



Jon's Teaching Group Summer 2004

Written & Edited :
Jon Grave

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Concert Success!

Welcome to the third group newsletter, and I would like to finally thank you for photos, especially for personal copies of the pupil concert courtesy of the Judge family!

Congratulations are in order for the excellent examination results of last terms nine candidates. Fortunately for my nerves there are slightly fewer entrants this term!

The 1st pupils concert was an excellent success and seems to have been thoroughly enjoyed by all, congratulations to everyone who took part. As everything ran more smoothly than I could have imagined, the experience will become a regular termly event. As the venue proved both beautiful visually and acoustically this will remain the same.

For new pupils and those unavailable to play the first time, two pieces are required to be played. The 2nd Pupil's Concert will be slightly earlier in the term due to the summer music festival at the venue, St Sepulchre's Church, Holborn. The date will be Monday 7th June at 7pm, and should last approximately an hour.



Photograph of the 1st pupils concert performers

There will be a short rehearsal with the accompanist for brass players and vocalists. Directions and rehearsal times will be given out shortly before the date, and could you please bring food for the buffet afterwards. Drinks will be provided though a small donation to cover the cost would be appreciated. The charge to cover the cost of the professional accompanist and hall hire will remain at £7.50 per performer.

I would particularly like to thank the adult pupils who showed great courage in participating, and I have been assured there will be more playing this time. Please complete the enclosed form and return as soon as possible.

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How to Remember Your Lesson?

The first time many students practice after a lesson they remember little of what has been said. This is an evaluation of some more and some less effective responses to this problem.

A simple method is for the pupil to have a notebook in which to write the pieces to be studied and brief tips. However, in the case of younger pupils unless a parent is fully involved with the practice this is often disregarded. From a teaching perspective it is difficult to fully engage pupils whilst writing.

Writing the date of the next lesson next to the music to be studied leaves no excuses for confusion over what to practice and also marks progress. Brief comments on the music can be useful, though often invisible to many eyes.

During my later years as a pupil I spent significant time writing up lessons as soon as they finished. This implanted the lesson content, helped me remember exercises, while re-reading old lessons illustrated reoccurring problems.

I recently discovered the perfect solution for my vocal lessons, where I struggled to remembering everything. Repetition in subsequent lessons lead to a waste of time, and equally importantly money. I now record each lesson on a portable Minidisk player. Editing takes at most double the lesson time, but by practicing for the next week with the MD, only visual aspects can be overlooked and little time is wasted on the wrong things. When returning to old recordings progress is immediately obvious, building confidence that improvement is being made, while there is less need for repetition by the teacher.

While I would only expect pupils considering a career in music to go to time-consuming lengths, I do feel it is important to spend just a few minutes immediately after the lesson trying to remember the main points. Otherwise just a day or two later much is forgotten and the teacher repeats many of the same things again.

Next term: Are examinations relevant....?

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Performance Points from Pupil Concert:

- Arrive in time to warm-up, even if just playing a few notes on the mouthpiece.
- Ensure the pianist knows the tempo YOU want the music to go.
- Walk on and off slowly
- Take time to adjust the stand or your playing position
- Know where in the programme you are playing.
- Acknowledge the audience with a small bow after the performance.
- Try to smile whatever has happened.
- Thank your accompanist

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Jon Grave

Teacher & Performer of Piano,
Singing & Trumpet

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

Lesson Fees for 1st August 2004 - 31st July 2005

The majority of pupils will be paying for group lessons from this term. Mostly in blocks of 5 lessons, saving time looking for parents and change at the lesson end, and helping to arrive on time at the next destination.

Any outstanding lessons at the end of one term will continue into the next.

If you need to cancel a lesson for any reason I would be grateful for 36 hours notice unless otherwise agreed, as the difficulty in rearranging up to 6/7 lessons at any less notice should be evident.

I am happy to accept cheque or cash as payment and invoices can be provided.

Table of fees for 2004/5:

30mins - £16.50 40mins - £21.50

45mins - £24.00 60mins - £31.50

1 hr 15mins - £39.00 1 hr 30mins - £46.50

1 hr 45mins - £54.00 2hrs - £61.50

The increase is £1.50 per lesson, and there will be no further increases before 1/8/2005.

End of Term Concert

EXAM RESULTS & RE-CENT PERFORMANCES

Let me know of your achievements - however small you feel they are.

Theory Grade 5

- Robert Millar (*Distinction*)

Trumpet Grade 4

- Jamie Lindsay (*Merit*)

Trumpet Grade 2

- Peter Judge (*Distinction*)

Trumpet Grade 1

- Hugh Judge (*Distinction*)

Piano Grade 2

- Robert Millar (*Distinction*)

- Felix Nugee

Piano Grade 1

- Remus Bigg (*Merit*)

- Izzy Millar

- Rosie Nugee

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2nd PUPILS CONCERT!!!

St Sepulchre's, High Holborn on Monday 7th June, 7.00pm.
Tickets are free: £7.50 to perform (complete attached form).

An excellent opportunity for pupils to perform in a beautiful, intimate and friendly environment, with a professional accompanist and afterwards to meet other pupils and parents/relatives. There will be a maximum of two pieces for each performer. Please bring food for buffet afterwards, and return the completed forms as soon as possible.

My Performances

Every Sunday morning,

11.00 - 12.15, St John's, St John's Wood, Choral Eucharist

Lunchtime Recital in St Sepulchre's, High Holborn, Wed 5th May, 13.00 - 13.45

Music by Purcell, Britten & Finzi

Tenor soloist in Concert version of Purcell's *Fairy Queen* in St Sepulchre's, High Holborn, Fri 11th June, 19.30 - 21.30

Tenor soloist in Haydn's *Nelson Mass* in St Sepulchre's, High Holborn, Tue 22nd June, 19.30



WANTED: Musical Photos. This is Jamie Lindsay during a Christmas performance.

ASSOCIATED BOARD EXAM CLOSING DATES - 2004

Summer - Friday 30 April

Autumn - Friday 24 September