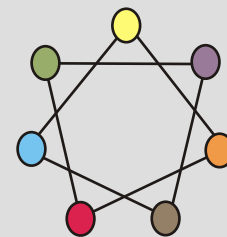


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# Tobin Music

ACCELERATING MUSIC LITERACY

## News

## Filming on location with Julie Hall

November was an action packed month for Tobin teachers here in the midlands. I had the pleasure of working with associate teacher Sharon Collier and trainee associate Sarah Spare to complete the series of instructional DVDs which will become part of the revised 'First Steps to Music Manual'.

Bo Lindstrom, our expert film maker came over all the way from Sweden; Bo was accompanied by a top Swedish Music teacher Ann-Christin who was released from her school as part of her professional development to come and see the TMS in action. Their five day visit had the ambitious goal of recording the three remaining films!

I was anxious as we set off on Thursday 13th November to make the first film with Sharon Collier at St. Gabriel's RC School, Belgrave Tamworth. Had I thought of everything? I had written the scripts, packed the display boards, hand chimes, coloured pens, bluetack, ribbons .... the list was endless! However there was no need to worry; within 5 minutes of watching Sharon Collier in action with her year 5 pupils I knew that the pre- composition and harmony film was going to be fabulous and it was a joy to direct her. Although I use the system every day I am still amazed and surprised to see how the children respond, they were so happy and engaged. Sharon is clearly an outstanding music teacher and we are delighted that she is one of our licensed practitioners. All of the children excelled in the aural, practical and academic aspects of the lessons.

We had a day to catch our breath then it was my turn to be in front of the camera, Saturday 15th November..... My Tobin toolkit was packed once again but this time my huge make-up bag was also thrown in! We were making the composition film and I had over 25 students involved aged 5 – 16. They included children from my Saturday morning classes and my private pupils. We managed to include lessons to show how to teach the very first composition lesson right up to the use of relative minor chords, part writing and 16th notes as passing notes. It was a long day but enjoyable because the children were wonderful and their parents were extremely supportive.

Bo and Ann Christin packed up 6pm that night and set off to Windsor to meet with David Eades to record the voiceover. David is a news presenter for BBC world news and we are extremely grateful to him for generously giving us his time and talent. I asked Bo how long it took for David to record all of the voice over parts and he replied 'Thirty five minutes, David doesn't make mistakes!'

And so we made it to Monday the 17th November, the last day of filming.... the DVD to show how to teach time signatures and colouring the notes was filmed at Highclare School in Sutton Coldfield with associate trainee Sarah Spare and her year 3 pupils. Sarah is full of energy and enthusiasm; she has been teaching the system for just two terms so it was great to see how well the children have responded in such a short space of time. Sarah was soon at ease in front of the camera; her Y3 pupils were beautifully behaved and very confident in their responses. I can see why Sarah has been nominated for the inspirational teacher of the year award in her area.



Highclare School

On behalf of Tobin Music I would like to thank Sharon and Sarah for the magnificent job they did and Bo for his kindness, professionalism and patience! It was a pleasure to work with you. Thank you to Julie Collins head teacher of St. Gabriel's RC School and also to Margaret Viles headmistress at Highclare School. Both schools were very kind to accommodate us and made us feel very welcome. We are all looking forward to seeing the films and launching the series of instructional DVDs.

The Tobin Music Trust would like to thank Mita Lad and FDMX at the University of Hertfordshire for a second grant of £5000 towards the production of the DVDs.

# UPDATE FROM RUTH

Hi All, just a short update to let you all know how the Tobin Music System has been doing so well at Mary Hare Primary School for the Deaf.

I started in September and have three separate classes according to their age groups and the school's timetable.

The system is very accessible to the 6-11 year olds I teach. Every single pupil benefited from the French Time names to help them clap and sing in time to the rhythms and write the notes out. We have also moved on to learning about the Great Stave, pitches, octaves, the colour of notes and its story, the F and G clefs and naming the notes!

We have been very busy as well as putting work up on the wall and the class room looks like a music room and teachers have commented how practical the system is for them.

The children and I are really enjoying music time each week, all thanks to Candida's system and it is good to see children taking pride in their work. I will keep you all posted with our developments.

# OUTSTANDING PUPIL

Kate Markley, a year 5 pupil in Tamworth, is thoroughly enjoying her Tobin Music lessons; she is learning the recorder using the Wizard's Way Recorder method and plays in the recorder group at Coton Green Primary School, Tamworth. Associate Tobin Trainee,



Donna Bancroft takes the group and says: "Kate has made remarkable progress and the sense of achievement has boosted her confidence".

Kate's Mum, Amanda is an experienced tutor of children with special educational needs and has seen the system in action in a number of schools and with pupils of all abilities.

"The Tobin Music system is fantastic for children with learning difficulties such as dyslexia; the use of colour makes it much easier to learn. The lessons are child friendly and accessible to all.



Kate's self esteem has improved immensely since learning music through the system; this is a subject that she can shine in. The system is also helping to develop her maths and literacy skills. I have already signed my younger daughter up for the free Tobin classes in January"

# FREE TOBIN MUSIC LESSONS

**Licentiate Tobin Teacher Julie Hall is offering a FREE 10 week Course of Tobin Music lessons**

The lessons will show parents how they can use music to improve reading, teach fractions, develop cognitive thinking skills and nurture social skills. Parents who would like their child to learn an instrument will discover that this 10 week course puts the child at a significant advantage as they will have a toolkit of musicianship skills to help get them off to a good start.



All materials and tuition will be provided free of charge. There are ten places open to children living in the Tamworth area aged 5,6 and 7. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Classes start January 10th 2009.

Saturday mornings 9:30am

St. George's Church Hall, Bamford Street, Glascoate

Contact: Julie Hall PGCE BMus (Hons) Licentiate Tobin Teacher

TEL: 01827 282949 Mobile: 07814 751991



Wizard's Way Recorder book and DVD showing how to teach the lessons in detail, now available for **£15!**

To order email: [candida@tobinmusic.co.uk](mailto:candida@tobinmusic.co.uk)  
Tel: 01279 726625

## 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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