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Tobin Music

ACCELERATING MUSIC LITERACY

News

Warm welcome in Warwickshire

In a fortunate moment, Julie Hall was welcomed to Warwickshire to work with twelve schools in the Nuneaton and Bedworth area on a project to demonstrate the benefits of musical training on the other areas of a child's education. This seemed serendipitous as the Tobin Music System she delivers encapsulates principles that empower children to excel in music as well as support their learning across the curriculum.

The drive and determination with which Julie approached her task has opened doors and hearts to the Tobin message. Schools with a former lukewarm attitude to the project have warmly embraced Julie and her musical toolbox and are keen for their teachers to be able to deliver the Tobin System.



The entire staff of one school plus ten other non specialist classroom teachers have already received training from Julie and three schools would like her to provide whole staff INSET. The message from the teachers is that their pupils are understanding music in a logical way and so are they.

Other teachers from Warwickshire County Music Service have benefited from Julie's enthusiasm for this thorough system. Fourteen instrumental staff and fifteen classroom practitioners have been excited by the Tobin system as they have seen, through training, the advantages of helping their pupils to have a more robust and colourful musical journey.

Di Slater
Area Manager Nuneaton and Bedworth
Warwickshire County Music Service

Last week Julie came into school to take staff training, a taster session of her method (Tobin) of teaching my children. Previously my KS2 children have been a real problem to any music teacher who came in to school. I always ended up with several outside my door or me sitting in with lessons. Now I watch them engrossed, engaged, composing(!) and wanting to go to music. Some of the things I see them doing and saying are an eye opener for me as music appeared to be beyond them. I stand in awe of them.

My own daughter is musical and I love music but, I have to say, I was a little reticent to 'expose' myself to the hand chimes in the group training. (I know how children feel.) Julie got the session started and I sat there quietly – not my usual style – but I soon found that it wasn't as daunting as I thought it might be, and began to join in readily. I soon found confidence as I realised I COULD do what she was asking. This is, of course, what the children find.

All the staff who attended the training, from various schools, as well as my own, joined in and were thoroughly enjoying themselves. The session soon ended and this is the point where people disappear quickly, but no many stayed behind to talk to her whilst I was being accosted by one of my staff saying can I do the course? Can I be music coordinator? She was not the only one who is interested in doing the training either.

So well done Julie! – not just for inspiring my children but inspiring my staff.

Chris Cook
Head at Newdigate Primary and Nursery school.

As a Newly Qualified Teacher, there are many aspects of teaching which are new to me and which present challenges. Before Julie Hall came into Newdigate Primary School, I had not heard of the Tobin Music system, but was instantly intrigued by the teaching technique.

I have always enjoyed music from a young age; playing numerous instruments and studying Music up to an A level standard, but never using colour as a learning aid. Using colour allows the children to visually identify the notes and therefore progress further within Music.

Most of the children in my year 4 class did not appear to have much experience with music, and it was great to immediately see interest after the first few weeks with Julie. By actively experiencing music through colour, stories, songs, actions and instruments, the children's musical ability is already showing great progression after just one term. All of Key Stage 2 children are learning different aspects of music at an intense pace but with achievable outcomes and enjoyment.

After a staff meeting last week with Julie to assist all teachers in using the Tobin system both as a music lesson and across other subjects, I began to learn more about the system and became more interested in using it in my own lessons. Year 4 now understand more about fractions in Numeracy through using the value of musical notes and building on their musical knowledge.

Watching all children in Key Stage 2 actively enjoy their music lessons with Julie is a pleasure, and the progression they are showing is brilliant, especially if it will aid their other work. The Tobin music system has motivated me to create a main corridor display of the children's music work and photographs of their learning. It has also inspired me to complete further training on how to teach using the Tobin Music system and become a Music coordinator. I am in the process of acquiring more musical instruments and resources to use in lessons and setting up numerous music clubs to inspire the children to further their musical ability and to continue their learning in this subject.



I hope that this progression will continue and the children will choose to develop their musical talent and knowledge throughout the rest of their education and further into life. By presenting them with the opportunity to learn different skills and technique within music, we as a team are creating opportunities for children to express themselves in different ways. I am excited to be involved in such a fantastic system and hope that more and more teachers adopt this practice to ensure more children reach their musical potential.

Miss Alison Blissett
Year 4 teacher
Newdigate Primary School, Bedworth, Warwickshire



Julie Hall will be speaking as part of the Warwickshire County Music Service series of Leading Learning Meetings.

Warwickshire school teachers are welcome to these meetings through the County Music Service.

Mon	23rd February	Central Area CMS Music Workshop - Coten End Primary School site	4.30 - 6.00 pm
Tue	24th February	Milby Primary School - Milby Drive, Nuneaton	4.30 - 6.00 pm
Wed	25th February	Stratford-upon-Avon High School, Alcester Rd, Stratford	4.30 - 6.00 pm
Thur	26th February	Avon Valley School, Newbold Road, Rugby	4.30 - 6.00 pm

DONATIONS

The Tobin Music Trust would like to thank all those who have given donations. We have gratefully received over £800 which will be used to ensure that as many people as possible benefit from Candida's method of teaching music.

Message from Richard Tobin

This year starts with a new order imposed on Tobin Music resulting from the death of my mother and creator of the system, Candida Tobin. The form we plan for the company and the Trust's future evolution we are confident will take the teaching method forward to broader commercial success and to as wide a public benefit as possible.

For the company, the first ambition is to consolidate its present position; make sure we keep hold of all the accomplishments of the past, recognise the achievements made, take stock of the position and ensure nothing gained over the decades is carelessly lost. Alongside and out of this process must then come a program of development. The 'nuts-and-bolts' of the system are all in place, what is needed is presentational and a reinvigorated means of delivery. This goes deeper than simply redesigning and updating the range of books.

If a smarter image was the only facet to address to make the books sell more prolifically, I consider that book sales would have been stronger despite their dated appearance. Instead it was recognised many years ago that teacher training is key to the uptake of the system's use. This process continues with several fully qualified Tobin teacher trainers already in place and continuing to 'spread the word'.

What is now needed is to introduce a means of managing teachers who take this training, communicate with them, draw them close, and help enhance their pleasure, convenience and success when teaching their pupils using the Tobin Method.

The ambition is to create an internet based resource that teachers who have taken Tobin Method training, and their own students, may subscribe to. Here will be a range of tools to aid the classes they conduct; lesson plans, interactive whiteboard media, download-to-print work-sheets and interactive step-by-step study courses for students to complete on-line, so helping to consolidate and manage each stage of their progress.

This will grow to become a multi-faceted offer with different versions of the same core material packaged and aimed at different market sectors, infant, junior, secondary, adult, self-study, various instruments, and more. The subscription packages will be designed to be as flexible as possible; allowing for downloadable material to printout or workbooks for each class participant, to suit the different budgets, for music, for IT, for books and so on, that teachers may have at their disposal.

We expect to combine the offer of this facility in place along with truly realistic pricing and are confident this combination of excellence and competitiveness will allow for the rapid and profitable expansion that has in the past, frankly, eluded the system. Indeed we are confident we will have a formula that will be, as far as we can see, impossible to match because, and above all, the 'nuts-and-bolts' of the system are beyond reproach.

The Tobin Music Trust will now start to define and function within its future role, having initially leant considerable support, both commercially and personally, to Candida Tobin whilst she strived to complete and cement her work. Now the Trust's true functions will kick in; to bring the benefits of teaching and learning music through use of the Tobin Method to the widest possible audience and to act as a check and control mechanism to assure the system remains pure and unadulterated from its creator's defining vision.

I wish to thank all those who have expressed their kindness and given so much support to my family, to those close friends of Candida's and boundlessly to myself.

TOBIN MUSIC will be at the following major events:

**Tobin Music System Presentation at
Worcestershire Music Teachers Association Conference**

Julie Hall to lead the session, Richard Tobin to exhibit.

Monday 9th February – 1 hour

St. Peters Baptist Church, Eden Close, St. Peters Drive, Worcester, WR5 3TZ.

Contact Sheena Howard for details member@beenahoward.wanadoo.co.uk

NAME(National Association of Music Educators) Annual Conference

York University

September 18-20th

www.name2.org.uk

SMA (Schools Music Association) Annual Conference

Julie Hall will be giving a presentation

October 23rd-25th

Arnos Manor Hotel, Bristol

www.schoolsmusic.org.uk

OUTSTANDING PUPILS

Abi and Lily have both successfully achieved the Associate Board Preparatory Test for Violin in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk . Both girls started violin at the age of 5 and have shared the same lesson time from the beginning. They have not known any other way of note reading and rhythmic counting except that taught through the Tobin Music Literacy Scheme. The early stages of learning to play the Violin are very taxing on the physique and attention span of young pupils. The Tobin System offers many different ways of acquiring skills in pitch recognition, rhythmic counting and note-reading and these are of particular use when pupils tire easily from holding a violin against gravity under the chin. Their parents are always present at the lessons, and Abi and Lily love to challenge the 'grown-ups' to a rhythm contest, using French time-names and music shorthand – the girls usually win! Both families are very impressed with the girl's gradual understanding of basic concepts in rhythmic pitch and note-reading and were happy that they were asked to take part in a large orchestral carol-concert on their violins. Unfortunately Lily was ill on the day, but Abi thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and played with confidence throughout. - Barry Metcalfe



TOBIN TEACHER TRAINING

We are pleased to announce that although training courses have had to come to halt in Sawbridgeworth, we are now able to offer training courses in Saffron Walden as well as Tamworth. Please book as soon as possible to ensure a place.

Tamworth, Staffordshire

To book contact Julie Hall tel: 01827 282949

Email: JulesDuceHall@aol.com

An introduction to the Tobin Music System	Saturday	7th February	Half Day Course	£30
MODULE 1	Sunday	1st March	Full Day	£80
MODULE 2	Sunday	15th March	Full Day	£80
An introduction to the Tobin Music System	Saturday	21st March	Half Day Course	£30
MODULE 1	Sunday	29th March	Full Day	£80
MODULE 2	Sunday	26th April	Full Day	£80
PIANO TEACHER COURSE	Sunday	3rd May	Full Day	£90
				Including books
MODULE 3	Sunday	17th May	Full Day	£80
MODULE 4	Sunday	7th June	Full Day	£80
MODULE 5	Sunday	21st June	Full Day	£80
ASSOCIATE EXAM	Saturday	4th July	1.00pm	£30

Saffron Walden, Essex

To book contact Maggi Griffiths tel: 01799 500899

Email: maggigriffiths@hotmail.com

An introduction to the Tobin Music System	Sunday	8th February	Half Day Course	£30
MODULE 1	Saturday	4th April	Full Day	£80
MODULE 2	Sunday	5th April	Full Day	£80
MODULE 3	Sunday	10th May	Full Day	£80
MODULE 4	Sunday	14th June	Full Day	£80
MODULE 5	Sunday	28th June	Full Day	£80
ASSOCIATE EXAM	Sunday	5th July	1.00pm	£30

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

TOBIN MUSIC
The Old Malthouse
Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth,
Hertfordshire, CM21 9AX
Tel: 01279 726625
www.tobinmusic.co.uk