



the music education centre

## MUSIC EDUCATION ACROSS THE TASMAN

**Last month, the Music Education Centre sent two representatives to Adelaide to participate in the Forte School of Music conference – to find out some of the latest developments and industry best practice.**

School operators from all over Australia and as far afield as the UK all got together to share their experiences over three days of intensive workshops, training and presentations.

The recurring theme was how important structured musical education is in assisting people of all ages in other areas of their life and development. So much of our focus is often towards the benefits of music on children, however, the evidence of how music can make a dramatic difference for adults is most compelling.

Recent discoveries have shown that music both can help brain activity in the elderly, and indeed create a situation where the effects of advanced Alzheimer's can show temporary improvement when an individual has their musical memory engaged. One famous example of this is the "Song a Minute" man – Teddy Mac who at the age of 80 has just signed a record deal with Decca despite having been diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2013.

For children, of course, the benefits of musical education continue to be shown in so many ways. Increasingly, in an age of instant gratification and device swiping – music lessons teach invaluable skills such as patience and long-term goal setting, together with improving fine motor skills that many children are developing at a later age.

In general, the most popular instrument for children to start learning tends to still be piano, although there is an indication that an increasing number of parents are looking to get their children started at earlier ages, recognising the value that preschool exposure to music brings.

Above – all it was most interesting to see that our Music Education Centre teachers are doing a fantastic job, providing a quality of music learning that is right up with some of the best teaching internationally.



## PERFORMER OF THE DAY AWARDS

We had a great performance afternoon on 11<sup>th</sup> September giving our students an opportunity to develop their on-stage skills and confidence in a positive environment.

Held each term, these performances demonstrate some of wide variety of ages, instruments and levels we teach throughout our organisation.

Both our North Shore and West Auckland students had a chance to perform, and overall we enjoyed a high standard of presentation, with some great confident and competent student items. Performer of the day certificates were presented in both locations, and we hope to publish the West Auckland names in a future newsletter.

North Shore "Performers of the Day" were:

**Ella Rhodes** teacher Emily MacDonald;  
**Jairus Joseph** and **Lemuel Joseph** teacher Elena Reekie;  
**Finn Wright** teacher Theresa Fourie;  
**Holly Isherwood** teacher AJ MacFarlane;  
**Bella Jiang** teachers Ryan Wallace and Gabrielle Reid.

The final performance of 2016 will be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December so mark your diary today.

## 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.

## ROCK SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS

The Music Education Centre recommends external examinations for students and supports most of the international syllabuses. For contemporary music, most of our teachers prefer the ROCKSCHOOL exams. This UK based organisation offers examinations world-wide, embracing most popular music styles and a focus towards guitar, drums and bass (together with vocal, piano and a range of other instruments).

The final Rockschooll sitting for 2016, entries close at the start of next month, so to enrol, please ask your teacher to submit your entry information to the centre office ASAP.

Entry fees and other information can be found online at [www.rockschool.co.nz](http://www.rockschool.co.nz)

## LEARNING IN OUR GREAT "FORTE" CLASSES?

### WANTING SOME EXTRA HELP BETWEEN LESSONS?

As many parents may already be aware, all of the course materials for the Junior Keys Course are available on the Forte School of Music Website's "Practice Buddy" page.

Here you will find video clips showing the correct fingering and notes for all the pieces in your book, together with the backing track to play along to.

Whilst not a replacement for our lessons, this tool is designed to help remind you of what has been shown in class and help your child make the best progress during their practice time.

This can be found at [www.fortemusic.com.au/online-music-classes-practice-buddy](http://www.fortemusic.com.au/online-music-classes-practice-buddy).

If you have any questions, feel free to talk to your teacher.

## A WARM WELCOME

Students at our North Shore Centre will have probably met Vanessa Mariano, filling the role of our full-time reception and customer service person.

Vanessa has a strong interest in personal development, health and well-being, and sees the Music Education Centre's goal to use music as a tool to develop the whole person as a natural fit for her own beliefs and values. Feel free to contact her at any time should you have any questions about our lessons and teachers.

## Congratulations

Well Done to Alexandra Reekie who represented New Zealand in the World Accordion Championships in Russia last month.

Competing in the 18 years and under Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Music category, Alexandra placed a very creditable 8<sup>th</sup> place.

This prestigious competition was won by Brazil, with the UK and Moldova rounding out the top three. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> time Alexandra has represented our country at this competition, and this was her highest placing to date.

Next year, the championships will be held in Osimo – Italy, in the Marche region near the Adriatic coast.



## Labour Day Holiday

The Music Education Centre office is usually closed on all public holidays.

### LABOUR DAY - MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

We do not invoice lessons on statutory holidays. Some teachers may offer additional or make up lessons on this day so you should confirm with your teacher if arrangements have been made.

The majority of students will see that the holiday on the 24<sup>th</sup> has already been taken into account on your invoice for the month/term.



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