

WHAT SHALL WE PLAY?

Choosing repertoire for young chamber groups

WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?

Music that inspires!

Music that excites!

Music that I would love to play!

Arrangements that are balanced between the parts

Arrangements that teach the craft of chamber music

With other words: **QUALITY** music and **QUALITY** arrangements



IT ALL STARTS WITH SHEILA...

Sheila Nelson, who sadly passed away this month, is to my knowledge the one who established that string quartet playing does not need to start with original Haydn.

Her way of encouraging young children to play chamber music right from the start, has inspired the string teaching world over the past 5 decades. Her arrangements are classics within the world of string playing.

In her beginner repertoire, she provides the tools for the craft of chamber music playing.

Thank you, Sheila for EVERYTHING you have given us!



MY 'ESSENTIAL' SHEILA NELSON PIECES

- French Folk Tune (Tunes for my String Quartet)
- March in D by Handel (Tunes for my String Quartet)
- Minuet and Trio by Mozart (Tunes for my String Quartet)

- March from Flavius by Handel (Quartet Club 1)
- Rondeau from Faery Queen (Quartet Club 1)



CHARACTER SUITES — KATBAK SCORES

- The KatBak Scores Character Suites come in 7 Volumes from Beginner to Advanced
- Technical Requirements on the first page of every Suite
- Themed music
- Rhythmical Challenges
- Interesting Harmonies
- Equal parts
- Variety of styles



MY 'ESSENTIAL' CHARACTER SUITES PIECES

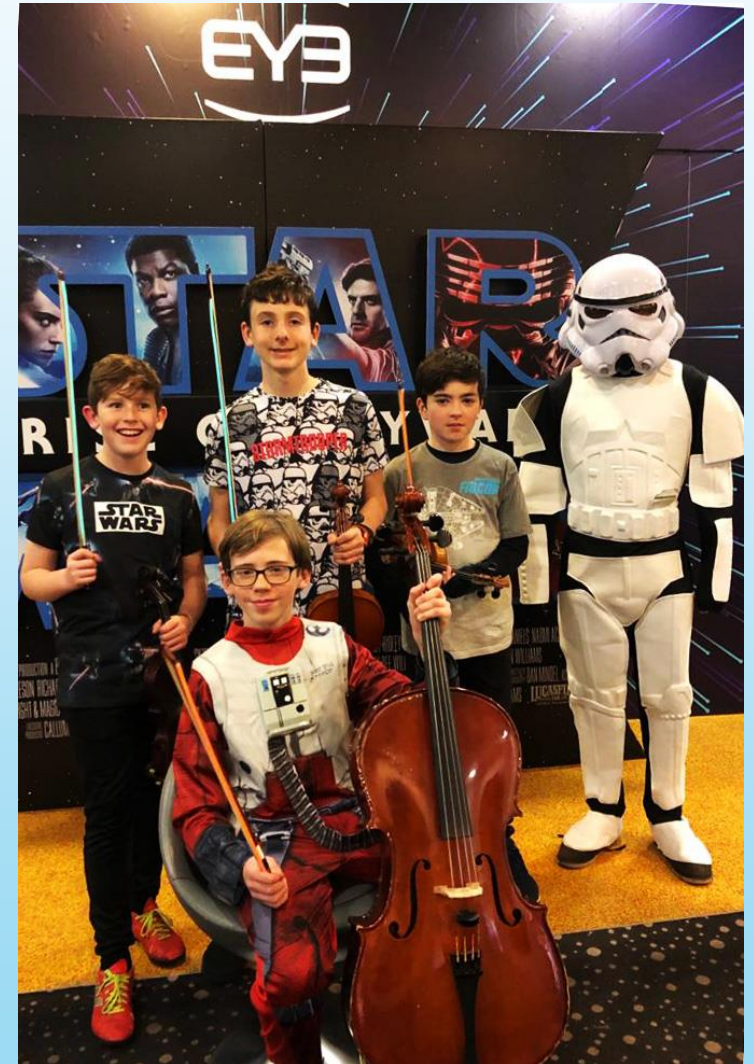
- Turlough Suite (clashing harmonies, syncopated rhythms, minor keys)
- Flower Suite (pizzicato/arco, syncopations, legato lines)
- Matilda's Kitchen (swing feel, pizzicato, sliding finger movement)
- Joraalsa Suite (salsa and tango rhythms, 3 against 2)



WHERE CAN I FIND MORE SUITABLE MUSIC — AND FAST?

Sites that I browse:

- 8notes.com
- sheetmusicplus.com
- musescore.com
- Scoreexchange.com
- [mostly4strings](#) (Peter Martin)
- katbak.com



8NOTES



8notes.com is run and owned by [Red Balloon Technology Ltd](#), a music and technology company based in St Albans, England. 8notes.com was launched in early 2001 and has gone on to become one of the most popular destinations for musicians on the internet, visited by hundreds of thousands of people every month.

The main focus of the site is sheet music, but we offer a wide range of resources for musicians, from tuners, to chord charts, to lessons. Although we are a business, we love providing free resources for musicians and our aim is to keep a large percentage of the site free (currently around 90%). The good news is we can support our work via ads on the free parts of the site. Our [subscriptions](#) are available for access to a range of add-on features, including unlimited playalong tracks, parts and transpositions, as well as higher quality print-outs.

Red Balloon Technology Ltd is run by composer David Bruce. David has a Masters degree in Composition from the Royal College of Music, London; a PhD in Composition from King's College, London, and now has a busy career as a composer, with commissions from Carnegie Hall and the Royal Opera House, London and residencies with groups like the San Diego Symphony. His music has been played by some of the world's leading musicians, from violinist Gil Shaham, to cellist Yo Yo Ma.

Many of the arrangements on the site are done by David himself, others are produced by a team of composer-freelancers who have worked for the site over the years.

Because the site is a business we do retain copyright over the sheet music and resources (unless otherwise stated) - meaning you may not, for example, upload our sheet music to your own site. But you are free to print and perform the music wherever you like.

SHEETMUSICPLUS



We started Sheet Music Plus in 1997 to offer musicians a full spectrum of sheet music, with fast delivery and trained musicians offering customer service. Our 25,000 square foot warehouse can provide you with music from more than 1,000 publishers, including all major European publishers.

Sheet Music Plus features all styles of music, for every talent level and instrument. Whether you're a music teacher seeking instructional titles for your students or you're purchasing music for your band, orchestra or chorus, we have what you need.

By selling exclusively online, we can offer a huge music selection at unbeatable prices to customers worldwide. Over the past decade we've become one of the world's premier sheet music stores, thanks to our outstanding service and selection.

Some features that make our company stand out:

- – Our customer service staff members are trained musicians, most with music degrees
- – We provide in-depth item descriptions for all of our products, including "Look inside" images and sound clips for many products
- – We publish user reviews so you can see comments and evaluations by fellow musicians
- – We back each purchase with our 100% Satisfaction Guarantee

SCORE EXCHANGE

What is Score Exchange? Score Exchange is the largest online retailer of new sheet music from composers and arrangers all over the world.

ScoreExchange.com offers thousands of sheet music scores for download for every instrumentation imaginable - from solo pieces to works for full orchestra, from classical to pop.

We have developed the simplest, easiest way to preview and **download sheet music** on the widest variety of systems and devices (e.g. PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android etc) without the need of a third party browser plugin. Our preview system is called **seView**.

The sheet music is available to purchase and then most of the works are available to *download* instantly as a pdf for you to print or use on your iPad or other device.

Sheet music from some publishers on Score Exchange can't be downloaded as a PDF file as they provide their own technology for printing their music.

Browsing for sheet music To get started simply browse by instrumentation, composer/arranger, genre, purpose, event, difficulty or type or simply type what you are looking for into the search box.

MUSESCORE — SOFTWARE AND SHEET MUSIC LIBRARY

Our goal is to let musicians from all over the world create and share their works, as well as to make learning music exciting, easy and available for all.

Muscore is about music and musicians

> 200 000musicians

find scores every day

> 1 000 000scores

are available to the public

> 1000new scores

are uploaded every day

MAINLY4STRINGS (PETER MARTIN)

MUSIC JUST A CLICK AWAY...

www.mainly4strings.co.uk is the home of Mainstream Music, one of the largest collections of downloadable and affordable educational string music on the internet. The site offers works from over 100 composers, including Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Corelli, Elgar, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Purcell, Rieding, Seitz, Telemann & Vivaldi. New scores are being added all the time, but if you can't find what you are looking for here, [contact us](#) to suggest any piece(s) you would like to see added to the catalogue.

The site features the compositions, arrangements and transcriptions of [Peter Martin](#), a string teacher with over thirty years experience and offers educational string music for all ages and abilities. We also offer a comprehensive selection of the best scores in the public domain, digitally enhanced and priced at just £1 each. Download a sample public domain score [here](#).

If you are looking for concert items, teaching materials or supplementary pieces to enhance your lessons, then look no further - with hundreds of pieces to choose from it is unlikely that you will not find something that meets your needs.

MY VERY PERSONAL CURRENT OVERVIEW OF CHAMBER MUSIC SITES I USE... 😊

Website/Repertoire	Digital Downloads	Audio Files	Price	Quality of Search Function	available as Music XML file	Quality Control
Sheila Nelson	no	no	ok	n/a	n/a	YES
KatBak	yes	yes	ok	difficulty levels listed	no	YES
8notes	yes	yes	free	very good	no	mostly
sheetmusicplus	yes	mostly	pricy	ok	no	YES
Score Exchange	yes	yes	free/cheap	ok	no	NO
Musescore	yes	yes	free	not great	YES	NO
mainly4strings	yes	some	ok	poor	no	YES