



the music education centre

## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BASS!!!

Well that might be the title of the song but there has been exciting new research regarding the importance of the bass-line and the role of the lower pitched instruments in actually making music and how our brain perceives rhythm.

As a part of the research at McMaster University in Canada, lead author Laurel Trainor used an EEG to monitor brain activity while participants in the study heard simultaneous streams of two piano notes — one high-pitched, the other low. Every so often one of the notes was played a fraction of a second too early. Participants were far better at recognizing this error if they occurred in the bass notes. That same study also found that, if asked to tap their fingers along to this unpredictable stream of notes, subjects were much better at adjusting their tapping when the lower tones began to arrive early than they were if the same thing happened with the higher tones.

Perhaps more importantly, the bass line helps create the harmonic structure of a piece of music, and therefore ultimately the melody as well. When the lowest note (root) of a chord changes, it effectively changes the entire chord, allowing the bass player to have a huge amount of influence over the band.

Some of the world's greatest popular song writers are bassists, including Sting, Paul McCartney and Roger Waters.

Other research out of Northwestern University has shown that low frequency sounds (such as those played by the bass) are far more effective at inspiring feelings of power and drive in listeners. Participants listen to pieces of music with altered bass levels. Those that listened to music with heavy bass reported more feelings of power. Participants also chose more power-related words on a word completion test aiming to assess implicit, or unconscious, feelings of power.

Next time you start listening to music, why not pay a little more attention to the bass- line, instead of just the melody? - and remember we do teach bass at the Music Education Centre. Give us a call on 0800 89 39 39 to find out more!



## Performance Afternoon

**Performance is an essential part of learning to master a musical instrument, and the Music Education Centre's Performance Afternoons are a great way to develop these skills in front of a friendly and supportive audience.**

**Our final performance afternoon for 2015 will be held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December and performance lists will be going up in the coming weeks in both our North Shore and Henderson waiting rooms.**

**If you haven't already decided on which piece you would like to play, make sure you discuss this with your teacher at your next lesson.**

**Remember these Performance Afternoons are for students of all ages, all instruments and all levels. Also remember that admission is free so we look forward to seeing you there!!!**

**Tirimoana Primary School Hall – 1pm**

**Takapuna War Memorial Hall – 2pm and 3pm**

## 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](mailto: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.

## EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

Many of our students are very busy preparing for their end of year music examinations. Our teachers prepare students for some of the world's leading music syllabuses, including ABRSM, Trinity and Rockscool. Between now and Christmas we look forward to bringing you the results of our students and recognising their achievements.

Remember, that examinations are a great goal for students of all instruments, and whether you play guitar, drums, accordion or piano, our teachers can prepare you for an appropriate exam. Feel free to discuss your aspirations with your teacher, so that you can start making preparations towards this goal even over the summer.

Congratulations also go to Sophie Drury who passed her Grade 2 violin examination with Merit. Sophie learns at our North Shore centre with Kath Pathumanithy.

Good luck everyone with your exams!

## Pre-enrol for lessons in 2016

If you are learning at one of our centres, your lessons will be automatically arranged to continue as normal next year.

For those learning in schools, there are a number of students who move on to intermediate, or high school. We may be able to arrange lessons for you at your intermediate, or if not, through our Music Education Centres. To make sure that you do not miss out on the first option of time slots, please give our centre a call on 0800 89 39 39 so that we can have things arranged for you well ahead of time.

Whilst a change of teacher is often required when moving your lesson location, all of our teachers are selected to ensure a consistent high standard of tuition, and therefore the best continuity.

We look forward to helping you make 2016 another great year of musical enjoyment..

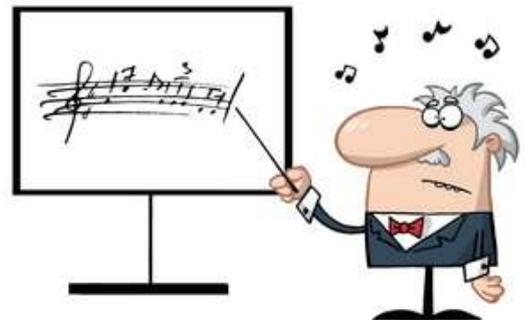


## Teacher recruitment and training

The Music Education Centre has a team of over 90 specialist teachers, helping students develop their musical abilities from beginner to advanced level. All of our teachers are selected through an audition process to ensure they have all the skills needed to give you an excellent start on your musical journey.

After nearly 35 years teaching music, our organisation is proud to have had taken many students from beginner level right through to them now pursuing a career in music. Indeed some of our very best teachers have originally been our students in the past!

**THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP WITH YOUR MUSIC!** If you are an advanced player (Minimum Grade 8 level) and interested in sharing your love of music with the next generation, now is the time to contact our office and ask for a teacher application. Auditions take place throughout November and December and all successful applicants will be attending our teachers training course in January. Contact Lionel on 444-5654 for more details!



## WIN WITH THE MUSIC EDUCATION CENTRE

Complete our student survey and enter the draw to win your choice of either a term of lessons from the Music Education Centre, a Christmas gift hamper or a \$50 iTunes card

We are always interested in finding ways to continually improve and refine our lessons to meet the needs of our students, and your feedback is valuable to us.

To find the survey – go online to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/GBYWD2C](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GBYWD2C) or even ask at our centre reception when you next come in for your lessons.