

Intermediate Young Pianists Course – Course Leader Sarah Murphy

This course is aimed at students currently working between grades 4 – 6 (AB or Trinity). Ideally, students should prepare at least two pieces, either own choice or from their chosen syllabus for the course.

Each student will receive:

- 4 x 45 mins one-to-one piano lessons *
- Scheduled daily private practice time
- 4 x 45 mins classes Aural & musicianship
- 4 x 30 mins classes Technique time
- 4 x 45 mins classes Theory
- 4 x 1.5 hour Historical musical highlights and composition workshops
- 4 x 1 hour ensemble playing group
- Final whole course concert performance

*Participants may book additional one to one lessons which will be scheduled during the daily programme

Saturday 8th August

1.30 – 4pm **Registration**

5pm **Welcome** and opening gala recital with members of the faculty

6.30pm **Dinner**

7.30pm **Party time** – a chance to get to know the other young pianists on the course.

Sunday 9th August – Wednesday 12th August

9.00 Aural and Musicianship

In these sessions, students will develop their aural skills in a number of different ways: a secure sense of rhythm and ensemble will be encouraged through the use of Hindemith's and Jersild's rhythmic exercises and those based on these models; there will be sight-singing with canons in a number of different parts, in addition to learning a number of different songs in several parts; 'cadence journeys', interval recognition, and multi-activity exercises (combining clapping/singing/movement) will be used to develop co-ordination and general musicianship– this session will essentially be an 'aural warm-up' each morning.

9.45 Technique Time

All aspects of technique required by our young pianists will be covered in a musical and communal way. Scales and arpeggios will be given a fun twist by being performed in a range of different articulations, dynamics and other musical combinations, with all pianists participating in group performance of these and creating musical 'accompaniments'. Other key elements of technique, such as chord playing and finger exercises, will also be explored in a way which will reinforce all elements of the student's musicianship.

10.15 Theory

Although based around the syllabus for ABRSM grades 4-6, this session will be in no way about writing in workbooks! The workshop will be linked with composition and improvisation, as students explore different chords structures, writing melodies to chords, improvising and harmonising melodic ideas, and exploring clefs, transposition, and figured bass in a musical and interesting way. Everyone will get involved practically and this communal approach will further develop and reinforce ensemble and musicianship.

11.00 Break

11.30 Historical highlights and composition workshops

The key features of the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern musical periods will be explored in these sessions. Students will listen to a range of different repertoire (including orchestral/opera) as well as exploring some key repertoire in each style suited to grades 4-6 pianists. Listening activities will give the students confidence in knowing what features define each period and this will then be followed up by a composition workshop which explores a particular feature of the period e.g:

- Baroque – a composition workshop based around the idea of a ground bass. Students will take part in an ensemble performance of Michael Nyman's *Time Lapse*, a modern piece of film music written on a ground bass. There will then be time for the students to explore a ground bass chord pattern in small groups, creating ideas which explore melody, harmony, and texture.
- Classical – a composition based around theme and variations. Students will be given a theme and will create different variations of it, exploring tonality, pitch, texture, accompaniment patterns and metre in a creative way.
- Romantic – a composition based on the idea of 'programme music'. Students will work in groups creating a short improvisation which will be based on a visual image, allowing them to work with different musical elements to explore character and emotion within music.
- Contemporary/modern – students will take part in a workshop which explores the different ways in which the piano has been used by various twentieth century composers, including Cage, Crumb, and Cowell. They will get the chance to work with the piano in a totally new way, exploring the strings and the different effects that can be achieved with the 'prepared piano'.

1pm **Lunch**

1.45 **Individual Piano lesson or Piano Practice** - practise supervisors will be on hand to help throughout these times

2.30 **Individual Piano lesson or Piano Practice** - practise supervisors will be on hand to help throughout these times

3.15 **Break**

3.45 **Ensemble playing**

Each day will end with a session of communal music-making, with duets, trios, one piano four hands, one piano six hands, and more allow all of the students to take part in an ensemble and learn the important skills of balance, communication, rhythmic accuracy and critical listening that are central to ensemble work. Piano arrangements of well-known orchestral works will be performed alongside arrangements of dances, music from around the globe, and jazz, all of which will widen the student's knowledge of style and repertoire, as well as being hugely enjoyable and musically satisfying!

4.45 **Free Time**

5.30pm **Optional daily talk by Murray McLachlan**, course leader for the Young Artist piano course

9th Competitions, Auditions and Entrance Requirements for Conservatoires

10th The Psychology of Performance and confidence on stage

11th The art of practising

12th Building a repertoire and programme planning

6.30 **Dinner**

7.30 **Free Time.** Options for participants include

Practise – the rooms will remain open until 10pm

Fit to perform in the gym – learn more about **physical and mental well-being** for young musicians

duets - enjoy playing duets with friends and choose from a wide range of music provided on the course.

performance room – sign up to give a performance in one of the small concert rooms.

social time in house – relax with friends in the house common rooms.

badminton in Whiteley hall – sign up for some friendly competitive games

Thursday 13th August

9 – 10.30 - **Final concert performances** – all family and friends welcome to hear the morning concert.
The young pianists will receive a certificate of participation from the course leader