



the music education centre

THE GREAT MUSICAL PARADOX!!!

One of the best ways to gauge whether you are making good progress in lessons is not whether you can play everything well at your lesson, but whether you continue to find the music given to you to learn challenging!

Ideally music lessons should be structured, to help students on a path to meet both their goals and musical potential. Teachers are tasked with creating lessons that continually introduce new skills, develop technique and expand repertoire. Naturally the flip side of this, is that new material skills invariably need time to be mastered. In fact, as soon as a student reaches a point where they can play everything their teacher presents to them, it is likely that their progress has in fact slowed down.

Progress – like the share market is not a steady climb, but instead a series of peaks and troughs, hopefully with an overall upward trend. Going hand in hand with progress is also the concept of motivation. In theory making progress should be motivating, and motivation in turn should encourage progress, but when a student is continually challenged, it is possible that progress can sometimes actually have the opposite effect.

To get around this, it is often a worthwhile exercise to take time to revise, and switch the focus away from progress. Making music that sounds good is always fun, and yet many students shelve the pieces they have tried so hard to master as soon as they start learning new material. Instead, try to make a habit of playing old tunes regularly, building up a repertoire of music that you can play with ease.

This also means that on social occasions when friends and family ask you to perform, you can confidently call upon something you know rather than have to struggle through something, certainly more technically demanding, but with hesitations and mistakes that make the experience far less enjoyable than it otherwise would have been.

In a lesson environment when time is limited, teachers naturally concentrate on the newer material, and put less emphasis on revision, but this doesn't mean that it is not important. Remember that your teacher is there to help you reach your personal goals, so make sure you let your teacher know if you want additional easier material, or guidance in recapping previously learnt material – but remember that challenges too can also be fun, so like so many things, the secret to success is BALANCE!!!!



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

- *Are you learning PIANO?*
- *Are you planning to sit an exam this year?*
- *Are you looking for a FUN and EDUCATIONAL way to spend the holidays, and help you be a better pianist?*

If you answered YES then our school holiday programme is for YOU!!!

This programme blends GROUP learning and workshops, with ONE ON ONE time, to enhance and supplement the value in your normal individual lessons. Learn more about general **Musical Knowledge**, Improve your **Musical Theory** Understanding, Discover how **Scales** are the building blocks of all music, and build on your **Aural Skills** (essential if you want to learn to improvise, compose or even play by ear), and discover the secrets to make **Sight Reading** even easier! Group sessions are scheduled according to exam grade level, and with opportunity to work specifically on your own exam pieces, this is an ideal way to make sure you get the very best mark in your exam.

WHEN: MON-FRI, 13th to 17th APRIL, (2nd week of the holidays)
WHERE: MUSIC EDUCATION CENTRE – 75 Bentley Ave, Glenfield
TIME: Up to Grade 2 10am to 3pm daily (\$240)
 Grades 3 to 5 9am to 3.30pm daily (\$260)

TO ENROL – Contact LIONEL at Music Education Centre **0800 89 39 39**

HAVE YOUR STATEMENT EMAILED EACH MONTH

Thank you to those students who have requested delivery of their lesson invoice/statement by email. If you would like yours also delivered electronically each month, please let us know by emailing lessons@musiceducation.co.nz giving your student name and we will set this up for you.

If you prefer to continue receiving your statement by post, you don't need to do anything.

EASTER, ANZAC DAY AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The Music Education Centre is closed on Statutory holidays. Therefore there will be no lesson on Friday 3rd April, nor Monday 6th April for the Good Friday/Easter Monday break. We will also be closed on 25th April and the 27th April for the ANZAC Day observation. Remember, most of the lessons at our centre usually continue as normal over school holidays (although there are no lessons for our Forte School of Music classes during that time).

CATS OF PONSONBY – THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

Over the school holidays, the Glen Eden Playhouse presenting Gary Daverne’s great children’s musical “Cats of Ponsonby”. Featuring a cast of some of Auckland’s best up and coming talent, this show is a great afternoon (or evening) of entertainment for the whole family.

Set in the Auckland suburb, a gang of alley cats wait to be fed at the door of a restaurant only to be turned away, also to find a trio of well-fed Burmese housecats welcomed in for food instead. This sets the scene for an action packed story of kidnap (or should we say catnap!) streetfights, and even romance!

This is a great way for children to be introduced to musical theatre, with tickets available through iticket.

The poster for 'Cats of Ponsonby' features a night cityscape background. At the top, it says 'CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SHOW' in yellow. Below that, performance times are listed: '10TH APRIL GALA PERFORMANCE 7PM', '11TH & 12TH APRIL 2PM & 7PM', '13TH TO 17TH APRIL 11AM & 2PM', and '18TH APRIL 2PM & 7PM'. The title 'Cats of PONSONBY' is in a stylized font, with 'PONSONBY' in a blue box. Below the title, it says 'A Musical of Adventure & Romance'. Credits include 'Lyrics by Ray Prowse - Music and Musical Direction by Gary Daverne' and 'Directed by Christine Daverne - Choreography by James Grant'. At the bottom, there are four cartoon cats: an orange and white tabby, a white cat, a brown cat, and a grey cat. Logos for 'iticket' and 'Playhouse Theatre' are also present.

PERFORMANCE AFTERNOON

Well done to everyone who played at our first Performance Afternoon for 2015. We were treated to some really special performances, including some who were getting up on stage for the very first time!

Performer of the Day Awards were given to:

Vincent Sjaarda	Piano	Andrew Jones
Lance Ramirez	Piano	Marsha Permhadi
Jessica Brown	Piano	Gabrielle Reid
Julia Sjaarda	Piano	Andrew Jones
Charlize Snyman	Piano	Gabrielle Reid
Holly Isherwood	Drums	Thomas Stien
Jim Christopher Barcelona	Piano	Gabrielle Reid
Amrita Maggu	Piano	Ron Coleman
Alice Hout	Piano	Gabrielle Reid
Maike Boquiren	Piano	Don Brough
Ian Zhang	Piano	Gabrielle Reid
Catrina Lin	Accordion	Jessica Chen

CARPARK RESTRICTIONS – NORTH SHORE CENTRE

As part of the City Council’s remedial work on the Glenfield Leisure Centre swimming pool, we have been advised that there may be major disruption to our carparking area. Over the school holidays, a new gasline is being installed and from 20th April the main construction work is being commenced. Work is scheduled to be completed by 8th June, however, over this time, please be prepared to use the carparks at the front of the leisure centre. As the swimming pool is closed over this time there should be adequate spaces. We apologise for any inconvenience this causes.

LESSON FEES

Please remember that lesson fees are invoiced in advance. When you receive your invoice from us, please ensure that it is paid in full upon receipt so that your lesson continuity is not affected.

For your convenience, we accept cash and eftpos payments at our office, cheque payment either over the counter or by post, credit card at our office, or by telephone, or internet banking directly into our teachers trust account.

If you do choose to pay on-line, please ensure you include your students reference number with your deposit so your fees can be credited to the correct account.

Lesson fees not paid within the month may be subject to a late payment fee of \$5 per month overdue, so your prompt attention to your lesson invoice is always appreciated.

If you have any questions about your account, please feel free to contact us on 0800 893939