

Piano Tuition Newsletter

WEDNESDAY
16TH JULY
2008

A Summer Wedding!

It is sometimes the case when I publish my newsletter that I am struggling for things to say but this term has been particularly busy.

On Saturday 7th June, Becky and I were married at Chester Cathedral. The weather was perfect for the photos, not too bright, not too dull and certainly no rain. We were lucky to have the cathedral choir singing during the ceremony under the baton of the new assistant director of music, Ian Roberts, though it felt very strange to be sitting and listening to them for a change!

Wedding Photo Gallery

Last time I mentioned the web gallery with examples of music you may be studying and recordings from the Ludus Cantiones concerts.

www.whay.org/wedding

now links to a public album on the web gallery containing photos from the wedding.

R.I.P Magz 'n Mitzi

Our cats have been a feature of every newsletter however sadly this is no more as we lost both Magz and Mitzi within a month of each other to the busy road on which we live. We probably won't be getting any more for a while as it seems that we are not in an ideal location for cats.

New Piano Exam Syllabus

The latest piano exam syllabus from the Associated Board comes into play from January 2009 and features some differences, most notably in a wider variety of styles to choose from in the exam pieces. If you have started working on pieces from the current syllabus then you are still able to use these in exams until Easter 2009.

Ludus Cantiones

The last piano concert took place at All Saint's Church, Hoole again earlier this month. It was well attended and there were some inspiring performances. A number of the younger students were preparing to take and have since taken their piano prep tests. This is the first time I have entered the prep tests and they all received favourable comments, encouraging progression to Grade 1.

Also highlighted in the concert, one of my students sat and comfortably passed the Grade 1 Jazz Piano exam. I am trying to encourage all students to engage with a wide variety of piano styles and hope that more will be interested in studying the jazz syllabus alongside the standard repertoire. The next piano concert will be probably be around the middle of November though the venue is yet to be decided.

Fees increase

This time last year, I announced a slight fee increase but given the current economic circumstances, I will **not** be increasing my teaching fee for at least another two terms.

'Approved tutor' status

As a member of Cheshire Local Education Authorities 'Approved Tutor' scheme I undergo observation and continuing professional development every year. One suggestion highlighted this year was progress reporting. Whilst this is not necessary in many cases since most parents come to collect their children or sit in on lessons every week, regular verbal feedback is given. From September, I will be starting a simple but regular grading system to track termly progress, effort and attainment.

New Teaching Schedule

From September I will be going 'mobile' on Wednesdays rather than teaching from home as I am taking on students on the Wirral. I have already spoken to students who may be affected by this change and alternative arrangements have been offered. It does however give current and potential students located on that side of Chester the option of lessons at home.

NOTICES

EXAM DATES 2008-9:

- *Period C: 3rd Nov - 6th Dec (Entries by 26th Sep)*
- *Period A: 2009 exam dates have not yet been published.*



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Have a good summer holiday but don't forget to keep up the practice otherwise it is harder to get back into the routine again.

Lessons start again in the first week of September.