

# Music Matters

## Term 3, 2012

When do we return?

Check your normal lesson day to see when you return:

Monday	16 <sup>th</sup> July
Tuesday	17 <sup>th</sup> July
Wednesday	18 <sup>th</sup> July
Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup> July
Friday	20 <sup>th</sup> July
Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup> July

Remember your invoice date is different to your start date!

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Cold weather often sees us go into hibernation and it becomes increasingly difficult to get motivated. When motivation starts to wane, whether you are a child or an adult, what one needs is a goal.

Whether that goal is to get ten stars on a practice chart, learn a piece of music in time for an exam, fit into a favourite pair of jeans or to finish off a task that has long-weighed on your mind, having an aim makes a remarkable difference.

The long awaited London Olympics will be starting this month and if ever you needed inspiration in goal-setting, watching the awe-inspiring performances of the world's greatest athletes should provide plenty of motivation. My Dad competed as a weightlifter in two Olympic games, 1964 in Tokyo and 1968 in Mexico City and his dedication, drive and punishing training regime even back then is to be admired. He never questioned the long training hours or sacrifices he had to make – he just got down to the business of aiming for his goal. Whether it's in the elite sporting arena or behind a piano, the key to reaching goals is self-belief. Believe you can... and you will!

Setting a goal literally sets you up for success. This is the whole reason we run practice incentives – to give students a goal to aim for and to keep them motivated throughout the term. This term, the Fantastic Fifty is back and I look forward to seeing our bare Practice Tree start to spring to life with hundreds of shimmering practice leaves!

Next term the Forte Festival is arriving a little earlier than normal, so we will be ordering our medals extra early this year and sending Festival entry forms home to parents half way through this term. The class concerts have been moved to the first weekend just in case families are heading off for a long weekend during the Melbourne Cup carnival. For our new parents, the Forte Festival is our spectacular annual concert time, where every student has the chance to shine on stage, receiving a Forte gold medal for performing.

It's a time to celebrate all of our students' achievements throughout the year and to showcase the joy that music brings to our lives.

Marco & Maga in wintry Torquay



And for those who have been wondering whether I have been downing a few too many doughnuts the past few months, I can finally confirm that Marco and I will be welcoming our second little bundle of joy into the world at the beginning of 2013 – a new year and a new life! Having just entered the second trimester, so far I only have extreme tiredness and nausea to complain about (but some of that is most likely attributed to running after a toddler!). Come Forte Festival, I will be around 31-32 weeks pregnant, so will be relying on my fabulous staff to be extra special helpers so I can stay off my feet as much as possible on such a long day. So you may see familiar costumes, sets, props and songs as Miss Kia will be too pregnant and too tired to sew, paint or build!

These holidays we are escaping the cold and heading to tropical Fiji. I can hardly wait! Hope your lives are just as happy and wonderful!

See you very soon,

*Lia*

Put it in the diary...

## Forte Festival 2012

Sunday October 28th (classes & soloists)  
& Sunday November 4th (soloists only)

\*your day & session time will be allocated in Term Four

# Music Matters

## Exam Stars!

So far 17 students have completed their AMEB exams with fabulous results:

### Piano

#### Preliminary

Deanna Azucena\*

Shawn Lim

Andrew Nie

Taylor Smart

#### Grade 1

Rohan Bhattacharya

Bryce McLellan

Daphne Paul\*

Natasha Rowley

Ying Sim\*

Annabelle Thomas

Nicholas Tsang

#### Grade 2

Dharam Deol

Caleb Driessen

Tianah Truong

#### Grade 3

Trent Ohia

### Clarinet

Liam Broeksteeg - Gr 3\*

### Singing

Stephanie Fernando - Gr 3

100% of our students received a B+ or above!

75% of students received an A or above!

Congratulations to the A+ duo:

Ying Sim &

Liam Broeksteeg!

## Well done!

We are very proud of your amazing results!



\*denotes a Classical Exam

## Missed lessons - the Rules!

Often parents will ask me about what happens if they miss a lesson, so here are the rules. But remember, **there are no refunds or credits for missed lessons** as your time is reserved for you every week!

### PRIVATE LESSONS:

- Private students who have notified the school of an absence by 9:30am (7:00pm Friday for Saturday lessons) can catch up a maximum of 2 lessons per term.
- Even if you call after 9:30am, we will always try to fill your gap. If we do find a replacement student, you may be able to catch your lesson up. If the gap cannot be filled, the lesson is forfeited.
- If no notice is given and a student does not turn up to a lesson, the teacher is paid for their time, so the lesson is forfeited.
- Even if you are the first student for the day, or the last student for the night, the same rules apply.
- Only 2 lessons can be made up each term. These cannot be carried over into subsequent terms.

### CLASS LESSONS:

- If you have informed us of your absence, you can catch your lesson up in a suitable alternate class on another day. (NB: some class times may not have an alternate class – check with reception.)
- Your teacher is paid for the students enrolled in the class, even if you are away for a lesson.
- Junior Keys / Piano Keys / Creative Keys Class students who miss 2 lessons in a row during the term can arrange a complimentary 20 minute private catch-up lesson. It is up to the parent to arrange with reception a time for a catch-up lesson.
- If your child is falling behind the class, you can also pay for a private catch-up lesson (not applicable for Singing Stars, Jungle Music or Music is Fun).

When I was learning music, there was no such thing as catch-up lessons or make-up lessons, even when the teacher knew weeks in advance of an absence. Many music schools (& swimming schools) do not offer make-up lessons if you cannot make your regular allotted time. Often it takes admin staff 5-6 phone-calls or more than 30 minutes on the phone trying to fill a gap – the more notice we have, the easier our job is!

At Forte, we try our very best to work in with your busy lives!

## WHY TEACH MUSIC?

### music is a science

It is exact, specific; it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

### music is mathematical

It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

### music is a foreign language

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is certainly not English – but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language. Also, many songs we study are from other cultures.

### music is physical education

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek, and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

### most of all, music is art.

It allows a human being to take all these dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, emotion.

# Music Matters

A popular practice info sheet for parents!

## Practice is not a Scary Word!



"My child won't practice!"

"It's always a battle trying to get them to practice!"



"My child has lost interest... what do I do?"

First of all you have to know this – *you are not alone!* But practice is absolutely essential when learning music as your child is developing new and often tricky skills that need to be established in the brain's muscle memory – only repetition (or practice) can do this!

Most parents will come to me with the practice dilemma at least once. Here are a few reasons why your child is losing interest or won't practice:

- They see practice as a negative or chore, rather than part of learning music
- Pieces are becoming too difficult, so they are reluctant to even try playing them
- Pieces are not challenging enough, so they are becoming a bit bored
- They are too young to practice on their own & parent doesn't have time to help
- They do not have a set practice routine or practice plan
- They don't have an incentive or goal to work towards
- They are being dragged away from a fun, leisure activity to practice
- They just don't enjoy music lessons at the moment! It does happen!

### The Top Ten Tips for Practice!

- 1) Set a routine – the number one tip!  
This is one of the most important tips. Work out what time of the day is the best for you and your child and stick to it! Practicing "when you feel like it" simply doesn't work for most students.
- 2) Try several practice sessions of 5-10 mins for younger students  
Shorter sessions will help your child's concentration.
- 3) Try morning sessions  
Children are more alert first thing in the morning.
- 4) Start the practice with a favourite song  
It doesn't matter if it is an old song. This gives a child a sense of control with practice and should make them more co-operative.
- 5) Use your homework sheets or lesson notebook  
These are designed to prepare your child for the next lesson. It also helps a student feel confident when they arrive for the next lesson.
- 6) Trade practices for leisure activities  
Try not to drag children away from their favourite activity, as you will immediately be met with negativity! You can work out trades like 15 mins practice = 15/30 mins on the Nintendo or 20 mins practice = watching their favourite show on television.
- 7) Place a practice sheet at the keyboard  
Use coloured pencils or stickers to brighten up the page. This way they can learn that small steps are needed to reach bigger goals. You will receive a practice / incentive sheet from Forte every single term.
- 8) Work out your own reward / incentive system  
Aim for 10, 20 or 50 practices. When a child is working towards a goal, they are far more motivated. It could be a little toy or a family trip to the movies or as simple as their favourite outing. Forte runs incentives every single term – get on board!
- 9) Talk to an expert or book a private assessment  
Talk to your teacher or Kia if you need help making practice a positive in your household. Your child may also need to be privately assessed to make sure they are in the correct class for their abilities.
- 10) Remember music is not meant to be too serious! Try to have some fun!  
If you make it seem like a negative chore, "if you don't practice, you won't be able to..." will never be met with a positive response! Sometimes it is important to just play for fun – this may mean making up their own songs or trying to play a song that is not part of their practice sheet or adding a game into practice (need some ideas? See reception for a practice games sheet)

A journey of 1000 miles always begins with a single step!

# Music Matters

Private Tuition  
is available on:

- Piano
- Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Voice
- Flute
- Saxophone
- Clarinet
- Recorder
- Violin
- Viola

## Our Classes

Jungle Babies  
6mths - 18mths

Jungle Tots  
18mths - 2.5yrs

Jungle Friends  
2.5yrs - 3.5yrs

Music is Fun  
3.5yrs - 5yrs

Junior Keys  
5yrs - 7yrs

Piano Keys  
7.5yrs - 11yrs

Singing Stars  
8yrs & up

## Address:

Wantirna Mall  
11/322 Mountain Hwy  
Wantirna 3152

Phone:  
9720 0405

Email:  
wantirna@fortemusic.com

Web:  
fortemusic.com.au

## A HOT WINTER DEAL!

Here's a way to make the price of lessons fall!  
**Our Hot Winter deal!**

**The first 10 people to pay their invoice in full over the internet will get  
10% of their tuition fees credited back!\***

**A warm bonus for Term 4!**

**\*for families with multiple students, 10% will be taken off the most expensive fees**

## Housekeeping Notes!!

### Canceling your tuition:

Not sure if you are continuing in Term 3? Your teacher and the administration team have many solutions to practice problems, but remember, Forte policy requires that you give **four weeks notice or four weeks in lieu**.

### Missed lessons:

**Also, remember there are no credits or refunds for missed lessons!** Your teacher is paid for the students enrolled in the class, even if you are away for a lesson. Private students who have notified the school by 9:30am (or 7:00pm Friday for Saturday lessons) can catch up a maximum of 2 lessons per term. Junior Keys, Piano Keys & Creative Keys class students who miss 2 lessons in a row (and have informed us of their absence) during the term are also entitled to a complimentary 20 minute catch-up lesson. It is up to the parent to arrange with reception a time for a catch-up lesson.

### Eating at the school:

We would appreciate if parents could help out and refrain from eating while in the school. Not only does this pose a problem with little six legged critters, but we have lots of little two legged critters who sit on the floor for their lesson!

### Bathrooms - please read this request!:

Around 500 people use our bathroom every week, so please ensure that you check after your child has been to the bathroom. Often many times a day, reception staff have the unsavoury job of cleaning up the mess that children have left all over the toilet seat & floor. Even if your child is old enough to use the toilet on their own, as a courtesy, please check it is clean for the next person.

*\*\*\*Also, for parents using the change facilities, please take dirty nappies with you!\*\*\**

### Overdue Fees Policy - please read the changes taking place from Term 3 onwards:

**Because teachers are paid in full for lessons given every term, we can no longer carry overdue invoices into the following term.** Unless a payment arrangement is organised, if an account is more than \$150.00 overdue at the end of the term, it will incur an additional 3% late fee. This % is far less than the rate I pay for a short-term business loan! We offer payment plans for any parents who need help. Fees that remain unpaid may see tuition suspended until a payment schedule is arranged.

## Term Information : Term 3, 2012

### Term 3 Dates - 10 week term

Mon 16<sup>th</sup> July - Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> September

### Financial Term

The financial term runs from the third week of one attendance term and ends on the second week of the next attendance term

### Term 4 Dates - 10 week term

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> October - Sat 15<sup>th</sup> December

### Financial Term Dates (on your invoice)

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> July - Sat 20<sup>th</sup> October