



the music education centre

## SO...IS LEARNING MUSIC IMPORTANT?

As professional music teachers, of course our answer is YES!!! But it is worthwhile exploring a little further and seeing how learning music really does make a difference!

There is no question that the world is an ever-changing place, and indeed no-one can be really sure what skills will be required to succeed in the years to come. Within the last generation, the need to memorise knowledge has diminished somewhat, and now knowing how to access information is the key. The rise of the internet, development of mobile communication and the increased accessibility of technology have all contributed towards having a major impact on the philosophy of learning.

With this in mind, it could be easy to assume that the relevance of a traditional music education too, may have diminished. However on the contrary, musical instrument tuition has never been a more important part of overall education.

### CREATIVITY

After having mastered the basic building blocks of music (theory and instrumental technique) students playing instruments learn to express creativity, improvisation and self-expression all within structured outlines. Essential skills for those needed to know how to adapt in an ever-changing workplace, where initiative and flexibility are so important.

### THOUGHT PROCESS DEVELOPMENT

Integrating the three primary learning styles, music physically develops the brain, enhancing the ability to process information from a variety of stimuli – all so important in a multi-media world.

### ON-GOING AND CONTINUAL PROGRESS

Just as with the real world – music is a perpetually developing art form. New compositions, musical genres and popular tastes mean that there is always new material to learn. In order to take advantage of this, the basic instrumental skills need to first be developed.

### RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Music continues to hold an essential place in all areas of entertainment. With music filling almost every area of our daily life from advertising, to gaming, and of course with radio, TV and movies, having an appreciation for music not only enhances enjoyment, but also represents a relevant industry to utilise musical skills.



Two of our “Forte” Teachers, Elena Reekie and Joy Liu spent part of the school holidays visiting the “Forte School of Music” in Melbourne, observing teaching methods, and techniques.

In New Zealand, the Music Education Centre is the exclusive provider of their award winning courses, and we are pleased to be able to offer this internationally acclaimed course to students starting out on their musical journey between the ages of 3 and 7.

New classes for these age groups have just started for this term and there are still some spaces available for students to book in for a free trial to experience this exciting learning programme first hand.

Since its inception 20 years ago, the Forte School of Music has grown internationally to now offer lessons all across Australia and as far afield as the UK. Last month, “Forte” celebrated the opening of their newest school in Perth, and the Music Education Centre is proud to be able to be a part of this international organisation bringing world-class musical foundations to students here in NZ



## Lesson Fees for 2015

The Music Education Centre is committed to providing value in all of our lessons. Unfortunately, rising costs mean that a small inflation adjustment will be made to individual lesson fees from the start of 2015. 30 minute lessons will be \$29.90 per half hour (an increase of just \$0.40). There will be no change to group lesson rates.

## **MUSIC EXAMINATIONS:**

Over the past few months we have been proud to publish the results of so many students sitting external music examinations. With the majority of the end of year exams still to take place, this month we are still able to congratulate Sam Parker – (Grade 2 ABRSM Piano with merit – teacher: Janet Tracey for his recent exam success.

By the end of this term we expect to be able to advise of many more successes, in both practical and musical theory examinations.

For classical instruments the majority of our examination candidates choose to sit either the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, or Trinity College examinations.

For contemporary musical styles the Music Education Centre hosts both the St Cecilia and Rockscool exams, with examiners travelling from overseas to provide an objective assessment of our students' progress

If you have any specific examination requirements, please feel free to discuss these directly with your teacher so that we can advise the best way to achieve your personal goals. Remember that all examination syllabuses have slightly different criteria, and some are more suited than others to some student's needs. In saying that, the grade levels regardless of examination body are generally all fairly well aligned, therefore providing a measurable level of achievement.



Keep watching in the coming months for more Music Education Centre examination successes in future editions of Music Talk.

## **End of Term Performance Afternoon**

The term 4 Performance afternoon will be held on:

- SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014
- Takapuna War Memorial Hall (North Shore)
- Tirimoana School Hall (West Auckland)

## **MARK THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY !!!**

Performance lists will be available to booking your time at our centre receptions in the 3 weeks leading up to the performance date.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to both develop and refine your performance skills and celebrate the culmination of all your work in music this year!

**Start preparing your performance TODAY!**

## **Teaching Vacancies available for 2015**

Over the next 2 months, we will be interviewing and auditioning teachers to join our team for next year.

We seek advanced level instrumentalists who can inspire the love of music in their students.

Most positions are part time, with vacancies available at both our centres (after school time and weekends) and Music In Schools programmes (generally during the school day)

If you (or anyone you know) are interested in sharing your musical expertise with the next generation, please contact Lionel on **4445654** to discuss the next steps. (Applicants should be able to teach students to at least grade 8 level, and should be available for teacher training in January 2015.