



ARE YOU STAYING “ON-TRACK”?

Learning to master an instrument is an interesting journey of discovery, challenges, enjoyment, and education. With all the ups and downs that can occur, it is sometimes easy for students to lose focus on the goals planned. Luckily there are some easy things that can be done to keep a clear path of progress and help maintain that all-important self-motivation.

TUTOR BOOKS

Whether it be piano, guitar or drums, there are a huge number of well-structured tutor books available to help ensure students develop skills in a structured and step by step manner. Some students (teenagers and guitar/drum students in particular) often try to avoid tutor books and focus on just learning the songs they know from the radio. Tutor books help ensure a sound foundation in musical skills allowing students to develop the skills to be able to play a much wider variety of music.

Progress through a book helps serve also as a record of how far you have progressed. This is particularly good for younger students who can then go back to count how many new songs they may have learnt so far during the year.

If you are not using a tutor book in lessons, please talk to your teacher about whether this is appropriate for you.

EXAM GOALS

Not only do external examinations give an objective assessment of mastery, they are also an excellent “line in the sand” to ensure that students have a clear goal to work through within a specific period of time.

With a wide variety of syllabuses available covering almost all musical styles from classical to rock, aiming towards exams is a great way to keep progressing whilst at the same time, ensuring a sound technical knowledge. In general, examination goals become realistic in the second year of tuition.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITES

Set dates to give regular performances. Whether it's the Music Education Centre “Performance Afternoons” or playing for family & friends, - performance is a great way to acknowledge



TERM TWO PERFORMANCE AFTERNOON

WHEN: Sunday 29th June 2014

WHERE: Takapuna War Memorial Hall and Tirimoana School Hall

WHO: All students regardless of level, age, instrument or musical genre

COST: FREE!!!

Performance lists will be put up at each centre within the next few weeks. Please take advantage of this special opportunity to perform and also, encourage your fellow students.

Performances are scheduled to run for only about an hour, and we would love to see as many of you there as possible.

SEE YOU ON THE 29th

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

FOUNDATION OF MUSIC EDUCATION EXAMS:

The Music Education Centre is the New Zealand administrator for the Australian based "Foundation of Music Education Exams". This is a wonderful syllabus that provides a positive examination experience to younger elementary level students that are still progressing towards the initial levels from the main international examination boards.



Congratulations to all these students that achieved success in their exams held last term:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Jade McKenzie DEEN | Bronze |
| Andre SAMOTOI | Bronze |
| Lachlan James ORMAN | Bronze |
| Taylor BICKNELL | Silver |
| Jake BICKNELL | Silver |
| Ethan Daniel KING | Silver |
| Deltajavan Lee Esera LAM-MILA | Gold |
| Kenneth LIN | Gold |



For those other students sitting Foundation Exams later this month we wish you all the very best of luck!

SCHOOL HOLIDAY LESSONS – JULY

The Music Education Centre is open as normal for lessons in the July School Holiday period. Students are encouraged to attend lessons as continuity of tuition is such an important ingredient for success. Your teacher may discuss an alternate lesson time with you although most teachers should be maintaining their regular lesson schedule.

In-schools lessons and Forte Group classes will take a break between 7th and 20th July.

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ALL TYPES OF MUSIC?

Today's music students are perhaps the luckiest when it comes to having access to an audio library of virtually all music ever published. Even just 10 years ago, the only practical way to find a good recording of a particular work was to go and buy an entire album. Today, however websites like YouTube, Spotify or even I Heart Radio give an opportunity to instantly search and listen to any number of versions of a piece of music.

With this in mind, students should take advantage of this, and avail themselves of the opportunity to listen to a wide variety of music, styles and composers.

The more music you are exposed to, the greater knowledge you will have of how to make your own playing sound as good as possible.

Remember, playing the right notes is only a part of performance. How you play those notes is so important. Take time to listen to others and LEARN!

ARE YOU USING YOUR SMARTPHONE TO HELP YOUR MUSIC LEARNING?

Don't forget to search your app store for things like sight reading tests, metronomes, guitar tuners, aural development tools and even recording apps all to help take your playing to the next level!

CONTACT DETAILS:

The Music Education Centre can be contacted by phone on

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