



the music education centre

## PUTTING THE FUN IN MUSIC

Learning an instrument is supposed to be a great recreational activity, but all too often students of all ages can get bogged down with trying to master new material which ultimately takes the joy out of learning. Keeping things fun is the most important factor to maintain motivation and ultimately mastery and success.

It is important to set goals and learn new and exciting material but a sole focus on playing unfamiliar material can be both frustrating and demotivating. Variety is the spice of life and indeed one of the keys to a constructive practice session is to balance a variety of old and new to keep interest.

For adults and children alike it is really important that each time you play you finish with something that gives a sense of achievement. Replaying old favourite tunes learnt in the past, or even revising a summary of the news skills mastered that day help create a feeling that you are actually getting somewhere with your music.

Technique too is important. This is the set of tools that you utilise in order to actually physically play, but even technical development can be covered off in a fun way. By their very nature, repetition and drills quickly builds skills but to approach things in a fun way requires a bit of imagination. Creating games, setting challenges or simply rewarded achievement can all make time spent on repetitive things seem far more fun

Whilst for many students they feel that they are more interested in playing just for themselves and are nervous about sharing their music with others in a performance environment, one should never underestimate the value in receiving external recognition. Don't be afraid to ask family and friends to listen to you play from time to time. If they can play an instrument it is nothing to be nervous about – they will remember how it feels to be in your shoes. And if they have not played an instrument, they will know you are able to do something that they can't – even if you do make the odd mistake. Just RELAX and HAVE FUN!!!



## EMAIL STATEMENTS

Remember we will be **switching over to email statements** for all students from the **end of July**. Your teacher should have asked for an up to date email if we did not already have one on file. If you have changed yours recently, please make sure we have your correct email address.

If you prefer to continue receiving your billing information by mail, please contact Mina in our office so she can make a note on your account accordingly.  
0800 89 39 39

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER – @musiceducators

## PERFORMANCE AFTERNOON

Our mid-year performance is scheduled for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. A relaxed and supportive environment to develop confidence and presentation skills these events are open to all ages, levels, and instruments.

Where:

### Takapuna War Memorial Hall

The Strand (behind the Library)

Takapuna

2pm and 3pm

### Tirimoana School Hall

Kokiri Street

Te Atatu

1pm



Remember that for your youngest students the Forte Festival to be held at the end of next month is a great way to experience the FUN and excitement of being on stage, and students learning in our Forte programmes should make sure they discuss their entries with their teacher before they close in the first week of August.

**What's your talent?**

WIN amazing prizes, perform to a LIVE audience and have lots of FUN

Heats 17th – 20th July  
Final 21st July  
4pm Daily Showtime

Two categories:  
Years 4 & under / Years 5-8

Enter today at [glenfieldmalltalent.co.nz](http://glenfieldmalltalent.co.nz)

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## GLENFIELD MALL TALENT QUEST

Once again, the Music Education Centre is a major sponsor of the Glenfield Mall talent quest. Open to all children under the age of 13 and with different age group categories this is a great way to showcase your talent and be in to win fantastic prizes.

For more details or to enter visit:

[www.glenfieldmalltalent.co.nz](http://www.glenfieldmalltalent.co.nz)

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY LESSONS

Students learning in one to one lessons at our Music Education Centre should be encouraged to attend lessons as normal over the holiday break. The office is open daily and most teachers will be giving lessons. There are no classes scheduled for our Forte School of Music programmes however some teachers may make arrangements directly with you regarding make up lessons that might be due.

Once again, we will be holding our wonderful HOLIDAY PROGRAMME for Primary age piano students at our North Shore centre during the daytime in the first week of the school holidays This is a great way to keep progress happening over the holiday break and for more information simply contact Amanda Morley at our centre.