

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association



Lothian and Borders Branch

Pipers and Drummers Structured Learning 2007

- Thought about taking music classes in addition to your band work
- Have ideas for pipe tunes or drum scores but been unsure about writing the music correctly?
- Had bad experiences trying to learn to read and write music?
- Heard a drum score or pipe tune and wanted to play the same arrangement but were unsure about reading the music?
- Want to write your own arrangement of a tune?
- Want to get a music certificate?

The Lothian & Borders Branch have just what you need with a programme or reasonably priced classes taught by experienced instructors at a venue near Edinburgh

Structured Learning 2007

Elementary.

Start Date: Sunday 7th January **Finish Date:** Sunday 25th March

Examinations: Sunday 25th March

Times: Between 10am and 3pm

Prices: Elementary £90.00.

Any necessary increase will be kept to a minimum. You also have to lay your hands on a reference book for each stage and if you sit an exam an administration fee must be paid to the RSPBA. You are welcome to attend the courses even if you are not a member of a Lothian & Borders Branch band but a small surcharge must be paid.

Venue: Morris Club Mayfield, Dalkeith.

Contacts:

Grant Craig, Structured Learning Administrator, Branch Vice-Chairman:
01968 676083.

John Hughes, Branch Chairman: 01506 415862.e-mail: john_hughes@standardlife.com

Bill McMorran, Branch Secretary: 01899 308385 e-mail : billandvi@tinyworld.co.uk

It is imperative you let us know in advance so we can get this project organised.

RSPBA Lothian & Borders Branch - Structured Learning Programme - Information and FAQs /-

Structured Learning Programme - Information and FAQs

What is Structured Learning?

Structured Learning is a programme devised by the RSPBA to help pipers and drummers to read and write music and learn about music theory.

Does it have practical work?

Yes, the practical material was compiled by a group of pipers & drummers.

The instruction team help you to understand the written practical work and, if needed, coach you in playing it.

Don't some people say that there is no point in learning to read and write music because you can't write things like emotion and expression?

This point of view is understandable because music at its best comes from the heart.

But it can't be used as an argument for not learning to read and write music. More and more, musicians in Pipe Bands are finding that the dots are a valuable tool.

Being able to read and write won't make you a champion player, but to keep up in today's world, a reasonable understanding of music theory is very worthwhile.

Is the music in the Structured Learning books the same as in other music books?

Yes. The music theory you learn is the same as is taught in schools and colleges and it is the same for any instrument. There are some additional things to learn which are specific to the Bagpipe and Pipe Band Drumming.

The RSPBA Structured Learning Programme presents the theory in a manner that is helpful to musicians in Pipe Bands.

Who attend the classes?

Players from bands in all grades.

As well as finding out about the dots they pick up a lot from each other.

Do I have to start at the beginning with Structured Learning?

Not necessarily, but it is advisable.

Some players have either taught themselves from the books or started classes at the Intermediate and Advanced

The feedback from nearly all of them is that if they were to do it again they would take classes at elementary and get a really good grounding to make it easier at intermediate and advanced.

Why are there exams?

People sit the exams for different reasons.

Some want certificates so that they can apply to become adjudicators.

Some want to become part of the RSPBA instruction team.

Some are happy just to pass the exams for the sake of it while broadening their musical knowledge.

The exams are not something you should worry unnecessarily about.

In the Lothian and Borders Branch we have an excellent record of assisting pipers and drummers to pass.

When are the classes held?

The classes are held over 11 Sundays from January to March.

They are held during the day at a venue in Dalkeith.

Parking is free and it's not too far from the bus route.

How much will it cost?

The more players who attend the classes will help to keep the prices down. In 2005 it cost £80 for Elementary and £85 for Intermediate (there is a reduction for taking both together, but talk to the instructors first if you are thinking about this). You also have to get hold of a Structured Learning book and there is an administration fee (RSPBA) if you decide to sit an exam. If you don't belong to a Lothian & Borders Branch band you are still welcome to attend but a small surcharge will be made.

What Courses will be available in 2007?

Elementary and Intermediate courses will take about 10 or 11 weeks. Advanced is the most intense course and runs from October through to March. The Lothian & Borders Branch have recently completed an Advanced course.

Don't worry if you have already looked at the Structured Learning books and thought that the contents were difficult. The instructors have a lot of additional presentation and back up material to help you through the programme.