

Jon's Teaching Group Winter 2003

Editor: Jon Grave

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WORLD PREMIERE

Welcome to the first edition of the NEW newsletter for my teaching group.

The purpose of this newsletter, produced once a term, will be to provide useful information, especially to parents who don't usually have the chance to talk to me frequently, whilst also giving YOU the pupil the chance to showcase your achievements and advertise future events.

My main aim for the next term is to start regular pupils concerts at pupils homes, as a combined performance opportunity and social event (see back page for more details).

I look forward to receiving any comments, information, photos, letters etc and any topics you would like to see tackled, remember this newsletter is for you!

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!!!

Jon Grave



WANTED: Photos of Christmas practice and performance, or musical artwork. The winner will be on the front page of the next edition.

PRACTICE - WHAT'S THE POINT?

Hopefully everybody playing a musical instrument has reasons for playing and some ambitions to achieve. Some musicians have reached Grade 8 standard with little practice, unluckily 99.9% of pupils have to work. Even naturally talented musicians can vastly improve with more practice.

Only aspiring professionals practice 3-6 hours a day, though everybody needs to do something. It is amazing to experience the rapid progress of a pupil when they start practicing their instrument. Months of inactivity and slow progress are suddenly replaced by a rapid surge in ability. More importantly the pupils begin to enjoy the instrument and music so much more. There are few people who are good at music and don't enjoy it, there are very many who do little or no

practice and find it uninspiring.

The world is incredibly busy, and especially for children there are so many distractions, but the sense of achieving something on a musical instrument is difficult to surpass, whether through playing a Christmas carol to the grandparents or winning a competition.

Obviously it's harder to play the piano than to watch TV, but once we get into a routine there is no need to force a pupil to practice. Constant praise, achievable goals, incentives such as making a proportion of pocket money practice related or not having to wash up all help. Remember, the more you practice the harder I have to work!

Next term: How to practice....

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Performance Nerves:

(to be continued)

- Practice walking on, where to stand, adjusting the music stand and bowing - the more unknown factors that are removed the more comfortable you will feel with your surroundings.
- Presentation and first impressions are almost as important as the performance itself. Always dress smartly
- Good preparation and repetition of pieces and frequent solo performance even for friends and family is the key to eliminating nerves.
- Primitive instincts make us rush when we get nervous, counteract this by moving slower than usual before a performance.

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Teacher & Performer of Piano, Singing & Trumpet

**We're not on the
web yet, but
hopefully one day!!!**

CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS!

Apologies to any pianists, but due to a spate of recent inquiries, I have provided a brief outline of trumpet cleaning. This is particularly for the benefit of parents as the odds of a young pupil voluntarily cleaning their instrument are very small!

The mouthpiece - Frequent cleaning is highly important. As the contact point between mouth and instrument, this is where dirt initially builds up before being pushed further into the instrument. An inside coating can quickly develop, reducing the diameter by up to 10%, requiring significant increases in effort to push the same quantity of air through the instrument. Whilst affecting the sound, a dirty mouthpiece also causes hygiene problems.

The instrument - The best way to clean the instrument is by removing the mouthpiece and running warm (hot water can damage the lacquer), soapy water through the bell using the tap, a jug or the shower head. Water should flow round the instrument and out the mouthpiece receiver - it is surprising to see what comes out the other end if not cleaned for a while! Alternately pressing the valves will make sure water flows through all the slides.

Valves - Remove and wash, then wipe to remove grease. Reapply valve oil, making sure valves are replaced with the number facing the same direction as when removed. On a high quality instrument, it still takes many years consistent playing before almost daily oiling is no longer required. The less you play the more oiling is needed.

Slides - Remove one at a time to clean, coating parts that slide inside the instrument with Vaseline or slide grease to stop rusting.

Could you host a pupils concert?

EXAM RESULTS & RECENT PERFORMANCES

Let me know any achievements - however small you feel they are. From playing in assembly to concertos in the Royal Albert Hall, everything is welcome.

Grade 4 Trumpet

Robert Miller (Merit)

Grade 3 Trumpet

Bob Bell

BMus (Hons) GSMD

Jon Grave

Good Luck to *Robert Miller* (Grade 5 Trumpet), *Jamie Balneil* (Grade 3 Trumpet), *Glynn Barwick* (Grade 3 Piano), *Felix Nugee* (Grade 2 Piano), *Remus Bigg*, *Izzy Miller*, *Rosie Nugee* (all Grade 1 piano).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Public performances that students or myself are involved in.

Sunday 7th, 14th, 21st Dec,
11.00 - 12.15, St John's, St
John's Wood, Choral Eucharist

Evening Carol services at St
Sepulchre's, High Holborn on
the 8th, 9th, 16th, 18th of Dec

7th Day Adventist Church,
Chalk Farm, 13th Dec, Concert
of Orchestral/Choral music—
free entry.

PUPILS CONCERTS

If anyone could host a pupils concert towards the end of next term please contact me. A piano is needed and hopefully attendees could bring food.

This would provide an excellent opportunity for pupils to perform in an intimate and friendly environment, meeting other pupils and parents/relatives afterwards, and perhaps to play some ensemble music. While also a unique opportunity to witness my beginner violin playing!

NOTICES

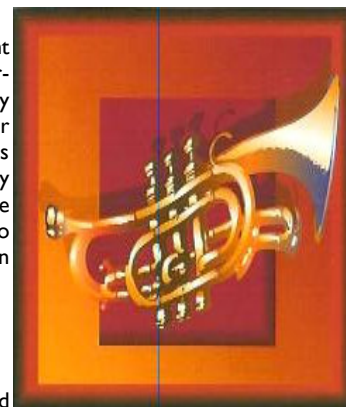
This can include music and instruments for sale, farewells to parting pupils, advertising etc.

ASSOCIATED BOARD EXAM CLOSING DATES - 2004

Spring - Friday 16 January

Summer - Friday 30 April

Autumn - Friday 24 September



Artistic impression of a pupils trumpet after a slight accident last term!