

St Cecilia's Hall

CONCERT ROOM & MUSIC MUSEUM



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH




EXPLORE THE MUSIC MUSEUM

at St Cecilia's Hall

Tutti →

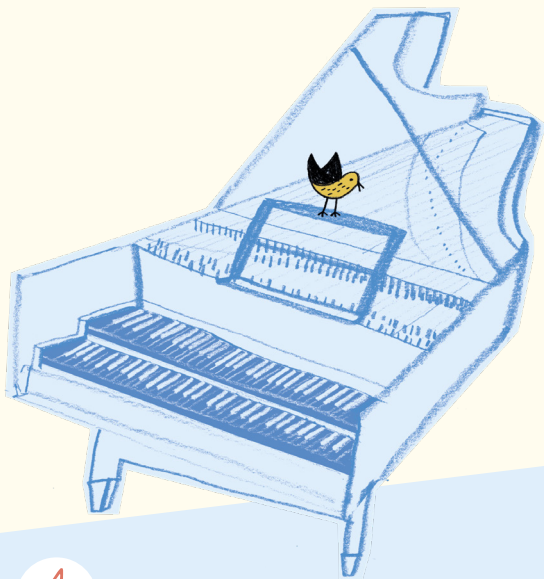
Activity Trail



Illustrated and designed
by Sarah Martin

Explore the Binks Gallery upstairs

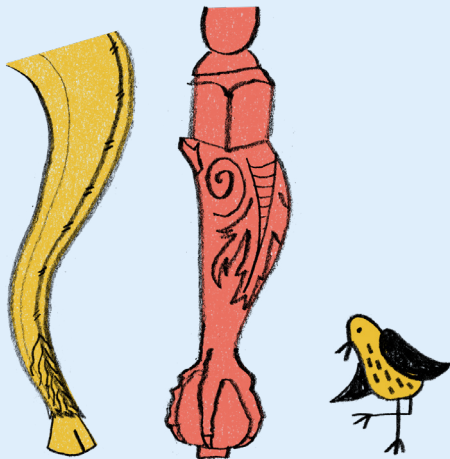
Pick up a pencil from reception and make your way upstairs to begin...



This gallery displays many types of keyboard instruments, such as **Harpsichords, Spinets, Clavichords, Organs** and **Pianos**.

1

Instrument makers were inspired by animals. To make sound, wooden jacks inside the harpsichords use bird feathers to pluck strings, sheep's wool to stop them vibrating, and pig hair to reset the jacks for the next note. Animals also appear on the cases of several harpsichords. Can you find these ones?



Step into the 1812 Gallery

2

Do you see the painted poodle on the **Virginal** to the left? The instrument was made to be played standing up, but paint has been rubbed off by musicians brushing against it. What do you think used to be there?



3

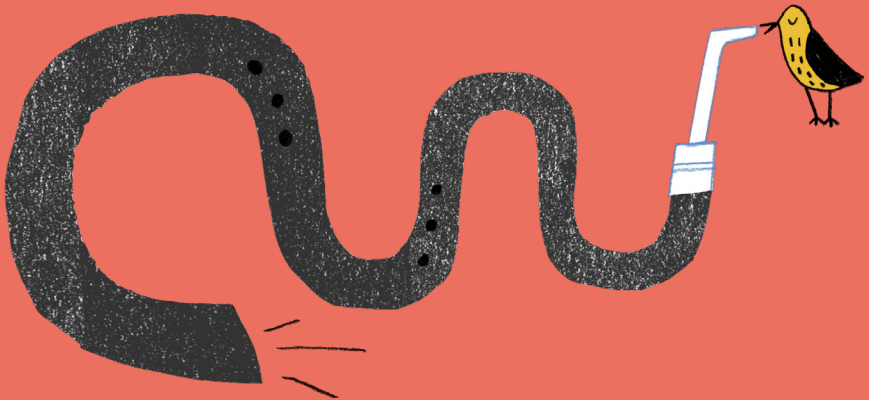


The **Euphonicon** is a unique example of an upright piano. Inside pianos, there are small hammers that hit the strings, which is different from harpsichords where the strings are plucked. Upright piano cases were built smaller or taller to fit at home in the 1800s. This meant experimenting with case design and how the strings were strung.

4

Downstairs to Laigh Hall

In a glass case is an instrument that looks like a snake. The **Serpent** is a wind instrument made of pieces of wood and leather glued together to make an eye-catching slithering shape. It was used by monks 400 years ago to sing monastic chants and has been since used in church and military bands for its deep voice.





This drum kit is made of many percussion instruments and was used for jazz or dance music. The four red and gold **Muyu** are traditionally played by Buddhist monks to help them reflect but were added to this jazz ensemble around 1930. Each Muyu plays a different note and when hit, the sound escapes from a curved opening.

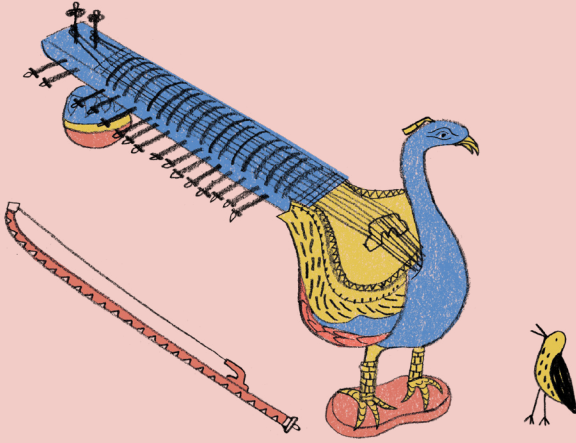


Flip over to continue the trail...



6

The **Mayūri** is a string instrument that was played in 19th century Indian courts. Named and designed after the peacock, it represents Sarasvati, the Hindu goddess of music. Its painted belly is hollow and acts as a resonating chamber, making the sound louder when played.



7

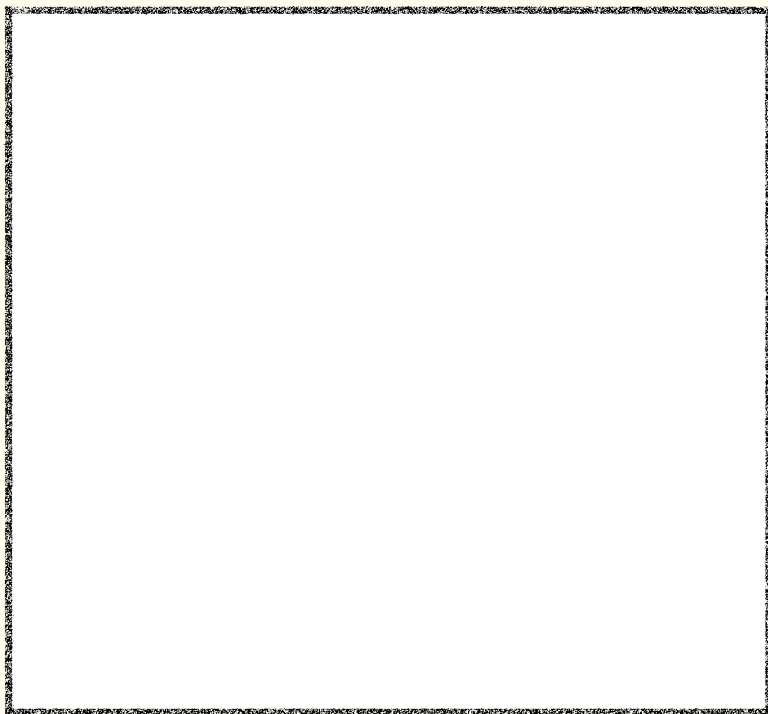
This **Ntongoli** can be played balanced between the legs or standing. The strings are tuned to the musician's playing style and are plucked with their fingers. The front of the instrument, called the table, is made from monitor lizard skin. This is what the back of the instrument looks like with colourful lacing and calf hide!



Can you spot the instrument with this carved singing face? This is a Māori **Pūtōrino** from Aotearoa (New Zealand). It was used to communicate at a distance and to accompany other instruments. Musicians can cover the open mouth, making it sound either like a trumpet or the lighter tone of a flute.



We hope you enjoyed our tour of St Cecilia's Hall with Tutti the songbird. Make sure to stop by the reception desk as you leave to collect your stamp of completion!



Illustrated and designed by Sarah Martin.

Text written by Marlee Merson, Samuel Vince, Wenhan Jiang and Yaqian Liu.

This trail has been commissioned by the MSc by Research Collections and Curating Practices (2024-25) programme at the University of Edinburgh in partnership with St. Cecilia's Hall.