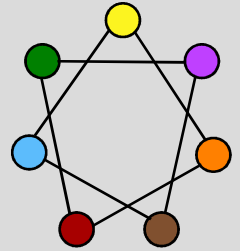


HERTS UNI TO LAUNCH DVDS

THE MAKING OF THE DVDS

TEACHER TRAINING



Tobin Music *News*

Herts Uni to launch DVDs

The University of Hertfordshire will be hosting the launch of the DVD collection for the Tobin System of Music Education. The event, to be held on Monday 13th July, is the climax of a three year project to bring the unique Tobin System to a wider audience and to demonstrate how classroom teachers may deliver a higher standard of music education. This set of instructional DVDs shows teachers how to train their students to read, write, compose and play music with total understanding and confidence.



Part funded by the Film and Digital Media Exchange (FDMX), this project is a wonderful example of how Knowledge Exchanges support and help to develop skills development and training.

The Introductory DVD was launched at Trinity College London on 15th June 2007 with speeches by Julian Amey, Chief Executive and Mark Stringer, Director of Music and Performing Arts. The DVD has raised the profile of the Tobin Music System and the amount of interest in this innovative method has grown, attracting the support of Dame Evelyn Glennie and Lord Adonis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Schools and Learners.

Dick Hallam, National Music Participation Director, visited Candida at her studio after watching the Introductory DVD and said, "I was impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm for the system that was evident from those who had used it with children, as parents, and as training materials for teachers. There is no doubt that the children featured in the DVD used the materials enjoyably and with confidence. Children as young as 8 had a secure understanding of notation and were able to compose and harmonise melodies to a standard normally associated with students of twice their age. It was most impressive."

It is hoped that the whole series of DVDs covering such topics as Musical Shorthand, Note Lengths, Composition and The Notation ruler will become a classroom staple, providing an essential foundation in musicianship.

To attend this event or for more details please contact : Rob Francis (Chair, Tobin Music Trust)
Tel: 01279 505050
Email: rob@tobinmusictrust.org

Mita Lad (FDMX)
Tel: 01707 284740
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Making the DVDs by Julie Hall

This launch is the culmination of a three year project that Candida envisaged many years ago. She wanted to make a series of instructional films so that teachers could see exactly how the system works and to demonstrate how to implement it. It was the summer of 2006 that Candida approached me to make an introductory film about the system; this was filmed at Bird's Bush Primary School in Tamworth. My students and I were filmed by Bo Lindstrom under Candida's watchful eye and included endorsements from Mark Stringer, Director of Trinity College London and Derek Griffiths, composer, actor and TV presenter. This was all beautifully narrated by David Eades, a newsreader from BBC World News. Candida funded this herself and it has proved to be a powerful introduction to the System, attracting the worldwide interest of educationalists, musicians and parents.

I was delighted to have been part of the film and thought it was a wonderful experience; little did I know that Candida had much bigger plans! She wanted to document as much of the system as possible to ensure that her life's work can be used effectively for future generations. The films are to support her main teaching manual; 'The First Steps to Music Literacy'. I was honoured that Candida asked me to help her with this project and although it was daunting I knew that if we tackled one film at a time we would succeed.

All we needed was funding, scripts, teachers, children, venues, a director, a filmmaker, graphics and a willing voice to narrate! Candida took all of this in her stride and thanks to the Tobin Music Trust approaching FDMX to secure funding we had a viable project. Candida scripted the first three films and I assisted with arranging children and venues in between teaching and studying scripts.

In the summer of 2007 we scheduled two days of intensive filming. Three films in the can in only two days!

Shortly after the filming Candida was very poorly and was diagnosed with cancer. The Tobin team rallied around; our support and friendship incredibly important to her.

The summer was a difficult time but by the Autumn I had scripts prepared for the Recorder and Notation Ruler films. Candida read them and kept me on track, we spoke at least three times a day and I would often visit her at home or in hospital to make sure everything would go according to plan.

The Tobin Music Trust was able to show FDMX just how much had been achieved thanks to their support and they kindly provided further funding to continue.

Months of editing ensued, Bo would spend hours and hours putting the footage together, David Eades kindly provided the narration then Candida and I would scrutinise every minute and send a huge list of alterations back to Sweden! Bo patiently tackled our lengthy requests and was keen to do more filming to complete the project. We were extremely fortunate that aside from being a gifted filmmaker, Bo is also passionate about music education.

In the spring of 2008 Candida was in good form and so we began to work out a schedule to complete the films. I was not going to be at Bird's Bush Primary School for the next round of filming, I was scheduled to start a new post with Warwickshire Music Service to begin a special Tobin project with year six pupils in the county. We managed to organise three days of filming at three different venues with three different teachers and recording David Eades voiceover all within the space of five days.

By September it was time to begin scripting the films but Candida's health took a turn for the worse and she had to undergo life threatening surgery. She was a trooper and despite her long stay in hospital she helped me to plan the films.

Sharon Collier, Associate Tobin Teacher at St Gabriel's RC Primary School in Tamworth was filmed teaching pre-composition and harmony to her year 5 pupils. Sharon was a natural and the children were wonderful. We are very grateful to Sharon, Mrs Collins the head teacher and the students at St Gabriel's for allowing us to make the film.

The composition film was scheduled for the weekend; so I was back in front of the camera teaching composition to my Saturday morning classes. We covered an enormous amount of content in one day and the children worked very hard. After each day of filming I would ring Candida to update her; although she was bedridden she was totally on the ball and was delighted to hear what we managed to achieve each day.

The Sunday was a day of no filming; Bo made the journey all the way to Windsor to meet up with David to record the voiceover for all three films. Monday was a tight schedule to record the Time Signatures and Colouring the notes film but it is amazing what you can achieve if you have a good team. This film was recorded at Highclare School, Sutton Coldfield with the permission of head mistress; Margaret Viles. Associate Tobin teacher Sarah Spare stepped into the spotlight with her Year Three pupils. Within two terms she had introduced all the children to the system and was well on the way to building a musically literate community. I would like to thank Mrs Viles, Sarah Spare and the Year 3

children at Highclare School for allowing us to make the film.

It was a huge relief to finish the filming but I knew that editing would take quite a long time. Candida was delighted that it was all filmed and after nearly three months in hospital she made it home. We spent a lovely weekend with her and although she was physically frail she was planning how to document the composition lessons in the revised manual. On with the next step, that was how she always approached life and she never stopped working.

Candida passed away the following weekend; my dearest friend didn't get the opportunity to watch the films and edit them with me. I am honoured and proud that she trusted me with something so close to her heart and I am mindful to protect her ingenuous legacy. Although Candida will not be there to see the finished product she will definitely be there in spirit; for it is impossible to separate the system from Candida.

Teacher Training

Courses are held regularly in two venues. After successful completion of five modules and the Associate Exam candidates become Associate Tobin Teachers.

Tamworth

Contact: Julie Hall
Tel: 01827 282949
email: julesducehall@aol.com

Module 4	Sunday 7th June 9.30-5.00	£80 for the day
Module 5	Sunday 21st June 9.30-5.00	£80 for the day
Associate Exam	Saturday 4th July 1.00pm	£30

Saffron Walden

Contact: Maggi Griffiths
Tel: 01799 500899 or 07958 462765
email: maggigriffiths@hotmail.com

Module 3	Sunday 14th June 9.30-5.00	£80 for the day
Module 4	Sunday 28th June 9.30-5.00	£80 for the day
Module 5	Sunday 5th July 9.30-5.00	£80 for the day

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

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