



the music education centre

“Why doesn’t my child want to practice?”

Practice (or lack of it) is one of the most common reasons parents give when stopping lessons, whilst at the same time, the pressure to practice is one of the primary reasons that students lose interest in playing. Maintaining a realistic expectation of practice is therefore a key to continuity, and these tips might just help you on your way.

HOW MUCH PRACTICE IS ENOUGH?

This varies widely based on a whole range of factors. Age, level and even upcoming goals all have an effect. In a great number of cases, it is targeted, goal-based practice that is likely to be most effective.

SO WHAT SORT OF GOALS SHOULD BE SET?

Once again there are a multitude of valid answers. For young students, the word “practice” is not even part of their vocabulary of understanding. Instead of “go and practice”, “come and play for me” can be a more effective instruction. At a beginner level, basic and regular reinforcement of skills and pieces is all that is required. As students become more advanced and structured practice plan that includes technical development, revision, and new material becomes more beneficial.

WHAT IF I CAN’T REMEMBER WHAT TO PRACTICE?

Many teachers use homework sheets or notebooks as a regular record of what to cover for the following week. As students get older, it can be a good idea for them to start writing their own practice goals immediately after a lesson to help internalise the learning.

ARE WE WASTING OUR TIME IF NO PRACTICE IS DONE?

Not at all. In fact on the contrary, there are times (particularly with adult students) when things are practiced incorrectly meaning that no practice would have helped overall progress more. Of course regular practice, developing good habits and correct learning, does make a real difference to learning outcomes, but regular lessons ensure that students are staying on-track with their musical development and at least playing regularly at each weekly lesson.



SOUTH PACIFIC ACCORDION CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Music Education Centre has been a strong supporter of the New Zealand Accordion Association and the annual South Pacific Accordion Championships and Festival.

This Queens Birthday Weekend many of our accordion students are competing in the international competition, and we wish them all the very best in their various age-group categories.

Look out in next month’s “Music Talk” for news on our student’s achievements.

Good Luck everyone!!!

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.

CAR PARKING AT OUR HENDERSON CENTRE

The Music Education Centre shares a driveway and car-parking spaces with several other businesses. During most of the week, there is ample parking and space for students to be dropped off to lessons. With the dance school next door sometimes operating at similar times to our centre, there are instances when the car parks become extremely full. Add to that the fact that over the winter, parents are often trying to drop children to lessons, there can be times when the driveway becomes very crowded.

Student safety is an important priority for the Music Education Centre and we would appreciate our parents following these suggestions to minimise congestion, and ultimately keep the park and driveway safe for our students and our neighbours.

- Please try to use the marked parking spaces immediately in front of our centre and roller door.
- The car parks between the end of the Kordia building and the palm tree can be used as overflow.
- Please keep all gates and Kordia's roller doors clear at all times.
- Please only park in front of Kordia after 5pm weekdays.
- Please keep the space in front of Handy Crew clear at all times.

Remember there is plenty of road parking directly across the road from the centre and further down Railside Ave. Thank you for your co-operation and consideration.

TERM 2 PERFORMANCE AFTERNOON

Every term, our performance afternoons are a great opportunity to develop on-stage skills, confidence, and celebrate progress. Performance lists for our next performance afternoon will be available for booking by mid-June for the Performance on **SUNDAY 3rd JULY**.

Open to students of any age, level, instrument, and genre all students are encouraged to participate.

NORTH SHORE: Takapuna War Memorial Hall
The Strand
Takapuna
2pm and 3pm

WEST AUCKLAND: Tirimoana School Hall
Kokiri Street
Te Atatu
1pm

Talk to your teacher today to book your performance time!!!

Missed Lesson Policy

Students who miss lessons are entitled to up to 4 lesson credits per year. Additional lessons missed by the student need to be paid for as normal.

Whilst most lessons do continue as normal in the school holidays, the centre is happy to use that time to "make-up" missed lessons for those who do not wish to use all of their credits.

If a teacher will not be giving a regularly scheduled lesson, this should be indicated in advance on your lesson invoice, or in extreme circumstances for a cancellation is at short notice the teacher should arrange a suitable time to make up the lesson.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING ANOTHER INSTRUMENT?

What a great way to keep yourself entertained and occupied over the colder winter months!

Contact us on 0800 89 39 39 and discuss which of the 15 instruments we teach might be best for you



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

MONDAY 11th JULY to SUNDAY 24th JULY

The Music Education Centre office will be open daily over the school holiday period with many individual lessons continuing as normal.

Lessons given in schools and our "Forte" classes do not operate over the holidays.