



Music Notes !

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

16TH JANUARY 2008

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!!

TERM DATES

Term Start:
Tuesday 29th January
Term Finish:
Saturday 12th April

Fees Due:
Monday 11th-Friday
15th February

Public Holidays this Term
(No lessons)
Good Fri 21/3/08
Easter Sat 22/3/08
Easter Mon 24/3/08

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Foundation Music Exams	2
AMEB Exams	2
Coffee Keys	2
3 New Teachers for 2008!	3
Graduating Students	3
Account Info	4
Find-a-word	4

It's 2008 already!! Where did 2007 go? I expect that everyone is looking forward to more fun and learning this year in their music lessons.

Congratulations to everyone for their wonderful performances at the Inaugural Forte Festival! All of the students played very well and a BIG thank you to all the fantastic teachers for making this first performance, such a wonderful experience.

There are a number of classes eagerly waiting to begin the next level of their course this term. We also have lots of activities to look forward to this year, such as Musicathon, End of Term Concerts and of course Forte Festival.

I hope you have all had a good rest over the

school holidays and are ready and raring to go. Below, is a picture of the Forte car on holidays, can anyone name the landmark? (pg 4 for answer)



A lot of our students this year will have the opportunity to participate in Foundation Exams or AMEB exams.

These exams are exciting and are great motivators for practicing and will help to build confidence.

Speak to your teachers about these exams if you would like to be involved.

We are sorry to see Simon Stojic, one of our guitar

teachers leave due to family reasons. However, we are pleased to welcome James Bateman, Laura Chrupalo and Susie Macdonald. You can read about them on page 3.

This year, we are attempting to make some changes to our admin systems. As a part of this change, invoices for all existing students will be handed out during the first lesson of the Term 1. Newsletters and other correspondence will be sent via email, so if you haven't done so yet, please supply us with your email address.

Have a great 1st term!

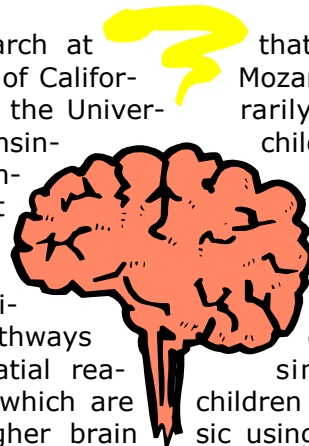
Kath

I've Got the Music

In Me!

Playing Music Improves the Ability to Think

Ongoing research at the University of California-Irvine and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh demonstrate that learning and playing music builds or modifies neural pathways related to spatial reasoning tasks, which are crucial for higher brain functions like complex maths, chess and science. The first studies showed

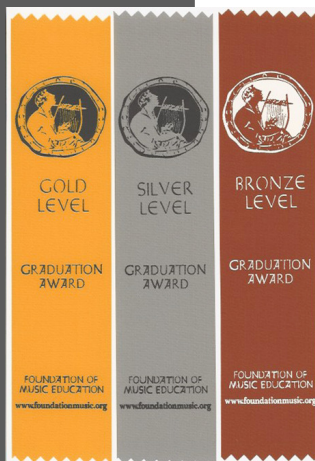


that listening to a Mozart sonata temporarily improved a child's spatial abilities. Further studies compared children who had computer lessons, children who had singing lessons, children who learned music using a keyboard and children who did nothing additional. The children who had the music

classes scored significantly higher— up to 35% higher— than the children who had computer classes or did nothing additional.

Source: Various studies by Dr Gordon Shaw (University of California-Irvine) and Dr Frn Rauscher (University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh), with others. Including those published in *Nature* 365:611 and *Neuroscience Letters* 185:44-47; and E L Wright, W R Dennis & R L Newcomb. *Neurological Res* 19.2.8. 1977.

Foundation Music Exams



Foundation Music Award Ribbons

Congratulations to the following students who successfully completed their Foundation Music Exams:

Bronze Level: Elise Overton
Lexi Willis
Isabella Kelly
Sam Macdonald
Robert Archer

Silver Level: Liam Harley

Gold Level: Alex Swallow

The Foundation syllabus covers the following:-

- Piano performance
 - Technical work (exercises/scales)
 - Sight reading
 - Ear tests
 - General knowledge
- Repertoire is chosen from Forte Course books as well as other publications. FME Exams are

suitable for Forte class students (from Book 2 onwards), and private piano students

Foundation Examiners are experienced and qualified music teachers chosen for their ability to relate to children. Examiners receive training in how to set children at ease in an assessment situation.

Talk to your teacher as soon as possible about enrolling to sit for this exam. Entry forms are available from reception.

The final date for entries is in March for the first examining period in April. The exams are held in April, June and November. All students will be examined in our Macarthur school.

Information regarding the exams and the requirements are found on the website: www.foundationmusic.org

AMEB Exams

Congratulations to the following students for their fantastic results in the Australian Music Exam Board Exams.

Adam Ursino	Preliminary	- Piano for Leisure	HONOURS
Phoebe Ollis	2nd Grade	- Flute	HONOURS
Alex Swallow	4th Grade	- Trumpet	CREDIT PASS
Danielle East	Preliminary	- Piano for Leisure	PASS

If you think that your child would like to sit for these exams in 2008, talk to your teacher and they will be able to guide you regarding grade requirements and entry dates.



Coffee Keys

"You may want to improve your skills or you may want to learn a little more about how to use your keyboard"

In 2008 we will be trialing an idea that has originated in the Forte schools in the UK.

Coffee Keys is a more informal way of learning for adults. If you want to learn more about playing the piano or extending your current skills come along on.

You may be a complete beginner, you may want to improve your skills or you may want to learn a little more about how to use your keyboard/digital piano.

Whatever your aim, we're here to help! Attendance may be casual and no bookings are

required.

Just \$12 per session. Almost forgot to mention..... coffee and biscuits included!

Times are yet to be finalized, keep an eye on the TV noticeboard for updates.

Welcome to Three New Teachers For 2008!

Laura Chrupalo:

Laura is currently in her 3rd year of studying for a Bachelor of Creative Arts and Media and Communications at Wollongong University. She has played the piano for 15 years and has performed extensively. Laura has recently completed the grueling Forte teacher training and will be teaching some of our Junior Keys and Piano Keys classes this year. She is looking forward to sharing her love of music with her students.

James Bateman:

James is our new guitar teacher. James will be teaching Simon's Tuesday and Wednesday students this year. Many of you have already met James and I hope you are looking forward to a fun year of guitar playing. James has been playing guitar for 14 years and teaching guitar for 5 years. He has experience teaching both privately and in a school environment.

Susie Macdonald:

Susie is one of our Forte mums and she is now joining our team of Jungle Music and 'Music Is Fun' teachers. Susie is a qualified Early Childhood teacher and has a wealth of experience in this field. She is looking forward to teaching our little friends and having fun in her music classes.

2007 Graduates (Term 4):

Each term we have a number of students who "Graduate" from one of our music programs and move up to the next level. In each newsletter we are going to highlight these talented students.

Jungle Music:

- Stevan Babic
- Sharna Abdallah
- Tatiana Simic
- Darcy Chrystal
- Olivia Dorrell
- Ayva Gibbs
- Liam Mozayani
- William Tregear
- Dylan Birkbeck
- Thomas Graham

Music Is Fun

- Madeline Mingay
- Thomas Patterson
- Sophie Patterson
- Hayley Gough
- Joel Owens
- Luke Krvavac
- Rinlada Tolley
- Jonah Veckranges

Gift Vouchers:

Also available from reception are Forte Gift Vouchers! These can be made out for any amount of money and are a fantastic idea for a gift from Grandparents or relatives who are stuck for Birthday ideas.

Are Your Music Books Dog-Eared and Grubby? Do you lose them and forget to bring them to class?

Why don't you purchase one of our fantastic Forte Music Bags? Just \$19.95 and all your music books will be kept clean and safe. With this flashy bag you'll never forget your books ever again!!

Did You Know?

Young children with developed rhythm skills perform better academically in early school year. Findings of a recent study showed that there is a difference in the academic achievement levels of students classified according to rhythmic competency. Students who were achieving at academic expectation scored high on all rhythmic tasks, while many of those who scored lower on the rhythmic test achieved below academic expectation

Source: *The Relationship between Rhythmic Competency and Academic Performance in First Grade Children,* University of Central Florida, Debby Mitchell.

Email Notification:



If you haven't done so already, please let us know your email address so that we can save some trees and send you our wonderful newsletter via email. The added bonus of doing this is that the newsletter is in colour, and also won't get lost in the mail.



**Forte School of Music
Macarthur**

2/2 George Hunter Drive
Narellan, 2567
Mail to: P.O. Box 1067
Camden, 2570

Phone: 46478824

Fax: 46478842

www.fortemusic.com.au
macarthur@fortemusic.com

Schedule of Fees 2008

In order to keep up with rising costs, it is necessary for us to increase our fees each year. The following is a list of the new fee structure for 2008.

Classes	Length	Fee
Jungle Babies	(30 mins)	\$13.50
Jungle Tots	(40 mins)	\$14.50
Jungle Friends	(40 mins)	\$14.50
Music is Fun	(45 mins)	\$18.75
Junior Keys	(45 mins)	\$21.75
Piano Keys	(45 mins)	\$21.75
Other Courses	(45 mins)	\$21.75
Private Tuition	(20mins)	\$21.75
	(30mins)	\$27.00
	(45mins)	\$40.50
Shared Private(2)	(30mins)	\$21.75ea

Accounts:

Accounts are due **in advance and will be handed** out during the first lesson of Term 1. Fees are due by week 3- 11th- 16th January. Reminders are sent out in week 5 and a final notice will be sent with a \$20 late fee added to the account in week 7. If you are having trouble please see Kath to discuss alternative arrangements

Word Fun- Orchestral Instruments

S U G B A E N L C A S T A N E T S
 N J Q Q Z L R V B E B V W N R L P
 Q P W Y S R O J N A G N O G Z N A
 E S F S P C H I S G S B I I P N H
 L F K H A A R S V L M S B L R C X
 G T E M R U O K C O L B D O O W T
 N A U P O O N B R C R Y H R A I Y
 A M C B N J E T O K E H I N U L V
 I T M S U D T L E E C L Z J O M L
 R A J G C L A R I N E T E P M U R
 T M B V C S A E E S R P H S T L Y
 Q G I U V I B R A P H O N E T E W
 C H V O T D F X B I N K C O N A I
 S G V N K E T T L E D R U M D D K
 M K E F M D I F D L L S L A B M Y
 F D I R P R C E L L O L O C C I P
 H O V Q M U R D E R A N S U R J F
 X S B W W M Q A C B B X B U S O E

BASS
BASS DRUM
BASSOON
BELLS
CASTANETS
CELESTA
CELLO
CLARINET
CORNET
TAMTAM
FRENCH HORN
TROMBONE

GONG
HARP
KETTLE DRUM
OBOE
PIANO
PICCOLO
SIDE DRUM
SNARE DRUM
TAMBOURINES
FLUTE
TENOR HORN

TRUMPET
TUBA
TUBULAR BELLS
VIBRAPHONE
VIOLA
VIOLIN
WOOD BLOCK
XYLOPHONE
CYMBALS
TRIANGLE
GLOCKENSPIEL

Answer: (from pg1)
Cradle Mountain
Tasmania