

Catherine Leach Piano School Newsletter 2018

Part One

Welcome to new pupils and highlighting special achievements over the last two years.

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Would you be kind enough please to highlight relevant points to your child. The majority of my pupils will be old enough to read the newsletters themselves and it is my wish that they will do so.

My Piano School is grass roots and most pupils starting are complete beginners. It is my hope and dream that during the time with me in learning the basic skills, each individual will come to discover the extraordinary power music holds. When music becomes an extension to the very being of an individual and one cannot live without it, we have arrived at a beautiful place.

A Warm Welcome

A very warm welcome to all pupils who have started lessons over the last eighteen months. I am quite sure you will all discover the wealth of reward that the learning of an instrument brings, providing time is carefully set aside for important enjoyable practice at home. You will in time experience that this special journey brings much joy, culture, challenge, excitement and satisfaction and above all provides a beautiful and rich dimension to your life.

Joining the piano school from 2016 onwards are sisters Lona and Maria, Amaliya, Bill, Sadie, Amenda, Oliver, Jonny, Hanuman, Padi and my Mother Margaret! Welcome back to Dave following a three year break and to Louise after nine years! This year, welcome to Anu, Hannah (sister of Lona and Maria) Amber (sister of Darcey), Susan, Clara, Elliot and Joey.

Exceptional Achievements and Congratulations

To **Maria Malinowski**: achieving a distinction in her recent Grade 6 Solo Piano exam. Distinctions are rare especially at higher grades.



To **Min**: with her fabulous achievements of being awarded first place in her age classes in both the Southport and Rainhill festivals in 2016.



Min with her gold medal for her performance of 'Witches Dance' at Southport Festival 2016, hosted at Greenbank High School and also at Rainhill Festival.

Congratulations to **Lara Goodwin Hudson** achieving **100%** in her Grade 1 Theory exam. The last pupil to achieve 100% was Katie Houghton for her Grade 2 around twelve years ago! To achieve **100%** is an outstanding achievement and I am so proud of you Lara!



To **Lindsey Dyer**: one of my adult pupils who has achieved record breaking (within my piano school) achievements in her exam successes. Within the

relatively short time of three years and learning from scratch, Lindsey has achieved through dedication and sheer hard work, an outstanding total of eight exam successes culminating in a distinction at Grade 4 level theory and a merit at Grade 3 practical solo piano. Lindsey has decided to focus on studying the cello now and recently admitted to me that the study of her theory grades has been invaluable to her understanding and performing more fluently the music she performs within Ormskirk Orchestra within the string section. To perform in an orchestra has been a lifelong dream. I wish Lindsey all the very best for her future. Very well done!

To **Elena Nam**: who realised her lifelong dream of performing in a concert hall to a live audience. This she achieved at my anniversary concert on June 18th 2017. Well Done Elena!



Clockwise L-R Me, May, Min, Elena. Evening of Concert 2017

To **Emily Lyon**: who achieved a distinction in her first Solo Piano exam after just two months of lessons!

To **Tom Stott**: who graduated with a Hons Degree in Popular Music from the RNCM. Prior to his studies at the RNCM, Tom achieved Grade 8 Piano after a twelve year period with me. Unfortunately he was unable to take part in my anniversary concert due to work commitments. I attended his final recital last May 2017 at the RNCM, showcasing his most recent musical output and included in his programme was an impressive and rather brilliant piano composition.

I am often asked if any of my pupils have achieved great things in the music industry and proud to say Tom certainly has being in high demand touring around the UK as well as abroad with his own band 'All Amped Up'.



Tom Stott and I (at Tom's 21st Birthday celebration)

To **Clare Cassidy**: Congratulations to you on being the first Mother of a pupil to take part in a concert! The duet Clare performed with her daughter Darcey had taken a great deal of dedicated time. To prepare an ensemble item is a huge achievement for any player let alone a beginner with just a few months of lessons! And I'm sure it was a great pleasure for Darcey to play with her Mum! Also congratulations to both of you passing your Initial exams!



Darcey & Clare 18th June 2017

To sisters **Lona and Maria**: in preparing their piano duet item for the special concert in June. One of the great challenges of piano ensemble study. The only other two occasions in the last 25 years two sisters performed a duet together at one of my concerts was when **Eleanor and Grace Whittle** and **Alison and Sarah Chadwick** both performed duets! (I was really thrilled to see Sarah in the audience after all those years!)



Sarah Chadwick and I at my 25th Anniversary concert

To **Amaliya Dixon**, who after only a few months of tuition from being a complete beginner, performed her piece from memory at the concert. Amaliya has also recently studied and managed to learn the piece I composed and performed at the concert called 'Oriental Dream' which will be uploaded onto the website as soon as possible. I am hugely excited to see one of my pupils performing one of my pieces for the very first time! Hopefully a few others will manage to learn some of the other pieces soon too! And we may hear Amaliya playing 'Oriental Dream' at the 2018 Christmas concert.

To **Tom McCormack**, who bravely sang for the very first time in his life at my anniversary concert accompanying himself so beautifully in his performance of 'For Good' from the musical 'Wicked'. Thank you so much Tom for travelling up from London to be with us that afternoon and for sharing your music. Tom's work in the theatre continues and I will be posting up an updated feature on the website soon. I met up with Tom over the October half term in London at a performance of 42nd street in the West End.



Tom and I at Drury Lane Theatre October 2017

Congratulations to **Carley Stenson**: a past pupil of mine who landed a lead part in Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg's 'Les Miserables' based on the novel by Victor Hugo, playing one of the lead characters, Fantine. Carley studied music theory with me eighteen years ago at the time she was at Winstanley College and busy in 'Hollyoaks'. Carley has always maintained that the theory study has proved invaluable to her in her study of the scores. I had always hoped that Carley would be offered work which would enable her to show case her super, stunning voice. She has to date been offered many parts in numerous shows.

To hear her sing live in 'Les Miserables' was an absolute delight and treat for me. Also very moving, especially when she sang 'I dreamed a dream'. I would recommend this show if anyone has the opportunity to head down to London. It was a real highlight for me and so wonderful to meet up with her. Carley had hoped to take part in my anniversary concert event and would have done so if possible. Unfortunately for us, 'Les Miserables' had already started the week before! I hope to welcome her to take part in a future concert one day. All the best for 'Les Miserables' Carley!



Carley and I just before she went to make up for the evening performance of Les Miserables!

And very importantly to **ALL** my pupils both young and mature for their contributions at my concert, especially those who prepared ensemble items with little time to rehearse with each other before hand. Most notably **Jessica**, accompanying **Darcey's** breath-taking gymnastics routine, **Thea** accompanying **Emily Morris'** beautiful ballet routine and **Lona and Maria's** duet accompanying **Emily's** Cinderella dance. Well done to both **Darcey** and **Emily** on the clever choreography as well! You were all awesome!

I am looking forward to hearing all my pupils performing at the next concert.
Sunday afternoon 16th December 2018 2-5.00 pm in Orrell.

With best wishes from

Catherine