



# TobinMusic

ACCELERATING MUSIC LITERACY

# News

## Piano Professional DVD Review

The Introductory DVD continues to inspire and gather support. The following review, written by Murray McLachlan, appears in the April 2007 issue of Piano Professional Magazine;

*"Within a few minutes of watching the new Tobin System Introductory DVD, I felt inspired and embarrassed in equal measure. Inspired by the wonderful common sense and creative enthusiasm of this very practical, fun approach to music, and embarrassed that I had even suspected that it may prove to be superficial and 'trendy'. In fact, what the viewer immediately sees in this short but extremely lucid film is groups of up to nearly twenty school children working with understanding and joy in clapping, singing and activity games with tried and trusted 'French syllables' to help rhythm (the way I was taught), as well as inspiring 'tools' that include cards, 'scale palettes' (the seven degrees presented in a circle on a card) and lots of en masse chanting, done with amusement, logic and energy. I loved the fact that notation is presented with 11 lines in the first place (as opposed to 5), that clefs were referred to as 'G' and 'F' rather than treble and bass, and that chime bars and aural awareness were always to the fore. It was fantastic to see so many under ten year olds coping so well with notation, and obviously improving their cognitive skills and concentration in equal measure. My initial scepticism over a new 'system' of teaching young primary school children the rudiments of music in large groups therefore proved to be completely off the mark, and I have no hesitation in praising Candida Tobin to the skies".*



## Celebrity interest

Jill Cuthbertson, Parliamentary Assistant to John Robertson MP, has been busy garnering support for the Tobin Music System by distributing the DVD. Jill sent us the following, exciting news:

*"I heard from Feargal Sharkey (of Undertones fame) yesterday and he was extremely convinced by the DVD and the Tobin Music system. He thought it was fantastic and is another positive step forward in trying to get people to sit up and take notice of a new way of teaching. He is happy to go on record as a supporter of the system. He meets regularly with the Live Music Forum and is going to talk to as many people there as he can about it".*



Feargal Sharkey is the Chairman of the Government's Live Music Forum.

# Welcome Morrice and Chris

As interest in the Tobin Music System escalates, it has become necessary to appoint a National Coordinator for the Partners Group, and so we would like to welcome Morrice Wells and his wife, Christine.

*"Chris and I were introduced to Candida at a coffee morning by a business colleague, John Parker. Candida told us about the system and we were impressed by her energy in promoting the system and sympathetic to her story of the struggle she has had over the years to have the system accepted in schools.*

*We were given a copy of "Lifting the Lid" (Candida's autobiography) and read for ourselves the obstacles that have appeared in the way. Having read it, it would be hard not to feel that you want to offer your services in some way, and with a background in the caring professions, Chris and I thought about how we could help to put the system in front of those in a position to provide children with this remarkable product. We were pleased to be asked to become members of the Partners Group and, in particular, to act as National Coordinators".* Morrice Wells

## Outstanding Pupil

Every month it is our aim to use this space in the newsletter to showcase the achievements of exceptional pupils of the Tobin Music System.

Ryan Cruwys, aged 13, has been playing the piano and studying music with Candida since he was 3 years old. Naturally, a very shy character, he has gained great confidence and now plays the clarinet as well. Ryan recently received a music scholarship at Bishop's Stortford College and will be touring Russia with the school music band, orchestra and choir.

## Sawbridgeworth Partners Sunday April 15<sup>TH</sup> 12.30pm

There will be a meeting for Partners (those interested in promoting Tobin Music) held at the Old Malthouse to exchange ideas and information as well to provide updates on their activities since the last meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet Morrice and Chris Wells.

Please bring a dish to contribute to the buffet lunch.

## DIARY COURSE DATES

14 <sup>th</sup> April Talk given by Candida Tobin Exhibition of Rounds	1.30 pm £25
The Bo Lindstrom Quartet - Jazz Concert Old Harlow, Essex	7.30 pm £10
12 <sup>th</sup> May Introduction Tamworth, Staffordshire	£25, £15 Trainee teachers

For more information about courses and for the FREE DVD please visit [www.tobinmusic.co.uk](http://www.tobinmusic.co.uk)

## NEWS CONTRIBUTIONS

We would love to hear about your news and any outstanding pupils. Please send all contributions, of no more than 200 words, to [newsletter@tobinmusic.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@tobinmusic.co.uk)

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