



the music education centre

## What defines musical talent?

**We have all seen the viral clips on YouTube of preschoolers with lightening fast fingers playing classical piano works as if they were soloists on stage at Carnegie Hall – but for the majority of students this sort of achievement is not realistic, nor a true measure of ability or potential.**

Being musical involves a wide variety of different musical skills, all of which come together in different ways to contribute to the vast musical universe. Technical skill, dynamic understanding, co-ordination, imagination and memory are just some of the ingredients that when combined help a student reach their personal musical potential.

In a goal based world with an emphasis on competition, we all tend to want to measure how well we are doing compared to others, and yet with such a variety of skills required in music it is almost impossible to create an objective system of measurement that can suit the needs of all students.

Is a pop musician more talented than a classical pianist? Is a confident performer more talented than a composer? Is it better to show amazing finger dexterity and speed or to play with such emotion it touches the heart of all who listen?

A music teacher should nurture the natural abilities of their student, and try to enhance them with the addition of other skills to provide a well-rounded foundation and help them achieve their personal goals.

Musical mastery is not a race. Indeed some of the students that gain the most personal development from learning an instrument are those that have taken a relatively long time to master basic skills – and yet these students continue making music throughout their life, while others for whom musical skills always came easily, give up on playing an instrument - seeking instead another challenge.

By all means, goals are essential in maintaining progress, but make sure you discuss which goals are relevant to your particular aspirations and abilities with your teacher.

We want to encourage all our students to enjoy the rewards of musical mastery and success, but remember, the Music Education Centre's aim is to develop students overall skills and personal abilities, using music as the tool and education as the goal.



## PERFORMER OF THE DAY AWARDS

Every term the Music Education Centre organises Performance Afternoons to give all our students, regardless of age, level, instrument, or experience, an opportunity to play in front of a supportive audience of family and friends. Last month we enjoyed three GREAT performance sessions with students across a range of levels and instruments. It was particularly good to see so many students making their first appearance "on-stage" and we look forward to seeing their skills develop further over the course of the year.

"Performer of the Day" awards were presented to the following students whose efforts stood out in some way.

**Zoe Alyssa Hopkins** – Guitar (teacher: Ryan Wallace)

**Sienna Hopkins** – Guitar (teacher: Ryan Wallace)

**Amelia Turner** – Voice (teacher: Emily MacDonald)

**Katalina Bettridge** – Piano (teacher: Elena Reekie)

**Andre Samotoi** – Piano and Accordion (teachers: Elena Reekie and Campbell Bettridge)

**Jeannie Mati** – Piano (teacher: Gabrielle Reid)

**Madison Wood** – Voice (teacher: Fonz Teli)

**Connor Lancaster** – Guitar (teacher: Nick Cebalo)

## 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 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.

## EXAMINATION RESULTS

The Music Education Centre strongly advocates for students to sit external music examinations. Congratulations to the following students who have recently achieved success in their exams.

Sam Chan	Grade 3 ABRSM Piano with dist.	(teacher: John Andrew)
Ethan Chan	Grade 2 ABRSM Piano	(teacher: John Andrew)
Kiri Littlejohn	ABRSM Piano	(teacher: Nadia Vinogradova)
Matthew Curtis	ABRSM Piano	(teacher: Nadia Vinogradova)
Lennart Pant	ABRSM Piano Prep Test	(teacher: Nadia Vinogradova)
Holly Isherwood	Grade 6 Rockschoool Drums	(teacher: AJ MacFarlane)
Kyle Medemblik	Grade 4 Rockschoool Drums	(teacher: AJ MacFarlane)
Leo Chen	Grade 4 Rockschoool Drums	(teacher: Jared de Marigny)
Trixie Andrew	Grade 2 Rock School Drums	(teacher: Jarred Edwards)
Chinazaekpere Uwaoma Bronze Foundation of Music (teacher: Sasha Reekie)		
Harrison Fulop	Bronze Foundation of Music	(teacher: Sasha Reekie)
Kaylyn D'Costa	Silver Foundation of Music	(teacher: Sasha Reekie)
Torben Walmsley	Silver Foundation of Music	(teacher: Elena Reekie)
Sanah Raniga	Silver Foundation of Music	(teacher: Elena Reekie)
Cohen Peterson	Silver Foundation of Music	(teacher: Elena Reekie)
Luca Smith dos Santos	Silver Foundation of Music	(teacher: Elena Reekie)
Olivia Chung	Silver Foundation of Music	(teacher: Elena Reekie)
Ashden Brocklesby	Silver Foundation of Music	(teacher: Elena Reekie)
Rory Orman	Silver Foundation of Music	(teacher: Elena Reekie)
Caitlin King	Silver Foundation of Music	(teacher: Prue Bell)
Robyn Ashton	Silver Foundation of Music	(teacher: Elena Reekie)
Evangelina Clark	Gold Foundation of Music	(teacher: Elena Reekie)

## LESSON PAYMENT BY DIRECT

### DEBIT NOW AVAILABLE

We are pleased to advise that we have now partnered with "Debit Success" a company that specialises in direct debit solutions for educational organisations to offer an additional option for our students to make their lesson payments.

Setting up a direct debit means that you have the choice to pay weekly (instead of on a monthly or term basis) and can be arranged to spread payments over the entire course of the year.

Direct debits can also be set up to come from your nominated credit card giving you the opportunity to earn the type of rewards offered by so many banks.

Call our centre on 0800 89 39 39 for more information.

## Lesson Absences and Cancellations

The Music Education Centre emails are usually checked once each day. As a result, emails advising of same-day student absences are not always received by the teachers until the following day. (Many teachers are not able to check emails during the teaching day).

Please contact us by telephone on 0800893939 if you are unable to attend your lesson for any reason rather than email.

By the same token, advising of lesson cancellations by email also means that the message is not always received ahead of time, and in many cases, (especially when the problem is with lesson scheduling) we may be able to find an alternatives to keep you learning if we have the opportunity to discuss it with you.

We look forward to talking with you soon!

## FORTE FESTIVAL

A highlight for all of our youngest students, this festival is being held once again at the Brian Gerrard Theatre (Birkenhead College) on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August.

Earlybird family passes are available at our receptions for just \$40 (admitting up to eight people) and saving you \$20 from the regular price (\$60 at the door on the day).

Don't miss out. Get your tickets today!

