



# PLAYERS' NOTES

**St. George Players**

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## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

### Early Music Lessons Have Longtime Benefits

When children learn to play a musical instrument, they strengthen a range of auditory skills. Recent studies suggest that these benefits extend all through life, at least for those who continue to be engaged with music.

But a study published last month is the first to show that music lessons in childhood may lead to changes in the brain that persist years after the lessons stop.

Researchers at Northwestern University recorded the auditory brainstem responses of college students — that is to say, their electrical brain waves — in response to complex sounds. The group of students who reported musical training in childhood had more robust responses — their brains were better able to pick out essential elements, like

pitch, in the complex sounds when they were tested. And this was true even if the lessons had ended years ago.

There's a fascination — and even a certain heady delight — in learning what the brain can do, and in drawing out the many effects of the combination of stimulation, application, practice and auditory exercise that musical education provides.

Different instruments, different teaching methods, different regimens — families need to find what appeals to the individual child and what works for the family, since a big piece of this should be about pleasure and mastery. Children should enjoy themselves, and their lessons. Parents need to care about music, not slot it in as a therapeutic tool.

"We want music to be recognized for what it can be in a

person's life, not necessarily, 'Oh, we want you to have better cognitive skills, so we're going to put you in music,' " Ms. Parbery-Clark said. "Music is great, music is social — let them enjoy it for what it really is."

This is an extract from an article from the New York Times. It resonates with my experience with early music. Read the rest on our web page.



*Jan Thorp, MA (Hons)  
Musical Director*

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## TERM 4 DATES

Carefully check the attached invoice. If there are any changes, or apparent errors, please ring Jan or David immediately so that we can amend it.

This is an eight week term. Lessons start in the week commencing on Monday 22 October with the first band and orchestra rehearsals on Saturday 27 October. The last day of term is on Saturday 15 December 2012.

### All changes to the timetable

**(including makeup lessons) can only be approved by David; not your teacher.**

Please accept our apologies for changing the dates in fourth term and the third term holidays. We are having an extra week in the October holidays, but we are ending fourth term one week later, so the total number of teaching days remains the same. There are two reasons for this change. Firstly, our Moving Picture Show has been invited to

open the Queenstown Jazz Festival in New Zealand (it would be very foolish to turn down an international invitation), and secondly, all our students are playing at the Oatley fair on Saturday 20 October 2012 (either playing in a group or busking). Normally we try to play at Community events on a Sunday so there is no clash with our Saturday lessons, but the Lion's Club particularly asked us to be involved this year.



*Band on the Hoof*

## OATLEY FAIR

Oatley Fair this year will involve ALL members of St George Players. Georges Jazz Giants will be playing from 9.30 on the main stage—there will be a sound check at 9. The strings will be playing and dancing with The Mortdale Scottish Country Dancers from 10. We also have a stall manned

by our jazz teacher, Freddie Hill and student teacher Simon Raspanti who will give free beginning try outs to whoever want to. Some parents have offered to help and will be rostered on to hand out brochures and talk to people. Thanks to those people. The best to last. We are running a busking for charity. All

players should be involved. To take part, pay one of the people at the stall \$5 to get a number. That money goes to the Lion's Club charity. Find a good spot, display your number then busk. Any money you earn from busking you keep. You are getting money for practicing!

## SOLO CONCERT AND EXAMS

The November series AMEB examinations entries have closed. If you are enrolled please check with your teacher about the requirements for your grade including general knowledge and aural tests. Make sure you keep the date of the next solo concert free on Sunday 30 October which is obligatory for exam students who must perform their exam pieces with our wonderful accompanist David Grisdale. This concert gives all these students an opportunity to play in front of an audience and gain experi-

ence playing with an accompanist. If you are on private lessons but not doing an exam, you are expected to play at this concert as it is a good idea to perform at the solo concert, even if it is a simple piece from a tutor. This gives you a gauge of how you perform for an audience and the more you do it, the easier it gets.

Please note: Exam students also have a compulsory rehearsal with the accompanist in our Oatley studio about one

week prior to the examination. We will not know the date of the examination or the rehearsal until sometime in November, and there is no way the date can be changed. As we have said on many occasions, if you decide to sit for an examination, you must make music a priority in your life. Do remember however, the exam can be done in the May series, although the enrollment fee will be forfeited. This can be an option if there is a clash, or you or your teacher feels you are not quite ready.

## OTHER CONCERTS

On Saturday, 20 October, (during the holidays) the Jazz Group and the Celtic Fiddles are performing at the Oatley Lions Festival, in the park at the Oatley Shops. Please read the attached note printed on coloured paper.

On Saturday, 3 November, the

Grainger Band is marching in the Fisher's Ghost Parade, Campbelltown from 1.00 to 3.00pm. This march will replace the band rehearsal on this Saturday. Missed private lessons will be made up on the following Saturday 10th November. This day will also be a

Music Olympics day. Like the last group day, the band and orchestras will be split into teams and given a series of activities to practice then compete against the other groups. Ski jump for musicians? This is just one example.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This year's Christmas concert will be a full concert involving performances by all ensembles and ending with carols and presents from Santa Claus. It will be held on Sunday 9 December at Sydney Tech High School and gives everybody a chance to show what they have been rehearsing all year. We

will have a sausage sizzle picnic under the trees (weather permitting) while the Players are setting up and rehearsing, followed by a concert at 2.00pm.

I am particularly looking forward to a full orchestra for the first time in a couple of years. Our strings will be joining with

the best of the wind players for some great Christmas style music. Next year we hope to bring out the big timpani to make a really exciting orchestra. Go to our Facebook and listen to an orchestral performance we did a few years ago.

## FINAL DAY AND RETURN OF INSTRUMENTS

The final Saturday for the year is on 16 December and all rented instruments must be returned on this day. On this day, all our students will have the opportunity to participate in our "The Sounds of Silents" workshop. The kids experiment

with the science of sound to create a sonic saga to bring silent films to life. They watch a silent film, then plan their very own sound story and present a show. Normally we charge to present this show at various museums around Sydney during the school holidays.

On 16 December, our students get to take part in this innovative and engaging workshop for free. We have enough personal DVD players and our very own projector these days to make it a great afternoon. Parents, come early to enjoy the fun.

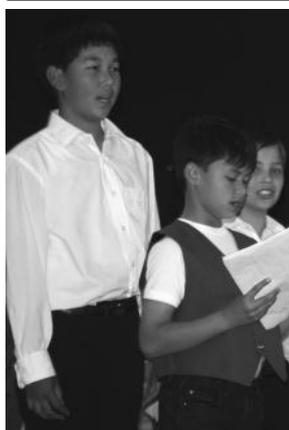


*Kid's Music Class graduates*



*Giggles*

# PHOTOS - CHECK FLICKR ON OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE PHOTOS



## IMPORTANT DATES:

PLEASE CHECK THE ONES RELEVANT TO YOURSELF AND PUT THEM IN YOUR DIARY.

There will be other concerts, that will be advised during the year.

DAY	DATE	EVENT	VENUE	COMMENTS
Saturday	20 October	Oatley Lions Festival	Oatley Shops	All groups
<b>Monday</b>	<b>22 October</b>	<b>Start of term 4</b>		<b>8 week term</b>
Sunday	30 October	Solo Concert	Masos Club	All having private lessons expected to perform.
Saturday	3 November	Fisher's Ghost Parade	Campbelltown	Grainger band 1.00 – 3.00pm
Saturday	10 November	Music Olympics Day	Sydney Tech High	Private lessons will be made up from previous week
Sunday	20 November	The Moving Picture Show	Masos Club	Silent film mayhem with our top 20s orchestra, Phantom of the Opera and Trip to the Moon as seen in Hugo
Sunday	9 December	Christmas Concert Music	Sydney Tech High	All groups
Saturday	15 December	Sound of Silents	Sydney Tech High	Saturday groups
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>15 December</b>	<b>End of term 4</b>		
Saturday	26 January	Australia Day	Carr's Park	Jazz Band
Sunday	17 February 2013	Chinese New Year Twilight parade	Sydney CBD	Grainger band



*Among our parents we have a wonderful professional photographer Daniel Woo. He has been very generous in photographing the last concert. Enjoy some of his work above*