

# DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama

## Junior Music Programmes



Website: [www.dit.ie/conservatory](http://www.dit.ie/conservatory)  
Email: [conservatory@dit.ie](mailto:conservatory@dit.ie)  
Telephone: 01 402 3572/7815



[www.dit.ie/conservatory](http://www.dit.ie/conservatory)



# Welcome to DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama

*– the home of Ireland's future musicians and actors!*

For over 120 years DIT Conservatory has been setting standards of excellence in music education in Ireland. We are the leading national provider of music and drama education in the country, with multiple hubs of performance activity in Dublin.

Our Junior Conservatory of Music offers the highest quality music education for children and young people aged 3-18. We also deliver full-time degree programmes and part-time Continuing Education opportunities for students over 18.

It is essential that musical talent is identified early and developed to its fullest potential by excellent teaching, in a stimulating and supportive environment. At DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama, we have the professional expertise and a proven track record of educating high calibre musicians, many of whom enter the profession both at home and abroad.

To find out more and to submit an application, see us online at  
[www.dit.ie/conservatory](http://www.dit.ie/conservatory)

***There's always something exciting happening at DIT Conservatory:  
join us, have fun and be transformed!***



**Dr Orla McDonagh**

Head of Conservatory

Website: [www.dit.ie/conservatory](http://www.dit.ie/conservatory)

Email: [conservatory@dit.ie](mailto:conservatory@dit.ie)

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# DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama

## What is a Conservatoire?

DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama is a conservatoire – a place of highly specialized learning in music and the performing arts. The conservatoire learning environment is quite different from school, with an emphasis on 1:1 or small group learning and teaching. Studying at the Junior Conservatory requires a high degree of commitment and motivation, intensive daily practice and, especially in the early years, support at home to nurture and develop emerging talent.

## What you can expect of us ...

- high quality music education from experienced professionals
- a structured and individualized approach to music education
- a quality-assured system of graded examinations, recognising progress and achievement
- a stimulating and performance-centred learning environment

## What we expect of our Junior students ...

- dedication and enthusiasm!
- regular daily practice
- regular performances
- listening at home and homework

## What we expect of our Junior students' parents/guardians ...

- active support for your child's musical education
- encouragement and monitoring of practice
- the provision of books and learning materials and access to a suitable instrument and practice space

# Music Classes for Children

A child-centred approach underpins our Music Classes for Children, which emphasize holistic development: each child has the opportunity to nurture and develop musical, physical, conceptual and social skills appropriate to her/his age. Children learn through active music making.

**Our Music Classes for Children take place on Saturdays in our Rathmines Road campus.**

## **Kids' Club for pre-school children and children in Junior Infants**

For 45 minutes per week children participate in singing, movement, musical games, storytelling, percussion and much more with specialist teachers. Places for this course are allocated on a 'first come, first-served' basis, so apply early to avoid disappointment!

## **Pre-Instrumental Classes for Children in Senior Infants**

In preparation for learning to play an instrument, these 45-minute weekly classes engage children with music in stimulating and playful ways. The child-centred approach emphasizes holistic development – each child has the opportunity to nurture and develop musical, physical, conceptual and social skills. Through active music-making, the course is carefully structured to introduce children to the basic elements of music fundamental to learning to play an instrument. These include the development of competence in singing, awareness of pitch and a strong sense of rhythm, as well as preparation for music literacy. Classes consist of singing, games, movement, playing percussion instruments and listening to music. In addition, children get an opportunity to meet and hear the instruments of the orchestra. Places for this course are allocated on a 'first come, first-served' basis, so apply early to avoid disappointment!

## **Recorder classes for 7–9 year olds**

Recorder classes provide children with the opportunity to develop skills in playing a wind instrument. Children who participate in the course will be offered priority enrolment (subject to audition) as students of wind and brass instruments in the following academic years. Applicants should normally reach their 7th birthday within the first term. Older children can apply for recorder ensemble classes where they will learn to play the larger recorders and ensemble repertoire. Classes take place on Saturday mornings and afternoons in Rathmines. Places for this course are allocated on the basis of audition.

# The Junior Conservatory Music Curriculum

All Junior students take a Practical Lesson (instrument or voice) and a Musicianship class. In addition, orchestral and vocal students participate in ensembles. The Practical Lesson is the core activity for all students. Weekly lessons are delivered on a 1:1 or group basis from September to May/June. Through these lessons, students learn essential performance techniques and the skills of musical communication. See p. 8 for information about Musicianship classes.

## Grade Examinations and Competitions

Entering graded music examinations (in instrument/voice and musicianship) and performance competitions are an important and integral part of learning in a conservatoire environment, and they help us to monitor your child's progress. The Conservatory's graded music examinations are recognised by and pegged against the National Framework of Qualifications ([www.nfq.ie](http://www.nfq.ie)).

## Concerts

The Conservatory holds regular public concerts, including lunchtime concerts (normally given by third-level students), musical evenings, and evening/weekend concerts featuring students of all levels. We also promote our ensembles through our annual 'All Together Now' concerts in the National Concert Hall.

## Our Campuses

Our teaching and rehearsals take place at two main locations in south central Dublin: Chatham Row and Rathmines Road. We also have a superb 400-seater concert hall in the DIT building on Kevin Street. If you would like to visit us, come along to one of our Open Days, or one of our events.

## Additional Needs and Disability

The Junior Conservatory welcomes applicants who may require additional support. If your child has a disability or additional support needs, please contact the Head of Conservatory to ensure that any necessary reasonable adjustments are put in place for audition.



# Department of Keyboard Studies

**Head of Department:** Dr David Mooney

## JUNIOR PROGRAMMES

The Junior Conservatory caters for piano students up to 18 years of age. Beginners on piano are welcome to audition up to the age of 9 years. Beyond this age applicants are expected to demonstrate previous experience of piano playing. The Continuing Education division caters for experienced piano students aged 18 and over.

The Conservatory also offers tuition in organ, harpsichord and accordion. Applicants without any previous experience should normally have reached a minimum of Grade 6 in piano.

## LESSONS

Keyboard Students attend:

- Individual Practical Lesson
- Musicianship Class

## INSTRUMENTS

All keyboard students must have daily access to an acoustic piano. A digital or electronic instrument is not acceptable. Offer of a place is subject to candidates obtaining a suitable instrument for practice.



# Department of Vocal, Opera and Drama Studies

**Head of Department:** Jennifer Hamilton

## JUNIOR PROGRAMMES

Part-time applicants should be between the ages of 16 and 25.

## LESSONS

Vocal students attend:

- Individual practical lesson
- Musicianship Class
- Vocal Ensemble, as required



# Department of Orchestral Studies

**Head of Department:** Dr Clíona Doris

## JUNIOR PROGRAMMES

In the Orchestral Studies Department each student follows a comprehensive programme of instrumental lessons, musicianship classes and ensemble playing in the following instruments:

- Strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp and guitar)
- Woodwind (flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon, recorder)
- Brass (trumpet, trombone, horn and tuba)
- Percussion

The Junior Conservatory caters for students up to 18 years of age. The Continuing Education division caters for experienced students aged 18 and over.

Below are recommended age guidelines to start each instrument:

### Strings

Violin/Viola/Cello:	5-9 years
Viola/Cello:	6-10 years
Double-Bass:	9 years or older
Classical Guitar:	8 years or older
Harp:	6 years or older

**Completion of at least one year of pre-instrumental class is recommended.**

**Recorder Classes:** 7-9 years

**Completion of at least one year of pre-instrumental class is recommended.**

**Woodwind/Brass:** 9 years or older

**Completion of at least one year of recorder class is recommended.**

**Percussion:** 9 years or older

**Completion of at least one year of pre-instrumental class and/or recorder class is recommended. At least one year of piano is also advised.**



## LESSONS

Orchestral Studies students attend an instrumental lesson, a Musicianship Class and ensemble (as required). Instrumental lessons for beginners are 30 minutes in duration and are mostly in small groups. From Grade 2 level, 30-minute lessons are on an individual basis. From Grade 6 level, lessons are extended to 45 or 60 minutes.

## MUSIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

This is a specialist programme in performance for 4th–6th year students considering an undergraduate degree in music performance in piano or orchestral instruments. The programme is ideal for a transition year student. Applicants are expected to have attained a high level of performance on their instrument. The objective of the programme is to challenge the student creatively through individual expert tuition, classes in performance and musicianship, and ensemble playing, so that they can progress and achieve their true potential.

## INSTRUMENTS

Students must provide their own instruments, having first sought the advice of their teacher. A limited number of instruments is available on short-term hire from the Conservatory. Details are available from Ronan Grant, Ensembles and Concert Manager.

## ENSEMBLES

The Conservatory is committed to the educational and social value of ensemble performance and there are weekly ensemble rehearsals in the following ensembles:

- Junior Ensembles: Junior Orchestra, Intermediate Orchestra, Prelude Winds
- Intermediate Ensembles: Sinfonia, Concert Band
- Senior Ensembles: Camerata, Chamber Winds, Chamber Brass, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Big Band
- Choirs: Preliminary Choir (6–10 years), Junior Choir (10–14 years)

## CHAMBER MUSIC COACHING

Advanced Junior students have the opportunity to receive chamber music coaching from the Vanbrugh Quartet, Resident Lecturers in Chamber Music at DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama.

# Department of Academic Studies

**Head of Department:** Dr Kerry Houston

**Musicianship Co-ordinator:** Dr Lorraine O'Connell

## JUNIOR PROGRAMMES

The Department of Academic Studies provides:

- Musicianship Classes (Initial, Primary, Grades 1 to 8)
- Junior Certificate (1 year course)
- Leaving Certificate (1 year course)

## MUSICIANSHIP CLASSES (Initial, Primary, Grades 1 to 8)

All instrumental/vocal part-time students attend a musicianship class. In providing a holistic music education, the purpose of these classes is to support learning and teaching in the instrumental/vocal lesson. Students develop a range of musicianship skills including aural awareness, sight-singing, theoretical understanding, critical listening and appreciation of music. Students attend a weekly class at the appropriate level, and study for Conservatory grade examinations. The duration of the class varies according to grade.

Musicianship classes are reserved for instrumental/vocal students of DIT Conservatory in the first instance. However, a limited number of places may be available for students who are not enrolled for instrumental/vocal lessons. To apply please complete the online application at [www.dit.ie/conservatory](http://www.dit.ie/conservatory).



## JUNIOR CERTIFICATE AND LEAVING CERTIFICATE MUSIC COURSES

The Conservatory of Music and Drama offers a one-year course in Music at both Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate levels.

The Junior Certificate course is suitable for students in their 3rd Year at school and applicants should normally have reached a minimum standard of Grade 2 Musicianship/Theory. The Leaving Certificate programme is suitable for students in 6th year. Applicants should normally have reached a minimum of Grade 4 Musicianship/Theory. DIT instrumental/vocal students are given priority enrolment on these courses. However, a small number of places may be available to other applicants. All students wishing to attend one of these courses should submit a separate online application at [www.dit.ie/conservatory](http://www.dit.ie/conservatory).

Please note that both the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate courses prepare the students for the 'Listening' and 'Composing' components of the syllabus. The 'Performing' requirements are prepared in the instrumental/vocal lesson.







**DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

# Music and Drama

**Part-Time Adult Music Programmes**

## DIT CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AND DRAMA

### **Allegro for Adults**

NFQ Level 6 (5 ECTS)

Innovative musicianship courses for adults

Allegro 1                      Aural Training, written skills and listening.

*No musical experience needed.*

Allegro 2 and 3            Aural training, composition, listening.

*Musical experience required.*

### **Jazz Improvisation**

NFQ Level 6 (5 ECTS)

The course provides an introduction to the concept of jazz improvisation and performance through ensemble playing.

Technical proficiency on an instrument or voice is required.

### **Advanced Vocal Studies**

The programme is open to students who have completed an undergraduate or post-graduate degree in vocal performance. The emphasis is on preparing students for auditions and consolidating vocal technique.

**[www.dit.ie/conservatory](http://www.dit.ie/conservatory)**



**DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

# **Music and Drama**

**Undergraduate and Postgraduate**

## **Bachelor of Music**

- Classical Performance • Irish Traditional Music Performance
- Composition • Pedagogy • Musicology

## **Bachelor of Music Education**

(Joint Course with Trinity College, University of Dublin)

- Classical Music • Irish Traditional Music

## **Bachelor of Arts in Drama (Performance)**

## **Bachelor of Arts in Commercial Modern Music**

in association with BIMM Dublin ([www.bimm.co.uk/dublin](http://www.bimm.co.uk/dublin))

## **CPD Diploma in Musical Theatre** (subject to validation)

in association with The Irish College of Music Theatre

([www.theirishcollegeofmusictheatre.com](http://www.theirishcollegeofmusictheatre.com))

## **Master of Music (Opera)**

- Opera • Repetiteur

## **Master of Music (Performance/Conducting)**

- Classical Music • Irish Traditional Music • Jazz
- Chamber Music • Piano Accompaniment
- Conducting

## **Master of Arts in Scoring for Film and Visual Media**

in association with Pulse College ([www.pulsecollege.eu](http://www.pulsecollege.eu))

**MPhil/PhD** by research and composition

**[www.dit.ie/conservatory](http://www.dit.ie/conservatory)**

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How do I apply for instrumental/vocal lessons?

Applications for part-time Junior and Continuing Education instrumental/vocal lessons open in January each year and close on 31 March. Submit an application online at [www.dit.ie/conservatory](http://www.dit.ie/conservatory).

Applicants who apply by 31 March will be called to audition in April/May. You will receive an email indicating the date and time of your audition. There is no audition fee. Applicants who apply after 31 March may be charged a late application fee and will be auditioned in June, subject to the availability of places at that time.

## How do I apply for Kids' Club, Pre-Instrumental and Junior and Leaving Certificate classes?

Applications for Kids' Club and Pre-instrumental classes and for the one-year Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate courses normally open in March and close at the end of April. **There are no auditions for these classes** – places are filled on a 'first-come, first-served' basis. Submit an application online at [www.dit.ie/conservatory](http://www.dit.ie/conservatory).

## Do I need to attend an audition?

Places for Kids' Club and Pre-Instrumental Classes are offered on a 'first-come, first-served' basis, apply early to avoid disappointment.

Places for instrumental and vocal lessons are made on the basis of an audition.

## What are the audition requirements for Instrumental/Vocal Lessons?

### Keyboard Studies and Orchestral Studies Departments:

#### Beginners

#### Auditions for Beginners take place in 2 stages:

Audition/Trial mini-lesson: Candidates are invited to take an audition where they may be asked to sing a song, take some simple aural tests and may be given a short trial lesson. If they can play another instrument they should play one piece on this instrument.



They are also expected to take a musical aptitude test. The test is usually administered in groups of 10-15. It is designed for use by small children and involves listening to a recording and responding by circling pictures on a page. A trial run is given before the test begins. It tests rhythmic and pitch response. The result of the audition is added to the result of the aptitude test and those scoring highest are offered places.

### **Non-beginners**

Non-beginners for both the Junior Conservatory and Continuing Education (over-18) division are expected to perform two contrasting pieces appropriate to their standard, and take sight-reading and aural tests. They may be asked to perform scales appropriate to their level. A short, informal interview also takes place at the audition. Continuing Education students are expected to have performance experience.

### **Vocal Department:**

Applicants are asked to prepare two contrasting songs.

### **What happens next?**

You will receive an email informing you of the result of the audition. There are three possibilities: an offer of a place, placement on the waiting list or not being offered a place.

### **What if I receive an email stating that I am on the waiting list?**

This means you have passed the audition, but that an offer cannot be made until a place becomes available in your chosen instrument/voice. Offers to candidates on the waiting list are generally made around the middle of September and continue to be made until all vacant places are filled – usually in early October. Please note that the waiting list status is only relevant for the upcoming academic year and if you do not receive a place you must re-audition to be considered for a place in the following year.

### **When do classes take place?**

Pre-Junior, Junior and Continuing Education classes take place from September until June and are held on weekday afternoons and evenings and on Saturdays.

### **Do I attend a Musicianship Class?**

All Junior Conservatory and Continuing Education students attend a musicianship class to support teaching and learning in the instrumental lesson.

## Do I attend an Ensemble?

Students studying an orchestral instrument or voice attend a weekly ensemble rehearsal.

## Can I choose to study with a particular teacher?

All of our teachers are highly qualified and experienced. You may request to study with a particular teacher. We will try to accommodate your request but cannot guarantee to do so.



# DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama Staff

## Head of Conservatory

Dr Orla McDonagh

## Head of Keyboard Studies

Dr David Mooney

## Head of Orchestral Studies

Dr Clíona Doris

## Acting Head of Vocal, Opera and Drama Studies

Jennifer Hamilton

## Head of Academic Studies

Dr Kerry Houston

## Acting Musicianship Co-ordinator

Dr Julie Maisel

## Piano

Mary Breslin

David Brophy

Barbara Dagg

Janet Day

Dr Orla McDonagh

Geraldine Fitzgerald

Claire Flynn

Shirin Goudarzi-Tobin

Edward Holly

Anita Hopper

Ann Heneghan

Paula Hughes

Siobhán Kilkelly

Celine Kelly

Ann Keary

Catherina Lemoni

Dr Mary Lennon

Marian McRory

Yvonne McQuillan

Rosemary Molloy

Barbara Murray

Danusia Oslizlok

Pádhraic Ó Cuinneagáin

Alison Thomas

Eithne White

## Organ

Simon Harden

## Harpsichord

Rachel Factor

## Classical Accordion

Dermot Dunne

## Chamber Music

Vanburgh Quartet

## Violin

Gregory Ellis

Lisa Gnemmi

Sebastian Liebig

Maria Mason

Orla Murley

Odhran O Casaide

David O Doherty

Keith Pascoe

Gillian Williams

## Viola

Simon Aspell

David O Doherty

## Violoncello

Margaret Doris

Christopher Marwood

Arun Rao

## Double Bass

Waldemar Kozak

## Viola da Gamba

Andrew Robinson

## Harp

Denise Kelly-McDonnell

Dr Clíona Doris

## Guitar

Leslie Cassidy

Alan Grundy

Michael Nielsen

## Flute

Dr Julie Maisel

Ciaran O Connell

## Recorder

Laoise O'Brien



# DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama Staff

## **Clarinet/Saxophone**

Antonio Cafolla  
Kevin Hanafin  
Dr Paul Roe

## **Oboe**

Sile Daly  
Albert Soliveres  
David Agnew

## **Bassoon**

John Hearne

## **Trumpet**

Eamonn Nolan

## **French Horn**

Ian Dakin

## **Trombone/Euphonium**

Jonathan Clifford

## **Tuba/Euphonium**

Conor O' Riordan

## **Percussion**

Noel Eccles

## **Irish Traditional Music**

Peter Browne  
Tom Doorley  
Kevin Glackin  
Grainne Hambly  
Kieran Hanrahan  
Tommy Hayes  
Seosaimhin Ní Bheaglaoich  
Odhran O Casaide  
Antaine Ó Faracháin  
Michael O'Raghallaigh  
John Regan

## **Jazz**

Michael Nielsen

## **Voice**

Robert Alderson  
Jennifer Hamilton  
Emmanuel Lawler  
Colette McGahon-Tosh  
Sylvia O'Regan  
Derval O'Sullivan  
Dr Rachel Talbot  
Sinead Campbell-Wallace  
Stephen Wallace  
Toni Walsh

## **Repetiteurs**

Dr Úna Hunt  
Celine Kelly  
Aoife O Sullivan  
Mary Scarlett

## **Early Years Music**

Helen Byrne  
Clare McEvoy  
Ger Relph

## **Drama**

Ella Clarke  
Ciarán O'Grady  
Susie Kennedy  
Peter Mc Dermott  
Mary Moynihan  
Vinny Murphy  
Miriam O Meara

## **Academic Studies**

Dr David Bremner  
David Brophy  
Dr Marian Deasy  
Dermot Dunne  
Dr Mark Fitzgerald  
Dr Philip Graydon  
Dr Kerry Houston  
Paula Hughes  
Helen Kane  
Ann Keary  
Dr Maria McHale  
Dr Paul Mc Nulty  
Andrew Robinson  
Marian Mc Rory  
Dr Grainne Mulvey  
Dr Lorraine O Connell  
Pádhraic Ó Cuinneagáin  
Anne-Marie O'Farrell  
Bernie Sherlock  
Dr Adrian Smith  
Eoin Tierney  
Shigeto Wada

## **Student Services -**

## **Conservatory**

Mary Grant

## **Conservatory**

## **Administration**

Fiona Howard  
Geraldine Kelly

## **Events Manager**

Dr Claire Connell

## **Ensembles and**

## **Concerts Manager**

Ronan Grant

## **Audio/Visual Technician**

Ben Rawlins

## **Piano Technician**

Marc Venturier

# Support

## DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama

**Every year DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama mounts an exciting series of public events, including:**

- operatic productions
- plays
- concerts featuring our ...
  - symphony and chamber orchestras
  - chamber choir and choral society
  - Irish traditional music ensemble
  - big band, concert band, wind and percussion ensembles
  - junior music ensembles
- and an International Masterclass Series, featuring some of the world's finest performers

We are also very proud to work in partnership with the Ballymun Music Programme, bringing music to the lives of schoolchildren in an area of social and economic disadvantage in north Dublin.

### How you can help us ...

We are always looking for ways to support our students, and enhance their performance opportunities. You can help us to do this by:

- supporting our Junior Conservatory and outreach work
- sponsoring our opera and drama productions
- offering student scholarships and prizes
- helping us to improve our facilities
- supporting the purchase of instruments

### Every grant, donation and ticket

bought for our performances helps our students. If you would like to help us help them, or if you would simply like to find out more about the Conservatory, please please get in touch:

**[conservatory@dit.ie](mailto:conservatory@dit.ie)**



**arts@dit**



@DITConservatory

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