

Visual Guide: St. Cecilia's Hall General Visit

Building Location

St Cecilia's Hall is located at 50 Niddry Street, Edinburgh EH1 1LG

[Find the location on St. Cecilia's Website](#)

[Find more information about the Museum's Accessibility on the website](#)

Approaching the Museum



The entrance to the museum is on Niddry Street, a narrow cobblestone street on a hill between Cowgate and the Royal Mile (High Street). The Museum is located towards the bottom of the hill near Cowgate. You may approach the entrance from either direction.

Note that during peak tourist season, particularly during the Fringe, the areas around the museum can become very crowded.

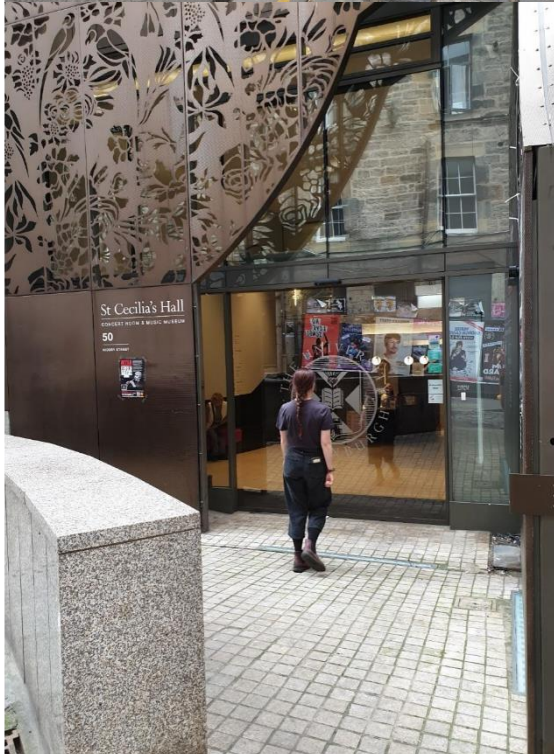
The museum is close to Cowgate, up a slight hill. Cowgate can be quite noisy with traffic. There are dark shaded areas between Niddry and Grassmarket and there are bars and nightclubs.

From Cowgate up Niddry Street, there is a pavement on the left-hand side. The

museum is on the right-hand side with a large glass front wall.



The museum is towards the bottom of Niddry Street if you go from the Royal Mile (High Street). At the entrance to the museum there are three steps down. The pavement on the right-hand side of Niddry Street approaching the museum from the Royal Mile is step free.



Enter through the automatic glass doors at the front into the lobby/reception area.

Foyer and Reception



The foyer is a brightly lit area that can get busy, especially when there is an event. The space is two stories high, with a mezzanine floor.

There is a coat rack on the left-hand side where you can leave your coat and other items at your own risk. At the far end of the room is a reception desk with a member of museum staff.

Your Visit

Entrance to the museum is free, you do not need a ticket to enter. Staff will greet you as you enter and may ask you to leave your coat or umbrella at the coat rack if it has been raining. They can give you general information about the museum, answer questions, and offer guidance on your visit.

The museum has two floors and has ceiling spotlights that create patterns and shadows. The items on display cannot be touched, but there are some interactive exhibits in the Wolfson gallery. These interactive areas may make some noise.

You can start your visit upstairs or downstairs. We will describe a visit that begins upstairs. Your visit is self-guided.

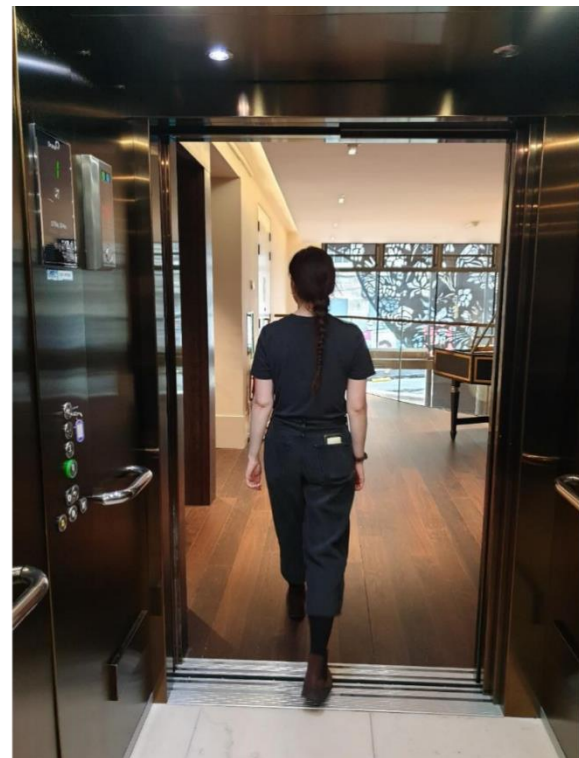
Going Upstairs

You can use the lift or to take the stairs to go up to or down from the first floor.

Option 1: Taking the lift



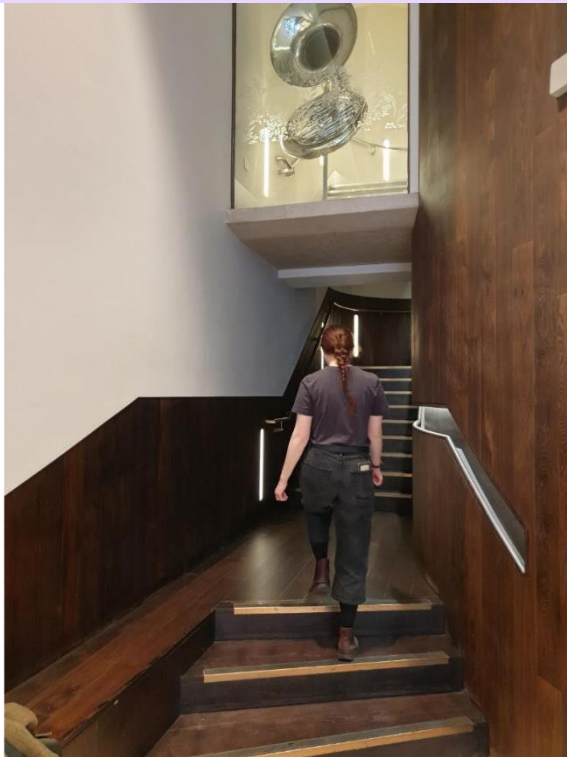
Waiting for the lift.



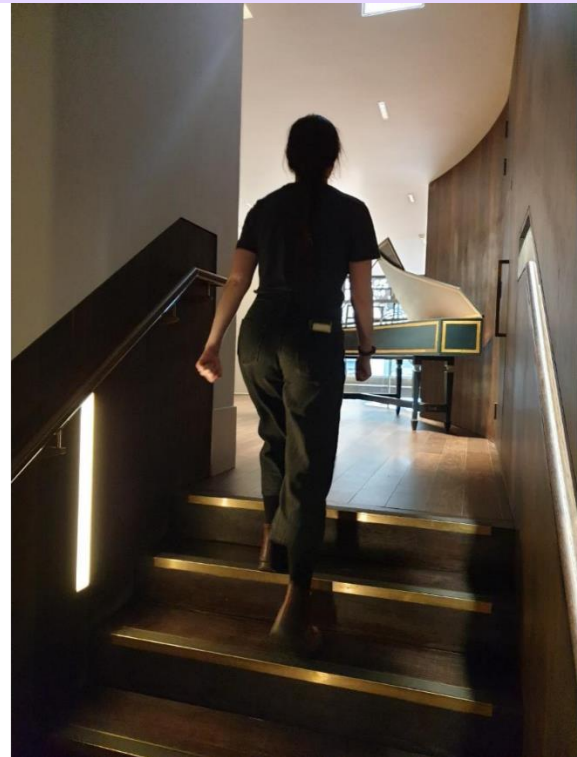
Leaving the lift onto the Mezzanine floor above the reception.

The lift is to the right of Reception, on the rear wall of the foyer. The button for the lift is on the right-hand side. Press the button for Floor One, which will take you to the mezzanine floor that overlooks Reception.

Taking the Stairs



Walking up the first small flight of steps.



Continuing up the stairs onto the mezzanine floor.

The stairs are to the left of the Reception desk. They are wooden and darker than the lobby area and wind round. They lead to the mezzanine floor above the foyer.

At the top of the stairs, turn left through the doorway marked “Binks Gallery”.

Binks Gallery



The Binks Gallery is a long room with a pathway along the centre with a slight zig-zag halfway along.

The floors are dark wood and lighting is mainly from bulbs overhead. On either side of the central pathway are keyboard instruments with information panels. At the end of the Gallery is a small glass room.



There may be a volunteer sitting at the end of the Gallery. You can ask them any questions about the Museum you have, or continue without interacting. There is one open doorway at the end of the Gallery that leads into the 1812 Gallery.

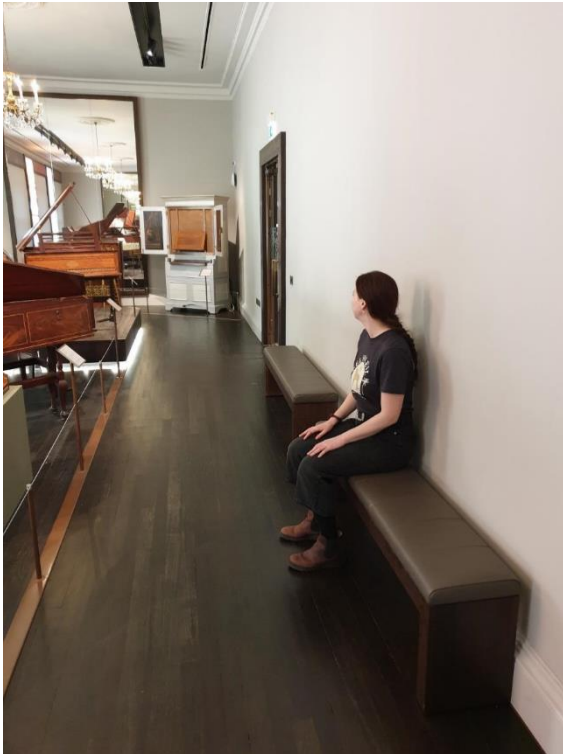
Entering the 1812 Gallery



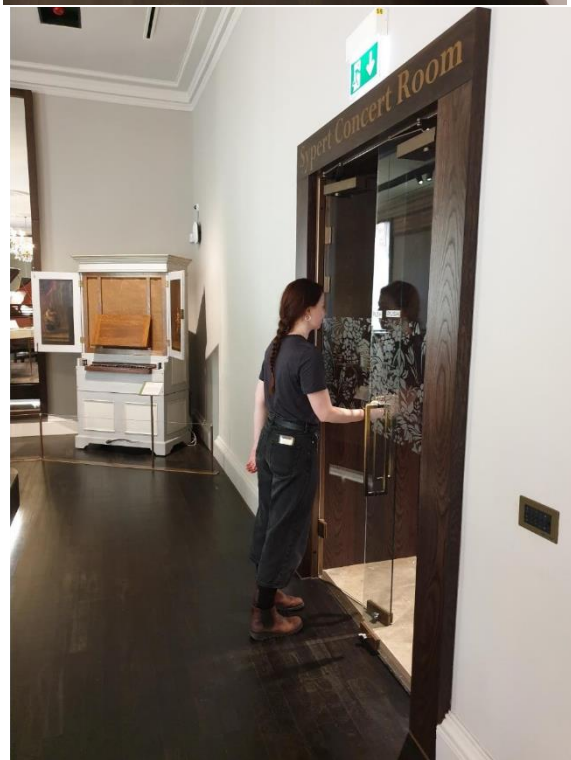
The entrance to the 1812 Gallery is through an open doorway at the end of the Binks Gallery.



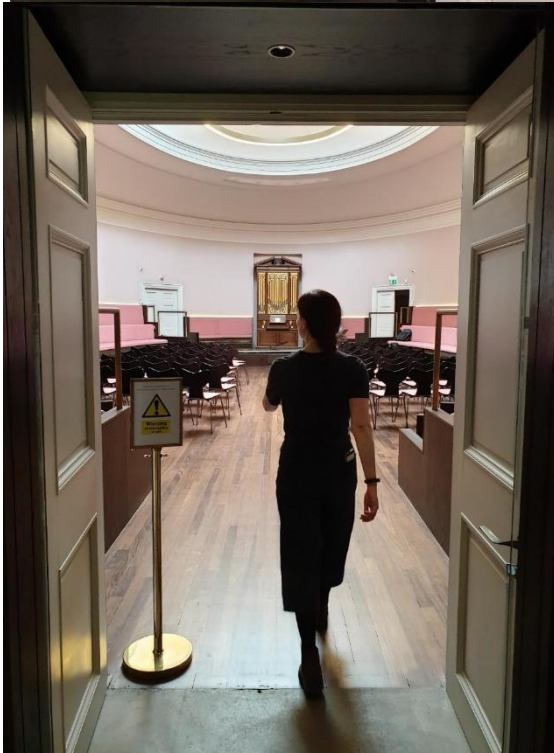
The 1812 Gallery is a rectangular room with dark floors. There are light panels on the wall and overhead chandeliers providing additional lighting. Musical instruments take up the centre of the room, and there is a pathway around the outside of the room. There is seating along the interior wall of the Gallery.



There are benches and seating throughout the museum, you can take a seat anytime during your visit.



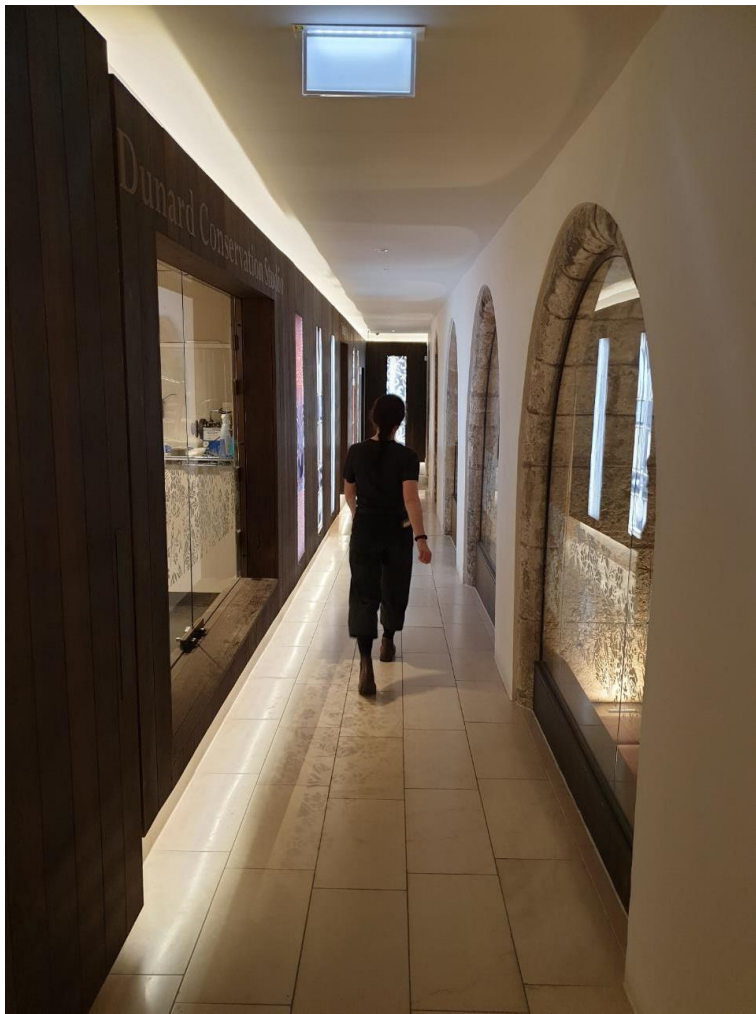
When you are ready, you can exit the 1812 Gallery through the glass doors on the interior wall. These have a sign above them that reads "Sybert Concert Room".



You will enter a small landing, with stairs going down to your left and right. White double doors mark the entrance to the Sybert Concert Hall. The space has low lighting and stone floors.

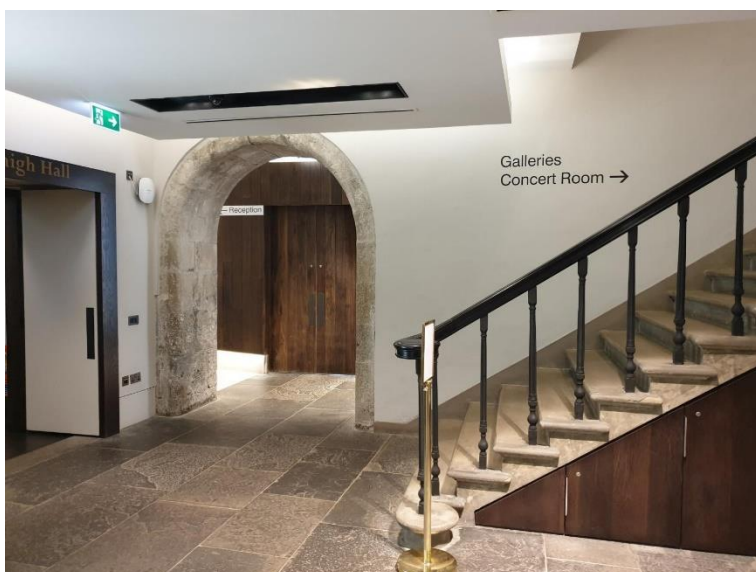
If the double doors are open and there is not an event in progress, you can enter the Sybert Concert Room. It will typically be set up with rows of chairs facing towards an organ on the small stage.

There may be music being played in this room. There is a large skylight making the space bright during the day.



To visit the downstairs galleries, return through the 1812 and Binks Galleries to the lift. When exiting the lift on the Ground Floor, turn left and go down the corridor.

The corridor has backlit artworks on the left-hand side, along with a window into the conservation workshop (where a member of staff may be working on items from the collections) and the toilets. The right-hand side has a series of arches looking into Laigh Hall, one of the downstairs gallery spaces. The conservation workshop is visible on the left. Glazed arches looking into Laigh Hall are on the right.



At the end of the corridor, you will enter a large space through a stone archway, with stone floors. To the left are two open doorways that lead into “Laigh Hall”. To your right is an arched doorway. Through this archway is a long corridor on a slight incline that leads back to Reception, toilets, and the exit. Between the two staircases is another open-door way that is marked “Wolfson Gallery”.

Wolfson Gallery



The entrance to the Wolfson Gallery is through an open doorway between the two staircases. The entrance is brightly lit with white walls, and doors into utility cupboards on either side.



Some drawers have captions saying they can be opened. Some contain additional instruments and information. Others contain interactive displays. Please note that many of these can make loud and sudden noises and other visitors may activate these displays while you are visiting.

Once you have finished with your visit to the Wolfson Gallery, you can return to the area at the bottom of the stairs.

Laigh Hall



There are two wood-lined entrances into Laigh Hall. They are directly opposite the staircases.



Laigh Hall is a large area with a glass panelled wall splitting it into two rooms. Glass doors in these panels may be open or closed.

The lighting comes from the ceiling, with some overhead lighting and some bright lighting reflecting off the walls. The floor is varnished wood, and may be quite reflective and creaky.



There are arches with seating along the right-hand side showing a corridor to the exit. Exhibits can be found along the left-hand wall as you enter, the back wall, and between the doors. In the centre of the first room, there is a large piano which is locked and can't be played by visitors. There are also a number of seats throughout the space that you can use.

The first room in Laigh Hall, with the piano on the right-hand side and the arches to the corridor.



The second room in Laigh Hall, showing wall display cases and the glass panelling between the two Laigh Hall spaces.



Exiting via the arched doorway and turning left to exit the Museum via Reception.



The corridor leading back to Museum Reception which can be seen at the end of the photograph. Images with back lighting are visible on the right-hand side lining the wooden walls, along with the toilet entrance halfway along the wall.

The corridor has a polished marble floor. To the left are arches into the Laigh Hall exhibition space. On the right-hand side, there is a small vestibule with the three toilet doors leading off. Note that there may be noises from the Dyson hand driers from the toilets.

Next to the toilets is a window into the conservation workshop, where there may be a member of museum staff working on items from the instrument collection.

Finding the Toilets



Toilet facilities are located on the ground floor along the corridor that runs beside Laigh Hall, towards the Reception desk. There are three doors to male toilets (with urinals), female toilets, and an accessible toilet. Please use whichever toilet feels most comfortable.

There are loud Dyson Airblade hand driers in the male and female toilets. The accessible toilet does not have a Dyson Airblade. There is fluorescent lighting in all the toilets.