



the music education centre

**Are you doing everything to maximise your child's musical success?** With parental support in just a couple of key areas, the long-term results can be hugely different, and over the last 35 years, we can help point you in the right direction to get the best out of your lessons with us.

### Lesson length

As students progress, material becomes more advanced. Songs become longer and technical and theory knowledge takes an increased amount of time and effort. Because of this, a 30 minute lesson starts to become unrealistic, especially for intermediate and advanced level examination candidates.

Often parents look at cost, forgetting that spending money on too short a lesson to get proper progress is far less effective than spending just a little more to get an exponential increase in achievement.

The centre offers 45 minute and 1 hour lessons so do talk to your teacher about whether this is a good option for you.

### Instrument quality

Professional players rarely use cheap instruments – why? – because they can't make a good sound with them. If a professional would struggle, how difficult must it be for a beginner or a child?

Making a good musical sound is key to motivation. Choosing a low quality instrument from trademe or a non-specialist retailer often ends up with a student losing interest rapidly. Make sure you maximise your investment in tuition by backing that up with a decent instrument. Our centre can recommend various stores that hire and sell quality products to maximise your enjoyment from making music.

### Practice expectation

Encourage your child to play regularly – sending them to practice an unrealistic amount, or without clear and expectations can be uninspiring and frustrating. Talk with your teacher about goals to achieve during the week, and longer term plans like performances, examinations, or even joining groups.

Playing an instrument should be fun. Take in interest in listening to your child's achievements. Encourage them, reward with praise, and above all, help to motivate at times when interest is low. Your long-term efforts can make all the difference!



## PERFORMANCE AFTERNOON

– A Great opportunity to develop confidence!

The first performance afternoons for 2016 are scheduled for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Open to students of all ages, levels, instruments and musical genres, these events represent a fun way to develop presentation and performance skills in a fun, supportive, and semi-informal environment.

If you have not booked your performance time, please talk to your teacher ASAP so you do not miss out on this opportunity.

When?: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1pm (West Auckland), 2pm and 3pm (North Shore)

Where?: Tirimoana School Hall (Te Atatu) or Takapuna War Memorial Hall (North Shore)

See you there

## HAVE YOUR STATEMENT EMAILED EACH MONTH

Thank you to those students who have requested delivery of their lesson invoice/statement by email. If you would like yours also delivered electronically each month, please let us know by emailing [lessons@musiceducation.co.nz](mailto:lessons@musiceducation.co.nz) giving your student name and we will set this up for you. If you prefer to continue receiving your statement by post, you don't need to do anything.

## What is the best instrument to start learning?

Every instrument has its own advantages, and some suit different age groups.

### Piano/Keyboard

- Suits wide range of ages
- Melody and Harmony all taught
- Easy to learn music reading
- Fixed Pitch
- Tuition usually follows more established structures
- Arguably best stepping stone to other instruments

### Guitar

- Generally better for students from 8-9 years + (in some cases younger)
- Introduces harmony through chord playing – melody best taught in classical style
- Music reading suggested but not essential, using chord symbols or TAB
- Can be tuned by player
- Provides a high degree of flexibility or lesson structure although exams are recommended
- Arguably the most popular instrument and well suited to group and solo playing

### Drums

- Suits students with strong self-motivation (usually from age 9+)
- Rhythm is primary focus although pitch recognition is developed to some degree
- Music reading is strongly recommended, and requires the skill of reading multiple lines at the same time even from an elementary level.
- Once set up, there is not a lot of need for ongoing fine-tuning
- Tends to focus mainly on more contemporary musical styles only, but with a focus on skill acquisition rather than song mastery
- Popular choice for personal development, but generally less performance opportunities than with other instruments

## Policy for missed lessons

From 2016 all students will now be entitled up to 4 lesson credits each year during school term times. *(If you are not attending in School holidays, please advise this with your teacher in advance so that you will not be charged).*

This means that in cases of illness, holidays, school trips etc, your account can be adjusted.

Please note: Any absences more than this will not be credited or refunded.

Our teachers are ONLY paid from the lesson fees you pay (and only WHEN you have paid). Therefore, lessons do need to be paid in advance and in full. Adjustments will be made on the following invoices.



## Lessons during the April School Holidays

The Music Education Centre encourages students to continue lessons over the holiday period. Most centre teachers continue to provide tuition. Please check with your teacher in case they have a revised schedule. School holidays run from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April until Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May.

“Forte” group classes, Music in Schools lessons and tuition at Ponsonby Intermediate will not operate over this time.

## ANZAC DAY

**The Music Education Centre is closed on Public Holidays**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

Most lessons will continue as normal on the Saturday during the long weekend. Your teacher will advise of any exceptions, and your invoice will be adjusted accordingly.