

# Music is coming to Torquay Museum

**How many sorts of musical instrument can you think of? There are many more types than the guitars, violins, flutes, trumpets that you can find in your local music shop.**

The latest edition of the Grove Dictionary of Musical Instruments includes over 5,000 varieties, and there are more being discovered or invented all the time.

I have been collecting musical instruments for over fifty years, since my schooldays – mostly picked up cheaply in second-hand shops or, in recent years, on eBay. It's a sort of journal – a record of where I've been and what I've done.

I first thought of using my instruments to make an exhibition in the 1990s, but it's only now that the idea has become reality: 'Made to be Played' is a festival of music making at Torquay Museum, including an exhibition of instruments, which runs from late September into the new year.

The exhibition will celebrate the incredible variety of musical instruments from around the world. As well as my own collection, the display will feature historic instruments from the Museum's Daubeny Collection, which was assembled in the early 20th century, when collectors first started to

**Ian Summers,**  
exhibition curator at  
Torquay Museum

take an interest in the history of music making.

This collection includes some beautiful wind instruments from the 18th and 19th centuries – flutes, oboes, a clarinet and a trumpet with keys (not valves like a modern trumpet).

'Made to be Played' will also include replica prehistoric instruments and the "buzoo", a brand new instrument, specially invented by local maker David Sawyer. No matter how attractive it looks, an instrument cannot be fully appreciated without being heard, so the exhibition will include audio and video recordings of the actual instruments on display, and we'll invite you to experience playing an instrument for yourself.

We are currently planning the layout of the exhibition. I have over 300 instruments and the Museum has over 100, but we will only have space for

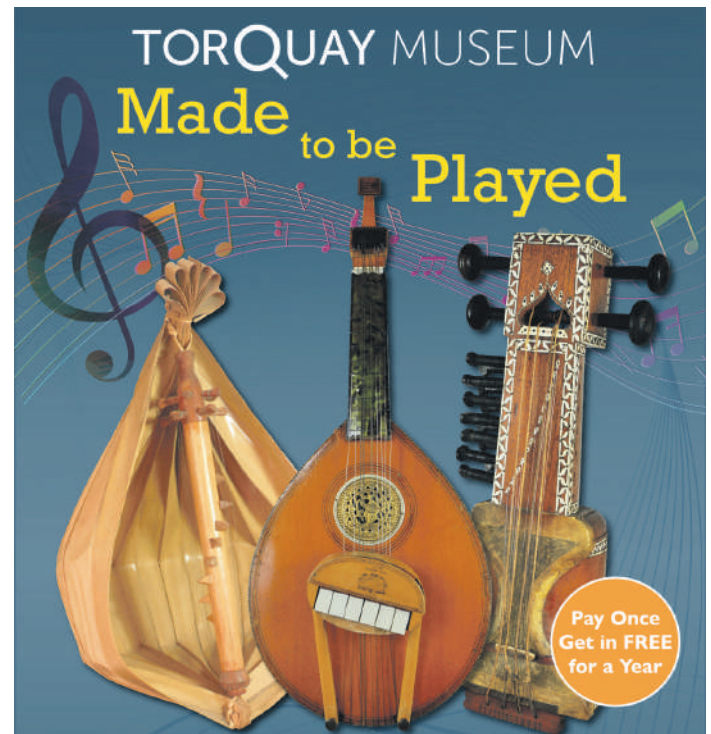


Visitors will be able to experience over 70 instruments from around the world

around 80 of these, so there are some difficult choices to make.

The text for the information boards has been written, and the graphic design for these is under way. We have finished around 25 sound recordings so far, and hope to make a few more in the coming weeks. You can follow our progress in online articles and stories on our social media channels and here in the Torbay Weekly in the autumn.

The project co-curated with Sophie



Made to be Played - A Festival of Musical Instruments exhibition is coming to Torquay Museum

Yarde-Buller from Exeter, has received grant funding from Arts Council England. As well as the exhibition, the festival will include film screenings, making and playing workshops, and concerts – one of which will include a newly commissioned piece of music inspired by the exhibition.

I hope to share my interest in the enormous variety of musical instruments that exists beyond the 'regular' instruments that are usually encountered. I also hope to show that anyone can have a go – the enjoyment of making or playing an instrument is not just for the specialist.

## Frankie's musical journey



Oh What A Night! is in Torquay on August 20

**The show all Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons fans have been waiting for is coming to the Babbacombe Theatre in Torquay on Saturday, August 20, at 7.30pm.**

Oh What A Night! takes you back in time on a musical journey through the incredible career of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons.

Valli's unmistakable voice dominated the airwaves for more than two decades with classics such as Sherry, Let's Hang On, Big Girls Don't Cry, Can't Take My Eyes Off You, My Eyes Adored You, December 63 (Oh What A Night), Bye Bye Baby, Who Loves You and many, many more.

Selling more than 100 million records worldwide, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons secured their place in the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 1990.

Oh What A Night! combines amazing vocals, slick harmonies and even slicker dance moves to deliver a show full of energy and nostalgia.

**For tickets, call the box office on 01803 328385 or visit [www.babbacombe-theatre.com](http://www.babbacombe-theatre.com)**

## The local man behind The Police

**Paul Harding,**  
presenter at  
Torbay Hospital  
Radio



**A couple of weeks ago I told you about Wishbone Ash, a band born in Torbay, with Martin and Glenn Turner local lads being original members.**

But in the musical family was a younger brother Kim and his ambition appeared to be a drummer.

After he played in the short-lived band Cat Iron, he joined up with Andy Fraser (ex-Free), before becoming guitarist and pianist for Alternative TV.

But it is not any of these that he will be truly remembered for.

No, in the late 1970s he was asked by Miles Copeland, the well-known American music and entertainment executive, to join a little-known band as road manager and sound engineer, a choice that proved to be a good one.

The band was The Police, who you will know proved to be rather successful.

Before all the arena gigs the band could only afford one roadie and that was Kim, he was in short in charge of looking after them and on the early tours he was even driving the van they used, this was before they upgraded to a tour bus.

In 1978, The Police played a gig at Torbay



Sting in 2018.

Credit: RAPH PH/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Town Hall, Kim's hometown. The 1980s saw The Police top the charts with songs like Message in A Bottle and Can't Stand Losing You and by this time Kim Turner was effectively working as their assistant manager and he stayed with Sting even after he had gone solo after the band split in 1984.

Kim was a fine musician and, in 1983, The Police were playing in Dortmund, Germany, when the support band, A Flock Of Seagulls, pulled out at the last minute and he proved this. That night for one night only, a group of roadies including Kim on bass, played as the support act.

They were on for 15 minutes, sang four songs to an audience of 8,000 people.

In 1998, the collaboration with Sting ended, seemingly not on the best of terms and Kim returned to live in Torquay and pursued a number of business interests including a local skip hire company and farming, seemingly turning his back on the music industry.

Sadly, Kim Turner died in May 2003, following a fight against cancer.

If the rumours are to be believed shortly before he died aged 46, Sting visited him. We can only hope that whatever past differences there were, were put behind them.

Kim was a clearly talented and driven individual and his involvement helped develop one of the most famous bands of the last century.