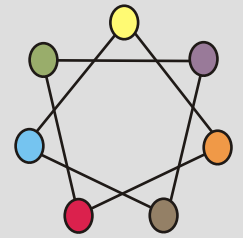


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Tobin Music

ACCELERATING MUSIC LITERACY

News

TRAINING TOBIN TEACHERS

There are many different types of training courses available for people wanting to teach music but it is not often that you can read a first hand experience by someone to get a sense of what is involved.

Mimia Margiotta, an accomplished classically trained pianist, attended the first two Modules of the Associate Course and wrote the following report.

On Sunday 21st October I attended the first Module of the Tobin Music System training course. There were seven other trainees on the day, some with a musical background and others from completely different fields.

The training was put over extremely well by Jules and Chris Hall. Together they introduced basic concepts of music theory on which the Tobin system is based, using very clear and colourful explanations. A feeling of immediate reward and achievement was felt throughout the session: musicians could manipulate music features from an angle quite different from the most conventional one, as very familiar concepts could be interpreted in new and often unusual ways. Non-musicians were able to understand basic concepts of rhythm and notation, which they never would have thought they could grasp in just a few hours.

The session ended with a sense of excitement and eagerness to join the second Module the day after. Unfortunately, due to other commitments, I could not attend the second Module and planned to attend one later during the month. However, very unexpectedly Candida offered to go through the Module with me at her house the following week.

Due to my very unreliable sense of direction I arrived at Candida's house half an hour late. I found her waiting for me at her kitchen table, where we spent a good three hours going through the various steps of the second module. Her explanations were incredibly easy to follow and she would often liven up arid or dull concepts with her wonderful imagination.

I feel it is the imagination, the creativity and the lateral thinking that make this system so unique. Note stems on the staff would receive the gift of a poem so that it will never be forgotten when they need to go up or down. A G chord is given a 7th because 'it is jealous of the C chord'. As part of the many thought games that characterize the system there is the one about sharps and flats: seven children in a circle representing the notes of the scale are given instruction by a child in the middle; in order to have a note raised, the child gives 'a dirty look' to a certain note/child, who as a consequence would exchange their chime for a sharpened chime. The system is full of these wonderful dramatizations and analogies. No wonder why it is so successful with children.

While Candida was explaining things, I could picture her in front of a classroom, with her humour and imagination drawing the children's attention like a magnet.

We then passed onto composing. This for me was the highlight of the session. In order to fully enjoy the teaching, I tried to remove my pre-learnt musical notions, so I could look at the system from a more neutral prospective. In a very short time I was introduced to the first steps to composition and after about 10 minutes I wrote a simple accompanied tune which we tried out at the piano. To my surprise, the tune did sound nice! Candida then asked me to improvise on a simple chord progression, which again seemed quite pleasant. I was so excited as I could improvise something that made sense, as the melody was supported by a logical chordal sequence. As a classically trained pianist I have always been uncomfortable with the idea of improvising, and there I was, treasuring every note I was playing in my improvisation. My excitement was very palpable and I felt so grateful to Candida who was clearly enjoying my genuine enthusiasm.

I left Candida's house with two very strong feelings: respect for such a generous and intelligent woman, and determination to make the system accessible to as many people as possible. Being offered such a wonderful tool, I can only feel privileged to use it and share it with others.



TEACHERS

If you are keen to know how to teach group guitar to beginners then the Tobin guitar method is a wonderful resource and group lessons are also very lucrative. We are looking for guitarists who are either music graduates or have attained diploma level guitar to train in the system and then go on to lecture on this way of teaching guitar. If you are a guitar teacher or know of someone suitable please contact:

Julie Hall - JulesDuceHall@aol.com
TEL: 01827 282949

CAR BOOT SALE

Sally Pribul will be taking all donated items to a car boot sale in **The Pinnacles, Harlow on Sunday 9th December 10.30- 12.00 pm**

If you have any unwanted items which would be suitable, please could you let her know (01279 724482 / sally@pribul.co.uk) or deliver them to Candida. Small items, such as books, bric-a-brac, etc, only, please.

Could you also contact Sally if you are willing to help on the day.

All funds raised will go to the Tobin Music Trust.

DIARY

NOVEMBER

Sunday 4th	Module 3	Sawbridgeworth
Sunday 18th	Module 2	Tamworth

DECEMBER

Sunday 9th	Module 3	Tamworth
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JANUARY

Sunday 27th	Module 4	Sawbridgeworth
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To book your place on any of these courses please contact Julie Hall:
JulesDuceHall@aol.com

OUTSTANDING PUPIL

Megan Webb is 10 years old and attends Bird's Bush County Primary School in Tamworth which is the Tobin Centre for excellence.

Megan has been learning the recorder using the Wizard's Way Books and plays every week in the advanced recorder ensemble.

Megan has also been learning the piano for a year with Tobin Licentiate teacher Chris Hall. Megan is working through Wizard's Way Piano Book 2 and is playing pieces from memory and composing her own music.



Megan features in the Tobin promotional DVD and will also be participating in the forthcoming DVD showing the recorder method.

PARTNERS

Please join us for the next Partner's Meeting on Sunday 2nd December 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

CONCERT



COLIN STONE, internationally acclaimed concert pianist and Professor at the Royal Academy of Music, will be performing in a concert on

Sunday 2nd March 2008 at 7.30pm

St John's Arts & Recreation Centre,
Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0AJ

Please call **01279 726625** to book tickets
All proceeds will go to the Tobin Music Trust

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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