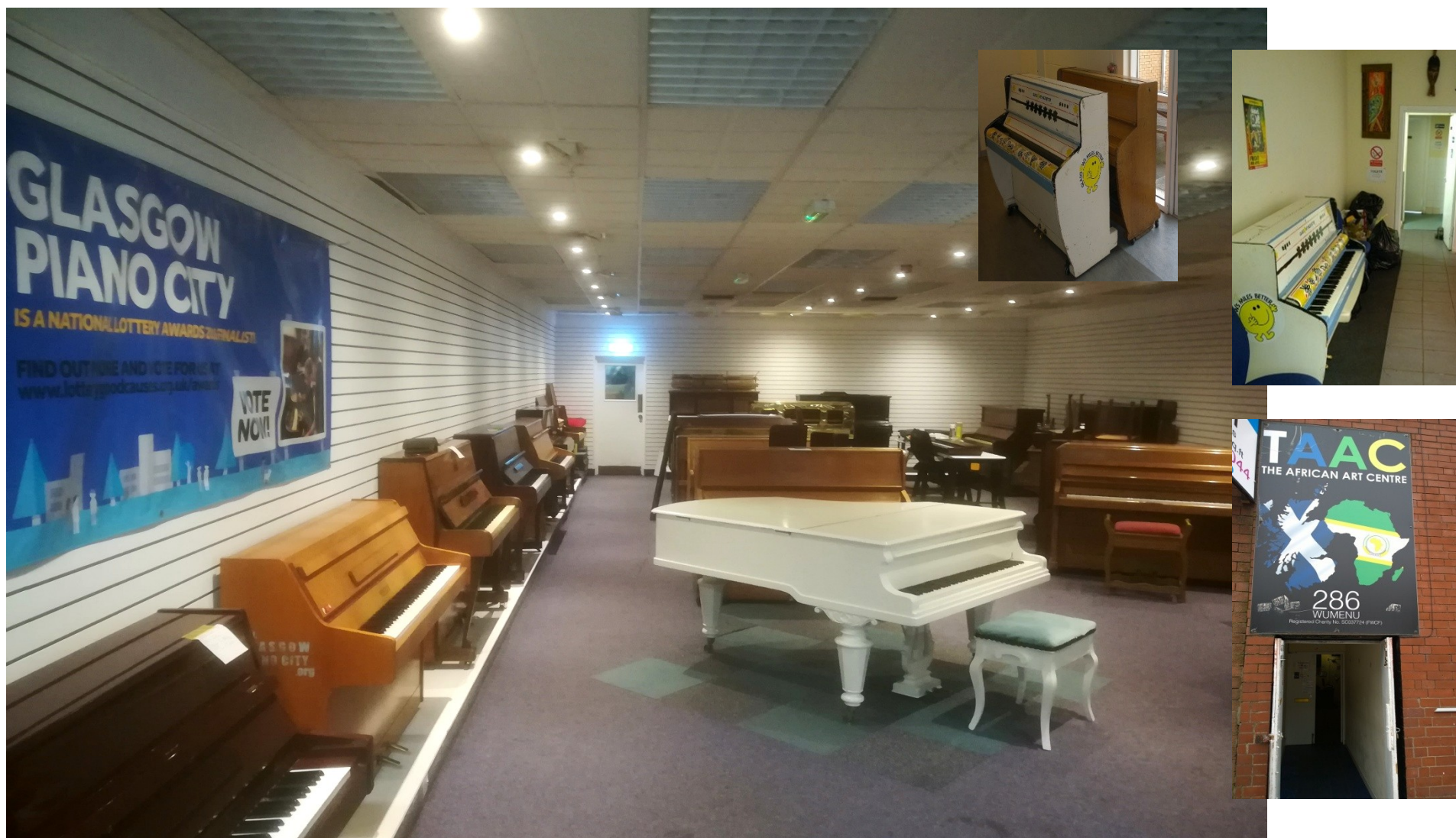
We get off to a flying start in the Calton Heritage & Learning Centre by bringing a very high quality piano donation straight off the van to Thenue Housing Association's event. Rosemary doesn't need much encouraging to play a few pieces by Rachmaninov. Only joking !



Calton Heritage & Learning Centre



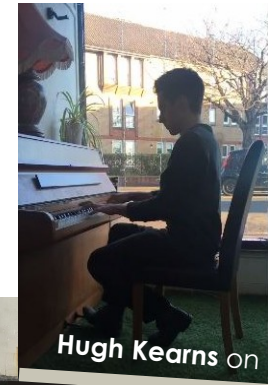
It didn't take long for '**Yogi**' to settle into the classroom after arriving in the St Mungo's Academy music department. Meanwhile out in Milngavie, we receive an offer of a piano donation from, what turns out to be, some ex-pupils of St Mungo's. Not long after that, their piano finds it's way into the practice rooms replacing an older instrument at the end of it's musical life.



Thanks to an award for Social Innovation from Firstport we get our new home base in Shawlands Arcade set up in time to help out St Mungo's again, by taking in 2 more old pianos from their practice rooms that are being replaced with some shiny new ones. Their 'Glasgow's Miles Better' piano finds a new home at the African Arts Centre in Govan while we get to work on repairing the 2nd one ~ before finding it a new home.



Henri Herbert on 'Calton'



Hugh Kearns on 'Shug'



Big changes *On the Corner* of London Rd & Bain St, as they transform into **The Space** . . . where **Calton**, our Baby Grand, has enjoyed many a jam session, allowed us to run piano tuition & hosted some visiting players like **Henri Herbert** as well as the home grown talent of **Hugh Kearns**. Calton has now moved on to Royston Youth Action, to be replaced by a dinky wee upright piano in the form of **Shug**. This leaves 'The Living Room' with a wee bit more spaciousness around their cafe tables and means that our tuition continues, while local people can still play too.



The Living Room cafe



Piano Tuition space at the Wise Group Building



Bentley ~ at the Parkes home

Charlie Grace donates his old Bentley piano from Stirling and we install it in the Calton Heritage & Learning Centre, starting tuition straight away. The pressure on space at CHLC means we need to hunt for new tuition locations after a few months. We happily find a new home for our lessons at the Wise Group building and offer the 'Bentley' to the Parkes family, who are receiving some tuition. This works out very well for all concerned, with the piano ending up just a few floors above where it first arrived at CHLC. Our lead Piano tutor, Grainne, and new tuition team member, Penny, test out the side-by-side pianos in our tuition space at the Wise Group on Charlotte St.

Piano Tuition Participation

Our tutors have gained useful insights into barriers faced by low income families to receiving piano tuition with one element of interest standing out. It can often be the case that the 'brightest', or most apparently talented children, are rewarded with attention and *sometimes* tuition (where funding exists) on a musical instrument that they display obvious ability to play.

We have found that it is also always worth setting this usual pattern aside and simply offering attention / tuition to children as a means to improve their confidence and self esteem, not solely because we imagine they will become a mini maestro. Just having a basic opportunity to experience some 'Learning through Discovery' at the piano . . . is very worthwhile in itself.

Here is some feedback from participants in response to a few questions:

Why do you want piano lessons ?

- " We have been financially excluded so far. They have not been getting lessons because they do not have the experience to pass the tests in school. She is disappointed when she doesn't get picked at school. Her friends play and she doesn't. "*
- " Because I want to improve my musical skills and have the chance to improve and get better. Be a good piano player "*
- " I would like to have piano lessons as I would like to pursue a career in music or drama and feel they would really help."*
- " I want to be a music teacher and have always wanted to play piano."*

What are your aims ?

- " Little mix ? Social Exclusion, Confidence, Self esteem "*
- " To be a professional pianist (high skilled)"*
- " My aim is to have a career in music teaching or in professional musical theatre/ piano performance."*
- " To be able to teach other people, to be able to read bass clef, to be able to sight read quicker."*

What benefit will piano lessons bring you or your family ?

- " The opportunity to progress and see if they have a talent . . . Routine. "*
- " It's important to have a musical talent. Help me to have a scholarship for a good university "*
- " It will allow me to pursue my dream career and get into a college or Uni later in life and allow me to enjoy playing more."*
- " It would help me get a job."*

Parkes Family Feedback

"Firstly can I say for my family to be afforded an amazing opportunity such as piano lessons is so phenomenal. At the beginning of the process we had met with Grainne who gave the children their lessons, she was a very warm happy tutor whose great skill was encouraging the children to want to do better and also enjoying playing the different pieces of music too.

My two oldest children Thomas and Becca, it turned out, were very willing and able to read music very well which stood them in good stead for learning other pieces of music they maybe knew and wanted to play.

My youngest son struggled with reading a little and what Grainne did was taught him to play colour coded pieces, she quickly learned what Morgan's abilities were and adapted to them, which was so beneficial.

We also had the opportunity of having a piano at home . . . it has been an absolute pleasure having this at home for the kids, not only to practice on but also as a family to enjoy and learn to play and sing together. This is something I never would have been able to provide without the help from Glasgow Piano City which we are so appreciative of.

Lastly i would like to say without funding from various organisations Glasgow Piano City would not be able to provide the opportunities they do in communities, see children and parents not only enjoy learning to play piano but also encouraging them to spend more time together as a family, which is so important.

Thank you so much to all from Glasgow Piano City for the wonderful lessons and also meeting some pretty amazing people doing an amazing thing for families and communities. "

Spirit of Calton funding helped us make a small, important difference to a number of people's lives in 2016/17. We would like to offer a heartfelt thank you from us all at GPC and also from everyone involved in the project.



Whiterose Hall ~ Parkhead

Piano donations have arrived in the East End from all over the city and outside too: Kirkintilloch, Stirling, Shawlands Mount Florida, Trongate, Drumchapel and Govanhill.



Residential Care Unit ~ Bridgeton



In the area around the **Calton** boundary we have facilitated more piano donation installations to venues including: **Bridgeton** Community Learning Campus and a Residential Care Unit (with a highly motivated piano tuition recipient), Sword Street Sheltered Housing complex in **Bellgrove** (with an blind female resident delighted to play again) Whiterose Community Hall in **Parkhead** where the local Playbusters have been making good use their piano for their music club.



Sheltered Housing ~ Bellgrove



Parkview Primary



Antonine Centre



Calton Heritage & Learning Centre

We end the year right back where we started in Calton Heritage & Learning Centre with a dinky piano donated by Parkview primary school in Summerston that needed some TLC (tinsel & fairy lights) before being set for Jessica to play at Thenue Housing Association's Christmas event. This piano's journey continued, when it left the East End before arriving at its new permanent home in the Antonine Centre's play therapy space, Drumchapel.



The Queens Baton relay arrives at the Emirates stadium and nips round the corner to the Dalmarnock Legacy Hub where we have a piano ready to go for the choir from St Anne's Primary as well as 5 individual players and singers from St Mungo's, who all received SOC funded tuition. A great moment for the young people to share their performances for everyone . . . and a clear sign of how their confidence has grown.