



the music education centre

## WELCOME BACK TO TERM TWO!

It is so hard to believe that we are already into the fifth month of the year!!! We hope you are all enjoying making music with us, and now is an ideal time to map out some of the new goals to achieve in the months ahead. A few minutes spent discussing your aims with your teacher at the first lesson of the term can make a real difference in helping you progress over the coming weeks.

Setting realistic goals depends on so many different factors. Age, prior musical experience, instrument, and even genre all play a part in helping decide what the priorities of learning should be. Providing structure and direction needs to be balanced with maintaining interest and fun, - but above all, ensuring that progress is being made, is far more important than the speed in which goals are achieved.

For young beginners, exploring the ways to make music, and developing basic skills is arguably more important than focussing solely on technical development. Naturally, it is important to make sure that foundations are put in place to allow long-term technique, but above all, beginners need to start by making a sound. Just as when a child learns to speak, the rules of grammar, and reading and writing eventually come after they can already speak, it is much easier to relate all the rules of music to a student who has a basic knowledge of how to play at least something.

As students get older, examinations are an excellent way to create a measurable target, and ensure overall musical development. It is great to be able to learn songs that we know and like, but having the skills to be able to play songs that haven't even been written yet is really important to help gain mastery of an instrument.

Often older students just want to learn "for fun" and even then, having a target or goal to aim towards is important. A performance, either public or just for friends and family can be a great way to measure your progress and make sure you are on track. Developing a repertoire of pieces, or even making a home recording of yourself to create a record of progress can be great.

Above all – be prepared to modify your goals as you develop, and remember that learning music is not a competition. Make sure you can be proud of your own achievements!



## FUN EXCITING CLASSES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Our "Forte School of Music" classes provide a great start in music for children between 3 and 7 years of age.

- SMALL GROUPS
- GRADED ACCORDING TO AGE
- PIANO, SINGING and THEORY COMBINED
- STRUCTURED PROGRAMME
- LOTS OF FUN!!!

Limited spaces in our classes are still available on the Shore, in the West and also Ponsonby. Why not come along and see what makes these classes so SPECIAL.

Book your trial lesson today!

Phone 0800 89 39 39

**QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND HOLIDAY – The Music Education Centre office will be closed on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Lessons should continue as normal on the Saturday and Sunday of that weekend**

## **EXAMINATION RESULTS:**

The Music Education Centre has a proud history of exam success. In the recent ABRSM theory examinations, several of our students achieved very good marks including both Catrina Lin and Kathleen Zhang getting merit passes for their Grade 5 exams.

The centre offers group theory classes at the North Shore branch, and if you would like more information about these, contact Gabrielle Reid on 444-5654.



**WINTER COLDS AND FLU** - As the cooler weather sets in, please be courteous if you are unwell. Simple precautions like washing hands before lessons and covering sneezes and coughs, can all help minimise the spread of disease. If you get your teacher sick, it means that they may have to miss lessons and this can have a detrimental effect on all of their students.



## **Performance Afternoons.**

Well done to all the students that participated in our performances last month. The Music Education Centre offers these performances free of charge to give ALL students the opportunity to develop their on-stage presentation skills and confidence. Being our first performances for the year, we were pleased to see so many young musicians on stage for VERY FIRST TIME, all of whom were given a wonderfully warm reception from the supportive audiences. Several of the items were acknowledged as having stood out, and "Performer of the Day" awards were presented to the following students:

- **Amrita Maggu** – Piano – *Alice Kang*
- **Lance Ramirez** – Piano – *Marsha Permadhi*
- **Sophia Clark** – Piano – *Tanya Fonseca*
- **Kimble Vowless** – Piano – *Bisatya Songtoputrogo*
- **Steven Orio** – Piano – *Gabrielle Reid*
- **Daphne King** – Voice – *Francis Edgerton-Till*

## **MAKING THE MOST OF ONLINE RESOURCES**

In this digital age, there is a wealth of information at our fingertips. With blogs, Youtube videos and websites all offering tips and tricks on how to be a better musician, it can be difficult to know which advice to follow. To help out the Music Education Centre has a list of helpful links for parents and also students on our own website – [www.musiceducation.co.nz](http://www.musiceducation.co.nz). Additionally, our facebook page is often updated with posts updating you on the benefits of music education. Don't forget the value of mobile apps to enhance your music learning. There are plenty of free apps like tuners, metronomes, sight-reading flashcards, and even apps to id the names of songs. If you come across something you find helpful, make sure you let us know so we can share it with the rest of our students.

## **WHY NOT SHARE YOUR MUSICAL SUCCESSES WITH US ON FACEBOOK.**

Upload your photos or video to:

[www.facebook.com/musiceducation.co.nz](http://www.facebook.com/musiceducation.co.nz)

## **CONTACT DETAILS:**

The Music Education Centre can be contacted by phone on

0800 89 39 39, or if you prefer to email, please contact:

[lessons@musiceducation.co.nz](mailto:lessons@musiceducation.co.nz)