



# MUSIC TALK

" the joy of learning music is alive! "

the music education centre

**"The choice to learn a musical instrument happens for many different reasons. Above all, making music is FUN! – but having fun doesn't mean just mucking around. Indeed for most children, the best way to enjoy what they are doing is to have the experience of SUCCESS!"**

Children love to be creative, but when you think about it, it is their pride and sense of achievement when they have completed something that invariably brings the biggest smile. This joy that comes from a sense of achievements something that we all carry with us throughout life. So how can we make sure that we have this as part of learning an instrument? - By setting achievable goals. Exams are a great goal setting opportunity. This is one of the key reasons that the MEC is such an advocate for external examinations for students.

## SO WHAT DOES A MUSIC EXAM ENTAIL?

The syllabuses for music examinations vary from instrument to instrument and also depend on grade and examination body. Our teachers are able to recommend the best level for you and make sure you cover the material.

Gaining a formal musical achievement or qualification carries tangible benefits whether you plan to be a professional musician later in life or not and these benefits extend far beyond the 'feel-good' achieved through a measure of exam success.

## EXAM SYLLABUSES

Most exam syllabuses are designed to ensure that a student is introduced to a wide variety of music skills and styles. Every kid wants to play today's popular songs, but examination material provides the skills to be able to play all the songs that are still to be written. Wouldn't it be a shame not to be able to play tomorrow's big hit?

Even more importantly, the materials are graded to similar levels so that students can have a structured learning approach, moving from skill to skill and eventually to mastery, in a well thought out and developed way. This means that progress can be more direct and effectively quicker, rather than side-tracking around materials that may not be appropriate for a student's current level of technical development or theoretical understating.

By including technical work and aural development, examinations expand a student's musical knowledge to understand the skills required to play other instruments – invaluable if you ever want to play alongside others in bands etc. This is also essential if you ever do want to take music to a higher or professional level.

For most students though, a career in music is not necessarily their goal, however musical success can make a real difference in job prospects no matter what your chosen career path is. In the increasingly competitive job market, employers are presented with applications, often with very little to set one apart from the other.

Given two otherwise similar CV's it may be the formal musical grade achievement that gives yours the edge. – Why would that be? Employers know that completing any examination requires a combination of several highly desirable qualities that they would likely want in a potential employee.

All major international examination bodies have exams in the second half of the year with entries closing over the next few months. Take a few moments to explore what exams can offer you in your next lesson. Many Rockschool, Foundation for Music Education and St Cecilia exams are held right at MEC itself, so it couldn't be easier! - We love to celebrate our students' exam success! Well done to John Mercer's student: – Benjamin Holt who passed his grade 2 ABRSM Theory exam with distinction recently.



Rockschool exam students 2012



MEC

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June 2013 Edition

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## PERFORMANCE AFTERNOONS

These are another great goal for students. This term our performance afternoon is being held on: **Sunday 7th July.**

Don't wait until the last minute to put your name down on the performance lists. You will see these go up at our centres in the next couple of weeks, even if you don't come into our centre, you can phone your details through to us on: 0800 89 39 39 so that we can make sure that you don't miss out.

## LESSON ACCOUNTS

Please make sure that your accounts are paid in full and upon receipt. There are a few students, whose lessons are at risk of being suspended because accounts are now overdue, it is a real pity to think that a student's lesson continuity could be affected just because an invoice was overlooked.

Students whose accounts are now several months overdue may see that a late fee is added to your account. These fees will continue to be added each month so long as your account remains unpaid. I would urge you to give this matter your **URGENT** attention. The Music Education Centre endeavours to keep music lessons affordable and accessible, so your cooperation to help keep our costs to a minimum is appreciated.

## CAR PARKING

At each of our centres, we are pleased to be able to offer off-street parking. During the wetter months, things can get a bit busier than normal with parents driving in to drop off students, so your patience and understanding is appreciated.

On the Shore and in Henderson, we share our carpark with other organisations, and therefore it is also important that our patrons respect the needs of our neighbours.

### NORTH SHORE:

The Leisure Centre requires access to their plant room to be kept clear at ALL TIMES. Please do not park in the clearly marked "No Parking" area. Should there be a problem with gas or pool chemicals, the fire service must be able to get into that plant room door.

### WEST AUCKLAND

Two of our neighbours require access to their facilities on a 24/7 basis. HANDY CREW often need to get specialist tools and equipment at short notice for any urgent maintenance work. Our students must NOT park in front of their facilities at any time. Cars that block their access may be towed at any time.

On the opposite side of the carpark KORDIA also need unrestricted access to their building. This company has a major role in the telecommunications and broadcasting industry. Please keep their doors clear at all times, and only park in front of their building outside of normal business hours. We have dedicated parking spaces in front of the Music Education Centre, additional spaces next to the palm tree by the road and of course there is plenty of room to park on RAILSIDE AVE (although please keep the bus stop in next to our driveway clear). Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

**"...I love the Music Education Centre because of the invaluable lessons I have on viola each week and because of the many teachers who are enthusiastic and willing to offer their expertise. I really do love Music." Henrietta (Via Facebook)**