



# Tobin Music

ACCELERATING MUSIC LITERACY

## News

## Tobin Music Goes To Belgrade by Aleksandra Andrijevic

Aleksandra Andrijevic, Tobin partner, piano accompanist, Waldorf teacher and Art historian, was invited by the Serbian Department for Education to conduct a presentation and workshop about the Tobin Music System.

The one day event was held in Belgrade on Wednesday 25th July 2007, after the hottest day there (48 degrees C-120 Farenheit) for 150 years. The slight reduction in temperature was appreciated by the 31 participants who had travelled from all over Serbia, some from over 300 miles away. The majority were teachers in Primary Schools, kindergartens (a few private ones) and a couple of newly trained Waldorf teachers.

The workshop was organised by 'Education Plus', an NGO (non government organisation) whose founder, Ms Borisavljevic, is a professor of English language in one of the most prestigious mainstream Secondary Schools in Belgrade. Ms Borisavljevic was trained in England to teach the Waldorf method and since then has been responsible for introducing new methods and promoting alternative approaches in various educational sections within the National Ministry of Education.

The event took place in an imposing 19th century building, currently the 'King Peter I' Primary School. The first part of the Powerpoint presentation addressed the philosophy and psychology behind the system. We also considered why and how the TMS should be generally accepted and applied as a part of the national curriculum.

After a lunch break, the afternoon was spent on practical work- solving worksheets and coming up with the story and characters that will match Tobin colour scheme and be applicable in Serbian language terms. I came up with the translation of the Tobin Music System booklet for a taster course and familiarized participants with the basics of the system touching on music shorthand and length of notes. We named notes together and came up with 5 different stories, explaining the great staff and finishing with scales and primary chords.



Ms Borisavljevic and Aleksandra Andrijevic



The last part of the session included watching the introductory DVD which gave the participants the opportunity to see how the Tobin Music System is implemented in schools; they were overwhelmed and fascinated by what they saw.

All of them filled in questionnaires about the event, what they had gained and how it had affected their approach to teaching. The feedback was positive with comments such as;

"I think this was truly refreshing! I loved the element of humour and fun- and the fact that it is based on games and movements, not just intellectual work".

"Very creative and imaginative- even to us older teachers that are used to a more strict approach".

"A remarkable and dynamic approach that totally astonished me".

Knowing how the Serbian educational system is highly rooted in an intellectual approach that's been practised for decades I was pleasantly surprised to see how flexible and open teachers were to the Tobin Music System. They were very enthusiastic about the system, suggesting that books should be translated and that more workshops should be arranged for a group that will be committed to spreading the system throughout Serbia.

# FUNDRAISING FOR THE TRUST

Two members of the Tamworth Tobin Partners have been very busy this summer; Helen Jenner (from Tamworth) and Marena Smith (from Dordon) organised and hosted a coffee morning to raise money for the Trust. Helen is a keen musician and Marena is a very experienced and gifted retired music teacher.

They immediately recognised how important the Tobin System is and offer their support to the Tamworth Partners group.



Marena Smith



Helen Jenner and Julie

Tobin Partners Julie and Chris went along with Maureen and Brian Hall and enjoyed the new and nearly new stall, a raffle and coffee and cakes. The house was packed with a lovely group of people; many watched the Tobin Introductory DVD and asked Julie Hall about the system.



Brian and Maureen Hall

The fundraising event took place at Marena's house in Dordon and they raised a staggering £200 for the Trust!

Thank you to Helen for organising and to Marena for hosting the event. The cakes were delicious!

## 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)

# OUTSTANDING PUPIL

Ryan Cruwys began studying music with Candida Tobin at 3 years old. In 2001, Ryan passed three piano exams in the course of one year and has continued to develop as a musician, now playing the clarinet too.



Although, as a young boy, Ryan was of a nervous nature, his music has given him confidence and more so, he thoroughly enjoys entertaining his family.

Ryan is now a music scholar at Bishops Stortford College and at the end of the term this year received "The Mozart Award" cup for achievement in music and a shield for "The Most Improved Musician 2007". In October 2007, he will be travelling to France with the school orchestra, band and choir on a Music Tour.

# PARTNERS

Julie Hall writes:

I am sorry to report that both Candida Tobin and MorriceWells have been in hospital. They were both in the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow and Morrice is still currently there.

They are both in good spirits, Candida is pleased to be back home and is enjoying her garden, Professor Winks the cat and welcomes visits, calls and emails from us all.

Please join us for the next Partner's Meeting on Sunday 2nd September at the Old Malthouse, Sawbridgeworth. All are welcome.

For more information about the Partners Group please contact our National Coordinator Morrice Wells.

[Morrice@tobinmusic.co.uk](mailto:Morrice@tobinmusic.co.uk)

## DIARY

**AUGUST** 20th -25th      Five Day Course  
Modules 1 - 5  
£80 per day  
*The Old Malthouse*

Candida will be running all 5 modules throughout the week beginning 20th August and will be assisted by Sue Smith, Julie and Chris Hall. If anyone is interested in doing all or part of this one week course they should contact Candida directly on 01279 726625 or email [candida@tobinmusic.co.uk](mailto:candida@tobinmusic.co.uk)

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