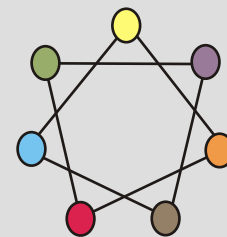


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Tobin Music

ACCELERATING MUSIC LITERACY

News

Saturday classes to resume

At Tobin Music we are delighted to announce that Saturday morning classes will be starting at the Old Malthouse in November.. Eily - Meg Macqueen has been appointed as class tutor and has a wealth of musical experience, including studying with Candida from the age of four. From 2003 – 2005 Eily-Meg was Candida’s assistant teacher for the Saturday morning classes and was a superb teacher of theory, musicianship and the recorder. Eily –Meg has recently graduated from Christ’s College with a BA (Hons) in English. Her studies also involved the role of a choral scholar at the college.

Eily – Meg considers that the Tobin Music System was an integral part to her musical achievements.

“Having begun my musical education with Candida's technique, it has informed all of my future musical experiences. Despite not being able to remember a time when I could not read music, I still find myself 'thinking in colour' - associating the notes (especially those with many ledger lines!) in my voice or flute music with Candida's colours. It particularly helps with following the harmonies of pieces- essential for my orchestral playing and choral leadership. The system never stops providing musicians with additional ways of understanding music throughout their musical careers. Teaching alongside Candida was a real privilege and I largely credit her and the experience of being her assistant with my love for teaching. It is a very exciting prospect to return to teach in The Old Malthouse and I hope to see many old and new faces to continue the music-making!”



Eily – Meg is also an experienced flautist and singer and achieved grade 8 distinctions in both of these areas. She is currently studying for a graduate diploma in Law at City University but still enjoys teaching the flute, voice and music theory.

Eily – Meg looks forward to taking complete beginners (along with their parents!) into a new class, anyone planning for their child to take instrumental lessons should consider these Saturday morning lessons as an essential prerequisite. Eily -Meg also welcomes pupils with musical experience who want to learn how to compose and further develop essential musicianship skills.

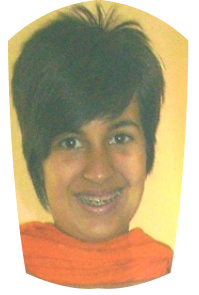
The classes run in term time and are £6 per pupil per session
 To book a place contact or find out more contact Eily – Meg
 tel: 07809 672989
 Email: Eileen.macqueen.1@city.ac.uk

Goodwill donation

The Tobin Music Trust are always on the look out for new sources of funding for the various projects that we would like to undertake. During the summer an application was made to the Stansted Airport Community Trust for the funding of production costs related to the DVDs. The Trust was unable to award any money for that purpose but was so impressed with the Tobin Music System that they made a goodwill donation to the Tobin Music Trust of £200. Many thanks!

Music Education by Jessica Lobo

I'm 16 years old and I have been studying music since I learnt the recorder as an infant, then at the age of 8 I started to learn the piano. Last Autumn I began to assist Julie Hall in her Saturday morning Tobin music classes, teaching music literacy and musicianship skills to children aged from 5 upwards.



As a musician, I learnt theory through doing the theory exams and consequently I found it, to say the very least; boring. My music classes at school weren't much more fun either; I used to be constantly frustrated because the majority of my classmates couldn't understand and I look back now and think, if they'd have had this type of teaching they would be at my level within weeks. I grew up in a world where music theory was a necessity in order to understand music, not an enjoyment, so when I was first introduced to the Tobin music system I was literally gob-smacked that something I had always considered boring could be so much fun!

The concepts I like most about the Tobin music system are the use of shapes, colour and pattern because you can work things out for yourself and it makes it easy to remember. At school I was taught in black and white and to me it seemed to take forever to really understand what rhythm was about because we were told 'a crotchet is worth one beat' only to learn later that this was not always the case if the time signature was 4/2 or 6/8 for example. Using the fraction names along with shapes and French time names means that young children link music to their maths as they play with the note shapes to compose and clap rhythms perfectly. They love to play movement games and pretend to be grandpa yawning for the whole note or twins scampering about for the 8th notes; we even cut cakes and apples into eighths - far more interesting than learning the way I was taught! The classes never fail to surprise me with the variety of fun methods to learn music.

My favourite activity which shows the power of the Tobin Music System is composition. The children had been taking classes for just under a year when they were asked to compose a 16 bar waltz. This included time signatures, key signatures, repeats, primary chords, passing notes, auxiliary notes and even cadences; all of which they fully understood. Most of my GCSE music class didn't understand these concepts yet these 5-8 years olds knew it all inside out - and more! Interestingly, one of the tasks for my GCSE music coursework was to compose a waltz and it took me a year and a half. It wasn't until Julie played several of their pieces of music on the keyboard that it hit me: these children are half my age, and composing a 16 bar piece of music in half an hour that took my year 11 music class several weeks!

I later recorded several of their compositions to play back to my friends (also studying GCSE music) and one of my most musical friends turned to me after listening to one of these recordings, and said "That's depressing." I asked him why it was depressing, seeing as these children could do pretty much the same that we can and they were half our age, and he simply replied "Exactly." I found this quite amusing at the time, but looking back I realise my friend made a serious point because if all children had received this teaching they would be able to read and write music as fluently as they can read or write a story. They would be passionate about music because they would truly understand what it is all about and could choose to play or compose in any style.

After reading Candida's autobiography, I was filled with rage at the amount of people who merely dismissed her ideas because she was a female, or because they didn't like to admit that her system it is a better way of teaching music. I've seen a system of music education that can be enjoyed by children of all ages and abilities; I believe it would transform music in schools and make music accessible to everyone. Imagine if all children could compose meaningful pieces by the age of 8?

MESSAGE FROM CANDIDA

Many of you will be aware that Candida has not been well for sometime and has recently undergone extensive treatment in hospital. Although it seems likely that Candida will remain in hospital for a while yet, her spirits are high once more and she sends you the following message;

Dear All,

Just to say how much your friendship has meant to me. I am sure that it is one of the main reasons for my rapid progress. Who could be unhappy with so many good friends around. Lying here has given me time to reflect, and the opportunity for others to take over what I think can only be done by me! And it is lovely to find others can give perfectly good lectures, and write excellent letters and articles.

It doesn't matter how small the contribution, be it a letter to the Telegraph or the Times, etc., it can do the world of good for our cause.

So my love to you all, I am not an unhappy bunny but actually very contented. When I get out we will have a wonderful party!

Love Candida

DIARY

NOVEMBER

Sunday 9th Module 5 Tamworth

Sunday 30th Associate Exam Tamworth

To book your place on any of these courses please contact:

Sawbridgeworth: candida@tobinmusic.co.uk

Tamworth : julie.hall@tobinmusic.co.uk

CLASS OF THE MONTH

This month, year 6 children at St. Gabriel's School in Tamworth completed their first compositions after just two terms of learning the Tobin music system Associate Tobin Teacher Sharon Collier.



They have picked up the system really quickly and are now itching to learn more.

They were really surprised at how good their compositions sounded and are pictured holding them and looking very proud and happy with themselves.

Some of the children were able to play their melodies whilst others played the accompaniment on chime bars and hand chimes. When they showed their work to other teachers in school, the teachers had to admit that they couldn't read music and didn't know if what the children had done was good or not. The children advised them to try the Tobin music system!

The children are looking forward to writing melodies including passing notes next!

RHODES & Real Music Network presents:
Arts Complex



WINTER festival



An all-day indoor music extravaganza!

Live Music From..
Ezio
AfroBlue
Ola Onabule
Cara Winter
Musicians Of Bremen



Interactive workshops including..
Didgeridoo playing
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Throat singing



+ stalls, food & bar

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23RD FROM 11AM
RHODES ARTS COMPLEX, SOUTH ROAD, BISHOP'S STORTFORD CM23 3JG

Complete Festival Ticket - £16 / £10 Evening Concert - £12 / £9
Day Concerts - £9 / £7 Additional workshops £5 each

ADVANCE TICKETS & INFO - 01279 651746 OR VISIT WWW.RHODESBISHOPSTORTFORD.ORG.UK

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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