

**Young Bass Guitarist Joe Gillan from Newbattle High School is announced as Midlothian champion and the next competitor to be confirmed for the Scottish Young Musicians Solo Performer of the Year final**



On 4 April in St John's and Kings Park Church, Dalkeith, solo musicians from secondary schools across Midlothian 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.

**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 John's and Kings Park Church, Dalkeith, 17 year-old Joe Gillan from Newbattle High School was announced as the winner by adjudicators Karine Polwart and Andrew Patterson. Joe performed Metropolis Part 1 from The Miracle and the Sleeper and gave a masterful performance with real presence. Two runner up prizes were awarded to Louise Simpson (Xylophone) and Anja French (Vocalist). Both Karine and Andrew commented how high the standard was from all 10 finalists involved. There was also much praise for the younger participants who showed amazing potential on the night.

**Karine Polwart, judge of the Midlothian competition, said:** “Joe was fabulous and will do Midlothian proud, such an embodied performer, and technically dazzling”

**Andrew Patterson, judge of the Midlothian competition, said:** “All 10 finalists were outstanding and did their school and teachers proud. Congratulations to Joe on his fantastic performance on Bass Guitar”

The next step of the competition takes Joe to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland 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.