



the music education centre

## How Long Does It Take To Learn An Instrument?

Whilst this is perhaps one of the most common questions we get at the Music Education Centre, it is also one of the hardest to answer. Like the old cliché, “how long is a piece of string?” mastery of an instrument depends on any number of factors.

Perhaps, most importantly, is the question of “how good does the student want to be?” Many students want enough skills to be able to play a few songs at family get-togethers, whilst others may wish to take their knowledge to the very highest musical levels. In reality, even the greatest musicians never stop learning, as the world of repertoire is constantly changing, and new and exciting techniques are often being developed for instruments. Therefore, having a clear idea of how good YOU want to be is important in order to measure your level of proficiency.

Practice is often considered as the single-most important ingredient to success, and indeed, regular structured practice makes a real difference in the length of time it takes to master a musical instrument. But simply putting in time is one of the factors to consider. Hours spent heading in the wrong direction won't help you realise your goal any faster. Think about what you hope to achieve and then plan the best and most effective way to get there. So many students set time-based goals rather than results based goals.

Musical understanding and maturity also form a part of real musicianship. One of the best ways to develop these skills is not so much from just playing oneself, but instead taking every opportunity to listen to and watch others making music. Go to concerts, listen to the radio, and expand the types of music you listen to into a variety of genres. Think of this as building a toolbox of experience. Whilst there will always be some tools that you use less than others, the more you have access to, the more versatile you can be in what you create.

Remember that learning an instrument is not a race. Indeed, for the majority of our students, the real value from a musical education is not the ability to play at instrument at all. Instead, the development of life skills such as confidence, discipline, and co-ordination etc, are arguably as (or even more) important.

Yes, there will be times when progress seems a little slow, or motivation is low, but sticking with your musical goals and enjoying your time on the way to achieving them is the best way to make music a meaningful and beneficial part of your life.



## Performance Afternoon

With the end of term almost upon us, it is time once again for Music Education Centre students to showcase their talents in our Performance Afternoons. Make sure you book your performance time onto the lists at our centre receptions.

**When:** Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup> 2014  
1pm (West Auckland),  
2pm and 3pm (North Shore)

**Where:** Tirimoana School Hall,  
Kokiri Street, Te Atatu  
OR Takapuna War Memorial Hall,  
The Strand, Takapuna.

See you there!



## Daphne Simons Art Exhibition

The Music Education Centre was pleased to support Artist Daphne Simons in one of her recent exhibitions at Pilot Space in Hamilton. Her video work featured a number of our West Auckland accordion students, and documented their journey over several months, while they developed and honed their skills. Some of the footage is available on YouTube. Just follow the link on our Facebook Page – [www.facebook.com/musiceducation.co.nz](http://www.facebook.com/musiceducation.co.nz)

## EXAMINATION RESULTS:

Well done to these students who have recently enjoyed successes in external music examinations.

Kjlyn Donila	Initial Trinity Piano with Distinction	(Elena Reekie)
Alison Lamdin	Grade 1 ABRSM Piano with Merit	(Alice Kang)
Anna Finlayson	Grade 1 Trinity Piano with Merit	(Amanda Morley)
Lance Ramirez	Grade 1 Trinity Piano with Distinction	(Marsha Permhadi)
William Chong	Grade 2 ABRSM Piano	(Andrew Jones)
Sophie Morley	Grade 2 ABRSM Piano with Merit	(Andrew Jones)
Joshua Porter-Day	Grade 2 Trinity Piano with Distinction	(Amanda Morley)
Sarah Kim	Grade 4 ABRSM Piano with Merit	(Andrew Jones)
Jasmine Capper	Grade 3 Trinity Piano with Merit	(Don Brough)
Tahnee Sheild	Grade 3 Trinity Piano with Merit	(Elena Reekie)
Benjamin Ling	Grade 3 Trinity Piano with Merit	(Elena Reekie)
Riya Raniga	Grade 3 Trinity Piano with Merit	(Elena Reekie)
Alya Madadina	Grade 3 ABRSM Piano with Merit	(Andrew Jones)
Zara Ranchhod	Grade 3 Trinity Piano with Distinction	(Elena Reekie)
Mihir Raniga	Grade 3 Trinity Piano with Distinction	(Elena Reekie)
Ellie Scott	Grade 4 Trinity Piano	(Elena Reekie)
Rachel McCluskey	Grade 4 ABRSM Piano	(Tammie Fung)
Irene Xue	Grade 4 ABRSM Piano with Merit	(John Andrew)
Sang Woo Kim	Grade 4 Trinity Guitar with Distinction	(Francisco Barros)
Gregory Scott	Grade 5 Trinity Piano	(Elena Reekie)
Katherine Chong	Grade 5 ABRSM Piano with Merit	(Andrew Jones)
Kathleen Zhang	Grade 6 ABRSM Piano	(Andrew Jones)
Mandy Liu	Grade 6 ABRSM Piano with Distinction	(Andrew Jones)
Alexandra Reekie	Grade 8 Trinity Piano with Merit	(Andrew Jones)



A special mention also of **Maïke Boquerin** who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Junior Recital (with a mark of 95/100) at the recent West Auckland Performing Arts Competitions. Maïke learns at our Henderson Centre from piano teacher Don Brough

## **Forte Festival**

The Annual highlight for our youngest students, the Forte Festival is an opportunity for those learning in our very special "Forte School of Music" programmes to discover how much FUN making music can be. Why not come along on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September and enjoy an afternoon encouraging the next generation of up and coming musicians.

Tickets are available at the door \$20 or you can bring along the whole family with our \$60 pass giving admission to up to 8 people.

The Brian Gerrard Theatre at Birkenhead College on Birkdale Road on the Shore is a great venue, and I am sure that this year's festival will be bigger and better than ever!!!



## **School Holiday Lessons**

The Music Education Centre office is open daily over the school holiday period, and the majority of teachers continue with lessons over that time. (In some cases, lesson times may be rescheduled to fit with student needs.)

If you are planning to be away in the school holidays, please discuss this with your teacher **IN ADVANCE**. If your teacher has already arranged for you to have a break from lessons over the school holidays, this will have been reflected on you enclosed invoice.

## **Rockschool Exam entries**

The Music Education Centre is one of the accredited examination centres for the Internationally recognised Rockscool music examinations. For their end of year exams, Rockscool has a new On-line entry tool that will allow you (or your teacher) to select the appropriate grade exam and make payment directly. Entries for this last sitting are now open and students must be entered by no later than 1<sup>st</sup> October. The exams are likely to be held in the last week or so of November, and the early closing date is to allow sufficient notice of exam times to be issued. [www.rockschool.co.nz](http://www.rockschool.co.nz)