

## **Young guitarist Corey Dodds from Ross High School is announced as East Lothian champion and the next competitor to be confirmed for the Scottish Young Musicians Solo Performer of the Year final**



On 2 April in St Mary's Church, Haddington, solo musicians from schools across East Lothian competed for a spot in the Scottish Young Musicians final which will take place on 29 May this year in the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. All schools in East Lothian were invited to take part, and a total of 8 schools were involved in the local final, with 15 young people performing.

**Scottish Young Musicians Solo Performer of the Year** is a new Scotland-wide music competition launched by The Music Education Partnership Group, Scotland's only music competition where funding and expertise is offered to every school and Local Authority, giving all pupils in the country the chance to take part.

Following a string of excellent live performances at St Mary's Church, **S5 pupil Corey Dodds from Ross High School was announced as the winner** by adjudicators **Christine McGinley and Jonathan Gawn**. Corey performed 'Preludio' from 'La Catedral' by Agustin Barrios Mangore and 'Tango en Skye' by Roland Dyens on guitar and gave a masterful performance. Two runner up prizes were also awarded to clarinettist Sam Russell from Dunbar Grammar School and drummer Ben Gentil from Knox Academy for their superb performances.

The next step of the competition takes Corey to the Royal Conservatoire to compete in the national final in May. The overall winner of the National competition will receive a stunning sculpture by Alexander Stoddart of the Maid of Morven playing the Clarsach, as well as the opportunity to work, play and learn with some world class musicians with links to music colleges for future considerations of a career in music.

The majority of Local Authorities across Scotland are also taking part in the competition, with many more hosting local finals in the coming months to determine who will represent their area in the national final.

**Scottish Young Musicians Brass Ensemble of the Year** is also taking place in 2022. The winner of this online music competition will be announced on 25 April 2022. The winning ensemble will get an all-expenses paid trip to play a prime slot at the Solo Performer of the Year final on Sunday 29 May at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. They will also receive a trophy and a prize of £750 to be spent on ensemble music related activities, generously donated by the legendary trumpet player Philip Jones CBE and his wife Ursula

**Corey Dodds, winner of the East Lothian competition, said:** “Everyone was amazing in the competition and I still can't believe that I won. My hard work over the past 5 years has paid off. I also want to thank my guitar teacher Mr Chris Day as without him I wouldn't have picked up classical guitar!”