



the music education centre

When is the best age to start learning music?

While you are never too old to start learning music, and indeed many adults enjoy fulfilling their lifelong dreams to play an instrument, introducing children to music at an early age creates a number of advantages.

When we learn, our brain physically builds pathways, developing new connections, and then reinforcing them with each repetition. For young children in particular, this means that this has a double effect when learning music.

Firstly, by introducing musical concepts at an early age, you are beginning to build the pathways at the time when their brain is pre-disposed to learning. There is no need to “overwrite” material because with a blank slate to start with, it is easier to start building the connections. By the same token when it comes to other areas of education, many of these connections can form the basis in developing general educational skills. Most obviously reading, maths and co-ordination are all enhanced through music learning, and naturally this has a very strong flow-through effect into academic achievement.

When considering music as a language, it is therefore no surprise that the fine tuning of a “musical ear” is far easier, the younger a person starts. This is the reason why it is often difficult for adults to lose a spoken accent, whilst a child learning another language is far more capable of picking up the subtleties of the spoken word. Indeed for many languages minute changes in pitch and intonation, can change the meaning of a word, so it is in the pre-school years when language is being established, that children’s brains are already prepared to develop finely-tuned aural development.

If you can get your child started in music before they start school, you stand the best chance of having them achieve real mastery in music – however, IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO START!

Teenagers and adults too can achieve excellent results even with no previous musical experience, although the journey may be a little more complex. As older beginners have a better understanding of self-motivation and determination, they are able to overcome some of the challenges that younger students seem to take in their stride.

Effectively the best time to start learning music, regardless of your age is TODAY!!!



WHY IS YOUR CHILD MISSING OUT?

Enrol today into our very special “Forte School of Music” classes for young children.

This SUPERB course is a fantastic way for children between the ages of 3-7 to start out on their musical journey.

FREE TRIAL LESSONS are offered at the end of this month so contact us on 0800 89 39 39 to book your child’s place.

Check out our latest timetable online at: <http://www.musiceducation.co.nz/forte-classes-timetable/>

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.

EXCITING NEWS – The Forte School of Music to open in East Auckland NEXT TERM



Since 1998 the Music Education Centre has been proud to offer the courses of the Forte School of Music to students learning at both our centres and in Ponsonby. As some of you may know, the Forte Schools were established in Brisbane in 1994 and since that time has grown into an international network all across Australia and as far afield as the UK and of course with our lessons here in New Zealand.

Working in partnership with “Forte” in Australia, we are pleased to announce that a dedicated Forte School of Music will be opening in Howick, teaching the full range of their courses. From the innovative “Jungle Music” for babies as young as 6 months, through to “Piano Keys” classes for teenagers, and even individual lessons for adults, the Forte School of Music – Howick will provide world-class tuition, and offer students the ability to benefit from a wealth of shared international knowledge.

If you have friends or family in the Eastern Suburbs, please encourage them to jump on facebook and “like” Forte School of Music – Howick, so they can stay abreast of developments as the countdown to the grand opening draws ever-closer. <https://www.facebook.com/ForteSchoolEast>

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

In June, Music Education Centre student, **Owen Fan** competed in the Australian International Accordion Championships in Sydney.

This competition attracted competitors from all over Zealand, China and Europe. Owen was the winner in the 20 years and under Junior Virtuoso Championship. His programme included original accordion works, and even JS Bach’s famous organ work – Toccata in D Minor.

Owen learns from Lionel Reekie at our West Auckland centre, and we are proud to see our students achieving excellent results on the International Stage.



CONGRATULATIONS also to Marsha Permadi’s piano student **Lance Ramirez** whose grade one Trinity exam result last years was the HIGHEST MARK IN NEW ZEALAND. Fantastic Effort!!! Well Done!!!

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAY LESSONS

The Music Education Centre office remains open over the school holiday period, and most of our individual lesson teachers continue giving lessons at our centres as normal. (Group lessons and in-schools tuition takes a break until the start of the new school term.)

If you are going to be away during the holiday period you MUST let your teacher know in advance so that any adjustments can be made to your account. In some cases it may be possible to reschedule your lesson time, however in general our teachers will charge for lessons not attended without notice.



PERFORMER OF THE DAY AWARDS!

Our Term 2 Performance Afternoons on Sunday 28th June, presented a great variety of music, and the audiences enjoyed some really special performances. Well done to everyone who participated and in particular to the recipients of our “Performer of the Day” awards:

- Andre Samotoi – Accordion (*Campbell Bettridge*)
- Jennifer Orman – Piano (*Elena Reekie*)
- Julia Sjaarda – Piano (*Andrew Jones*)
- Georgia Gray – Guitar (*Nick Cebalo*)
- Jacob Marriott – Piano (*Gabrielle Reid*)
- Alexis Sakaria – Piano (*Ron Coleman*)
- Melitta Cadelis – Piano (*Joy Liu*)
- Dylan Bazzard – Piano (*Stephen Walker*)
- Manaia Ponifasio – Vocal/Keys (*Frank Yang*)

EXAMINATION RESULTS: - Congratulations to John Andrews piano students who recently passed their ABRSM piano exams. Ethan Chan passed Grade 1 with merit and Sam Chan, Grade 2.