

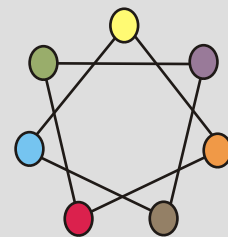
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Tobin Music

ACCELERATING MUSIC LITERACY

News

Associate Course by Michael Sorensen

In July '08 I was fortunate enough to attend the Tobin Music System associates course. I had been using part of the system with pupils of primary and secondary age, so it was an exciting opportunity to learn from the Candida Tobin herself.

I was amazed at how well the system explains key concepts in music. Many pupils are left to discover things for themselves and often stumble across important details accidentally. With this system nothing is left to chance; pupils can build good foundations in musical understanding that can be applied to almost any form of music making.

The other people attending the course were also very impressed and will undoubtedly go on to use it in their teaching careers. A key factor for many of us was that everything was explained in a clear and easy to understand manner. This is contrary to other methods which often mystify music and portray a true understanding as a magical gift. This myth was expelled from us all during this course; there is no reason why pupils of all ages in this country couldn't use this system.

It is true to say that not everyone could be the next Mozart, but everyone can begin to understand where his ideas came from and why they work. I think everyone who attended the course could summarise it using one word, excellent!!

Michael Sorensen MMus BMus Hons www.electricbassoon.com



Andrew Dibben Exhibition by Julie Hall



Andrew, Candida & Amy



Startled Geese



Norfolk artist Andrew Dibben kindly invited Tobin Partners to his exhibition held at the Picturecraft Gallery in Holt 15th 21st August. We accompanied Candida to the exhibition and had the most wonderful trip including a visit to nearby Cromer. You may recall that earlier this year my husband Chris recorded and produced a CD of Candida's Norwich Market Suite for piano and Andrew Dibben kindly allowed us to use his stunning watercolour of Norwich Market for the CD cover. It was a lovely coincidence that we met Andrew during our quest; we were thrilled to have Andrew's help and support. Since then Candida has met Andrew in person; they have a great deal in common as they are both dedicated and passionate about their work.

The exhibition was stunning, and in addition to Andrew's beautiful landscapes we were also treated to work painted by his daughter Amy, who works in a more figurative genre. Candida and Chris were particularly happy because Andrew and Amy had chosen to play the CD of Norwich Market Suite as the exhibition opened!

Earlier this year, Andrew was a Finalist in a competition run by the prestigious magazine International Artist. His work has featured in two books published by them, and the magazine plans to run an eight-page feature on the artist in its October/November issue. For information about Andrew's work please visit www.andrewdibben.com

A smaller exhibition is being planned in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, on 15th November 2008.

Pupil View by Harry Barber

Having been taught the Tobin System it has given me an advantage of many of my musically inclined peers and is a cherished secret I'd always been very grateful of. I was naturally very surprised to find the System had its critics.

The Tobin System, developed by Candida Tobin in the 1960's, has been greeted with much acclaim; the recipient of both the EMMA (European Multimedia Award) and the BIMA (British Interactive Media Award). It is a system designed to teach music to children, utilising colour and pattern.

As I have already said, I found the system invaluable and feel I may not have done so well in music, both at school and privately without it. However the less enlightened have their doubts: "Why label notes with colour?", "The system is childish." "What is the purpose of changing the note length names, there is already an established system."



Colour is ubiquitous. From tube maps to filing systems colour is used to help us memorise and recognise information, why should it be any different when it comes to music? If you walk into any primary or even the lower years of secondary school, colour is used in a range of learning activities and utilised to its potential in the Tobin System. Colour allowed me to pick up both reading and writing music very quickly without being dependent on it.

"The system is childish", the most blatant retort being that it is, of course for children. As exciting as music is, without first learning the basic skills, a child is incapable of accessing it. A lot of music teaching methods fall down at this point with children dreading the monotony of another music lesson reiterating scales for a purpose unbeknown to them. The psychology of Tobin System is to show children the patterns in music so that they can work things out for themselves. The student becomes confident and independent because the lessons are riddled with child friendly subtleties that make learning any and all aspect of music engaging and enjoyable.

Crochet, minim, quaver. Not only are the names themselves confusing but they form no logical system. The Tobin system promotes the use of fraction names; (whole note, half note etc) in conjunction with French time names and shapes. The significance of this simplicity should not be underestimated; the children are learning through visual, aural and kinaesthetic activities. Not only is it easier but it also allows children to work out rhythms independently encouraging arithmetic. A significant proportion of the Tobin System overlaps into areas of the basic curriculum; facilitating reading, writing and maths.

The Tobin System is a progressive, logical and enjoyable method that enables students of all ages to access and understand music, not just those that can afford private tuition. The government launched an initiative in 2003 dedicated to the education and well being of all children entitled Every Child Matters. What better way to make a positive contribution to both the education and well being of every child than introducing the Tobin System? The ability to read and write music is a tremendous gift; one that cannot and should not be denied to any child.

Harry Barber (17 year old school pupil, Hertfordshire)

PARTNERS MEETING

Please join us for the next

Partner's Meeting on Sunday 5th October 12.30pm at the Old Malthouse,
Sawbridgeworth.

These regular meetings are held to discuss what's been going on, to contribute contacts and to socialise. All are welcome. Bring a dish.

For more information about becoming a partner please contact Morrice;
morrice.wells@tobinmusic.co.uk TEL: 01279 757268

PARTNERS

Dear Tobin Partners Newsletter readers,

I hope you have enjoyed receiving the Tobin Partners Newsletters each month, great things have been happening and part of our plans for the future include officially registering and acknowledging the work done by our partners. We also want to increase the number of partners.

I would like to clarify what it means to be a Tobin Partner; it is rather like being a friend of or voluntary supporter. Please read the following guidelines for being a partner and consider if you would like to be registered. Those of you who already consider yourselves to be Partners should also register your details to get a member number.

Partners are those people who are interested in the Tobin Music System and members are welcome from anywhere in the world!

No fee is expected from a Partner.

If a partner wishes to help in some way that will be much appreciated but is not obligatory.

For example;

It was a Partner who introduced us to John Robertson MP for Scotland which resulted in filming the wonderful DVD about the system.

A partner contacted Dame Evelyn Glennie who is now backing the system and working closely with us.

- Partners in Tamworth recently held a coffee morning to raise funds.
- Spread the word! This is through word of mouth to parents and teachers or by writing articles for newspapers and magazines.
- Others have given our booklets and the DVD to schools and colleges.
- At the DVD launch held at Trinity College London several Partners attended and gave whatever expertise could offer; even just welcoming those who had been invited and explaining the system to them.

Partners can also help with fundraising concerts before and at the events.

Partners can attend Tobin functions and meetings but this is not compulsory though very enjoyable.

If you feel that you have some expertise that you would be willing to share with us or that you would like to be involved in our quest in any way, please email or phone me with your name, address and a contact number.

Regards,

Morrice & Christine Wells

National Partners Coordinators

morrice.wells@tobinmusic.co.uk TEL: 01279 757268

DIARY

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 7th Taster Course Sawbridgeworth
2.00-5.00pm

Sunday 14th Module 1 Sawbridgeworth

Sunday 28th Module 2 Sawbridgeworth

OCTOBER

Sunday 5th Module 3 Sawbridgeworth

Sunday 19th Module 4 Tamworth

NOVEMBER

Sunday 9th Module 5 Tamworth

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

Sawbridgeworth: candida@tobinmusic.co.uk

Tamworth : julie.hall@tobinmusic.co.uk

TASTER COURSE

Arrangements and venue for 7th September

CHANGE OF VENUE! Round the corner from Candida's!

There has been an unprecedented response to the meeting at 10:00am and so in order to fit us all in the meeting and the taster course (2.00-5.00pm) the event will be held at:

Hailey Centre

Sayesbury Manor

Bell Street

Sawbridgeworth CM21 9AN

The Centre is at the back of Bell Street car park, the part of the car park where the toilets (unusable) are. Turn into the Bell Street car park and go round to the left (way out). Hailey Centre is on your right and there is parking in front in the car park itself. We will put out a Tobin sign to make it even clearer.

If you need any help with directions on the day phone:
Morrice Wells TEL: 07976 760377

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

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