

# Aberdeen City Council Music Service

## Fiddlers' Trip to Regensburg 2025

18th - 22nd June

Twin Partnership Celebration  
and Citizens Festival



### Trip Overview

From 18th - 22nd June 2025, six students from Aberdeen City Instrumental Music Service were invited to perform in the city of Regensburg as part of the 70th Anniversary celebration of the twin city partnership, and as part of their Citizens Festival, 'Bürgerfest'. These students, who attend five different schools in Aberdeen (Oldmachar Academy, St Machar Academy, Dyce Academy, Bucksburn Academy and Aberdeen Grammar School) and attend Aberdeen City Music Service's Music Centre on a Saturday, rehearsed over two weekends before flying out to Germany to represent their schools, the Music Service and the City of Aberdeen.

The student fiddle players performed in four concerts during their time in Regensburg, including as part of the ceremony at Kurfürstenzimmer for the 70th Anniversary of the town twinning, the Jahninsel where they celebrated an evening of Bavarian-Scottish Music and dance, and multiple performances in the Citizen's Festival to hundreds of audience members. A student highlight was meeting the Student Council of Regensburg, where they were able to share cultural backgrounds and experiences.

## Performances and events

### *Thursday afternoon*

Celebration of anniversary followed by standing reception in the Rathausplatz (Old Town Hall), Kurfürstenzimmer.

The group performed three performance sets throughout the ceremony, learned more about the twin partnership from the Lord Mayor of Regensburg, Gertrud Maltz-Schwarzfischer, and Aberdeen City Councillor Radley, and met some students from the Von-Müller-Gymnasium Regensburg, who had travelled to Aberdeen earlier in the year.

During the reception, they were introduced to other Councillors and decision makers for the city of Regensburg, particularly those in History, Education and Culture. Please see pictures below.



### *Thursday evening*

Bavarian-Scottish evening of music at the Jahninsel.

This event, starting at 6.30 and not finishing until 11, celebrated the differences and similarities of the Scottish and Bavarian cultures. Jahninsel (in the middle of the Danube, accessible by the famous Stone Bridge) hosted the 'warm-up' to the Citizens Festival, with a festival stage, food trucks and an eager crowd to engage in dancing and celebrating the Twin Partnerships. The group were invited to listen to the local youth Wind and Brass Band, before accompanying a local Scottish Country Dance Group. We also learned several Bavarian dances, accompanied by a local Bavarian band led by a Councillor of the City of Regensburg. The students enjoyed performing on an open-air stage, teaching the locals Scottish dances and learning about the local traditions.



*Friday morning*

Boat Trip on the Danube to see 'Walhalla'

This historical excursion, included climbing 365 steps to see the 'Walhalla' memorial which houses the busts of important people in German history.



*Friday afternoon*

Official opening ceremony of the Bürgerfest by Lord Mayor Gertrud Maltz-Schwarzfischer at the Domplatz.

The group were invited as guests of the city to this event; this included musical and dance performances by other twin city partnerships - a youth dance group from Budavar, Budapest, and the band 'Southern Ways' from Tempe, Arizona. Following a traditional meal, the group took the opportunity to experience the festival with

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many street stages showing differing cultural acts including dancing and music from twin cities from around the world, and a crane taking you above the city for a panoramic view at sunset.

#### *Saturday morning*

Official reception in the Imperial Chamber of the Old Town Hall, 'Reichssaal', by Lord Mayor Gertrud Maltz-Schwarzfischer followed by a buffet lunch.

It was a privilege for the group to be invited to this event, as the room is not open for public viewing. The group heard more about the importance of the twin partnership from both the Regensburg Lord Mayor and our Aberdeen City Delegate.

#### *Saturday afternoon*

Performances on the Citizen's Festival Thundorferstraße stages 'Wurstkuchl', and 'Schiffsanleger'.

The group performed for a total of 3 hours, in 30 degree heat on street stages in Regensburg. Their programme included traditional Scottish music, singing, and ceilidh dancing, encouraging onlookers to get involved and dance in the streets.



### *Saturday evening*

The Aberdeen students were invited to meet members of the Regensburg Youth Council, who gave them a tour of the city, took them to enjoy Bavarian food and shared their cultural experiences.



## Student Learning and Experience

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Students were in control of the Music Service social media, working together to plan and create all updates that were posted throughout the trip.

‘The thing I have taken away from this trip is how important the twin city partnership between Aberdeen and Regensburg really is’

‘I learned about all the amazing work the Regensburg Youth Council does and how they really benefit their city.’

‘I enjoyed teaching the ceilidh dances’

‘I learned how to say a bunch of German phrases’

## Parent/Carer Feedback

Parents were kept updated throughout the trip with a parent group chat, and a daily photo update.

Email saying that their child ‘was extremely grateful to have been given this amazing opportunity with 5 others, and came back saying it had been one of the best times of her life’

‘Lovely photos and lovely memories’

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