



Valley Music
PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TUITION

Email: valleymusic@virginbroadband.com.au

Phone: 0409 461 629

Newsletter

September 2014

Term 4 Dates: 7th Oct-12th Dec (Schools & Con); 6th Oct-19th Dec (East Mait)

Lessons during School Holidays at East Maitland

Monday Lessons will be held during school holidays at East Maitland for exam students.
Students will be notified of times before end of term. **(NB: Lessons as usual 6th Oct)**

Payment of Fees: Invoices for Term 4 will be sent soon.

If you do not receive an invoice please let us know.

All fees are due in full prior to the first lesson of term.

No part payments will be accepted (except for fees more than \$400 which may be paid in 2 parts)

Please **DO NOT** send cash to school with students.

Preferred payment method is EFT. ****Starting 2015 cheques will no longer be accepted****

Overdue Fees As per policy all fees are due 1st week of term. Lessons will be suspended if payment not received on time. Please note that if fees are not received by due date your lesson time may be offered to those on the waiting list.

Due to a large number of unpaid and late payments this policy will be strictly adhered to in Term 4

Missed Lessons

Lessons are charged per term (no exceptions).

If student is taken out of school/or lessons during the term for holidays etc. then the lesson is forfeited and no extra lesson will be made up.

The only time lessons are made up or credited is when the teacher cancels a lesson.

Asking for make up lessons is asking the teacher to go to work and not be paid.

Teachers are on site whether students attend lessons or not.

Practising

Please read the attached practising advice. Learning a musical instrument requires instruction from a teacher which is given during lessons and then practise by the student at home. Playing something once or twice or 5 minutes before a lesson is not sufficient.

Writing name of notes on music

Our method of teaching requires students to learn to read music from the very first lesson.

The writing of notes names on the music or the actual piano keyboard (although some think this is helping) it actually hinders this method of teaching.



Valley Music
PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TUITION

Email: valleymusic@virginbroadband.com.au

Phone: 0409 461 629

Newsletter

EXAMS

November Practical Exams (1st-8th Nov 2014)

November Practical Exams are fast approaching and all exam students should now be prepared for their exam.

Scales & pieces must be practised daily and remember once or twice through is not practising. (see guide below for general practise , - your teacher will have the best advice for each individual student).

Any Student not doing sufficient preparation will be withdrawn from exams at the end of term.

Theory Exams Results

- 1st Grade: Talia MackenzieNot yet marked
Kristina O'BrienNot yet marked
Kate Burfitt.....Not yet marked
- 2nd Grade: Hannah GreenHigh Distinction (99%)
Jayden MackenzieHigh Distinction (99%)
Hannah LukemanHigh Distinction (98%)
Annabelle Farnworth.....High Distinction (98%)
Ella Palmer High Distinction (96%)
Ellouise Southwell.....High Distinction (95%)
Libby CrawfordHonours 93%
- 4th Grade: Jayme Peterkin.....Not yet marked



Valley Music
PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TUITION

Email: valleymusic@virginbroadband.com.au

Phone: 0409 461 629

Newsletter

Practise Tips for Kids

“If you cannot always remember when you should practice, keep this in mind: **Practice on the days you eat.**”

1. REGULAR DAILY PRACTISCE

Keep it short but regular: (7 reps equal progress)

Kids learn best with consistent exposure.

Set up a daily practise time (before school is ideal)

Even minimal exposure (15 minutes a day) will prove to be very beneficial

(Many students will practice long sessions and then not practice for a few days.

If this is all that you can do it's better than nothing but in order to develop a strong practice structure that will last a lifetime try to make it part of your daily life.)

2. WORK WITHIN YOUR ABILITY & DON'T RUSH AHEAD

By moving slowly one level at a time you will master the basic underlying concepts which will then help with more difficult playing later.

By moving ahead too soon students get frustrated and lose interest quickly.

You will feel much better about your playing when you can play something perfectly at your level rather than something incorrectly at a higher level.

Playing beyond your ability often leads to bad technique.

3. PRACTICE MEANS PLAY WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW

Most piano students who practice will always sit and play those familiar things that sound *GOOD*.

Remember, to get the most out of your time, practice material that presents a challenge, this will help you learn most effectively and quickly.

So, when you sit at the piano and have **NO MISTAKES**... it is time to do something new and more difficult.





Valley Music
PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TUITION

Email: valleymusic@virginbroadband.com.au

Phone: 0409 461 629

Newsletter

5. TRACK YOUR PROGRES

By keeping track of your daily practice students will clearly see that when they practice for a stretch of days that this will be why their piano playing is getting better.

Also when a student skips practice for some days they will be able to see just why a piece is giving them difficulty.

So write down your times daily and pay extra attention to those weeks where you have put in more time.....

LISTEN TO THE RESULTS.

6. USE YOUR EARS

Music is to listen to so use your ears.

Listen carefully to what you are playing .. If something sounds wrong, chances are it is.

7.SET SMALL GOALS

Whatever you are working on be sure to break it down into small levels (your teacher will advise on how to do this)

For example: do the right hand perfectly first before adding the left hand .

This type of practice is used by the best of us and will give students the feeling of accomplishment many times while they are working on a piece.

Don't wait until the tune is complete to feel good about it, this takes too long and will tend to pull ones interest away.

So if a piece will take you a week to complete why not feel good about it each day you work on it.

8.USE A METRONOME

Use a metronome **ONLY** if your teacher tells you to.

Young students especially need to learn how to count on their own first before using a metronome.

(If not taught correctly a child will put the metronome on but not understand how to keep in time).

The **MORE** you practice, the **BETTER** you play.



Valley Music
PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TUITION

Email: valleymusic@virginbroadband.com.au

Phone: 0409 461 629

Newsletter

PIANO PRACTISE - How much is enough????

Children always have excuses as to why they have no time to practise - In reality the best results come from small amounts of concentrated practise each day rather than sitting for a long time once a week and losing concentration.

Beginners (using John Thompson & Alfreds books) should play through their pieces at least 5 times each day . Pieces in these books are designed to be learnt in one week – moving on the next week to the next set of pieces. (between 2 and 4 pieces are given each week).

Learning a musical instrument requires consistent practise in order to retain concepts learnt during the lesson. Frustration occurs when students do not practise and then are stuck on the same pieces for many weeks- as each concept must be mastered before moving on to the next.

Getting into a routine of practising at the same time each day is best- practising then becomes part of the daily routine.

Guide for practising times: (at least 5 days per week)

Beginners : 10-20minutes

Older Students: 20-30minutes

Exam Students : 30-45 minutes (depending on level)

Guide for completing Theory: (over one week)

Beginners Theory Sheets :1-5minutes

Older Student Theory : 5-10 minutes

Exam Students Theory: 10-20minutes (depending on level)

REMEMBER – once through a piece of music is not practising.

