

# Players' Notes



## St George Players

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Mobile phone 0412411284 is only available during concerts and Saturday afternoon rehearsals

### Director's Notes



No matter how effective the music teacher of your child is, each music lesson still only occupies a mere thirty minutes of the student's week. This means that

for the rest of the week, either the parents have to provide support, or the student works completely alone. Parents are usually delighted and excited to help if they possibly can, but in many cases simply haven't got a clue how to go about it.

*How much practice is my kid doing?*

Parents use the answer to this question to draw conclusions about their child's motivation, progress, and from that, *the success of lessons as a whole*. The parent's role is then reduced to that of Truant Officer. It is much better to:

#### 1. Be Interested

Most children are delighted to be the centre of their parent's attention, and will tend to view favorably any activity that thrusts them into the limelight like that. If music lessons can feature on that list of positive attention-getters, then a large part of the practice battle has been won already.

### Term 3 dates

Third term begins on Monday 25 July (first Saturday rehearsals are on 30 July) and finishes on Saturday 24 September. There are no public holidays in this term, so it is a 9 week term for everyone.

#### 2. Encourage

Parents don't need to be gushing over every correct note, but calculated positive feedback from parents is a great way of reinforcing behavior. They can also keep an ear out for when the student may be sounding frustrated with what they are doing—not so they can sweep in and fix the problem, but just so the child knows that there is someone in their corner.

#### 3. Reflect

At the heart of successful practice is the need for students to understand exactly what they are trying to achieve in the week ahead—well before they start the first practice session. The questions from the parent are designed to help the student cement their understanding of what's required,

#### 4. Steer

Even when kids are completely clear on what their goals are for the week, and have a comprehensive list of practice techniques to use to pursue those goals, they can sometimes be confused as to how to organize it all. Sometimes three pieces and five scales can feel like a lot, and a little help from parents can go a long way.

#### 5. Progress Checks

With the practice model being based around the student having specific jobs to do, rather

than practicing for a set time, knowing whether or not they are ready for their next lesson is more important for students than ever before. Students need to know *early* in the week if they are starting to fall behind. So if the student's job was to learn *two pages* of music, then by half way through the week, they should be able to play *one* of them.

#### 6. Knowing when *not* to help

Sometimes the best help is *not to help at all*. Some students work best when they are given room to move, and will actively resent parents leaping in with solutions for every practice problem they face. As students become more autonomous with their practice, the parental involvement model moves gently from *helping regularly* to simply *being available* should the student need it.

*\*This is an article by Philip Johnson. In our organization practice is set as tasks, not amounts of time done. Parental involvement is so important that we know a child will quit because the parent has stopped attending their concerts.*

Jan Thorp MA(Hons)

### Term 3 2011

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#### Inside this issue:

Director's notes on practice	1
AMEB	2
Kogarah Bed Race	2
Spring Carnival	2
Second major concert	2
Photos	3
Important Dates	4



**Please note- all changes to the timetable (including makeup lessons) can only be approved by David; not your teacher.**

Getting there

## AMEB examinations

The November series AMEB examinations entries close on Friday 29 July 2011. As this date is in the first week of term 3 we have been collecting enrollment forms and money at the end of term 2. If your child is sitting for an examination and you have not paid the examination fee, please complete the attached form and return it with your payment urgently.

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. Exam students also have a compulsory rehearsal with the accompanist about one week prior to the examination. We will not know the date of the examination or the rehearsal until sometime in November, so please do not book any holidays or important family events during November and the first half of December. We appreciate that this is a big commitment, but AMEB examinations are only appropriate for people who are willing to make music a major priority in their lives.



*Clarinetists working hard*

## Drum Class

Follow the noise at 1.30 on Saturdays and you will find a brand new drum class of little people. This class was highly successful last year as an introduction to the world of performance and music for the very young. Usually all boys, we even have a girl trying her skills at drums. I am looking forward to seeing their performances.

*Our Moving Picture Show of 1920's silent films with a genuine theatre orchestra has been recognized by the Fringe Festival as one of their main acts this year. We will be performing in the Newtown Theatre during September.*

## Kogarah Bed Race and the Spring Carnival

2011 marks the 20th anniversary of the Kogarah Fair and Charity Bed Race. Organized by Kogarah City Council and the Lamrock Committee of the St George Hospital.

All the bands will be involved in this parade along Railway Parade, Kogarah, on Saturday 3rd September. The Jazz band will be performing in the Town Hall Square after the parade and prior to normal practices on the Saturday afternoon.

We will again look at sponsoring a bed if you can work out a team and a way of sponsoring it.

The Jazz Band and the Senior Strings with the Country Scottish Dancers, will be performing at the Gannon's Park Spring Carnival on 18 September. The Gannon's Park festival is the biggest show in Sydney after The Royal Easter Show. They have displays of show

jumping and classic cars which is a great deal of fun. It is very important that all members of the Jazz Band and the Senior Strings make this concert a priority.

In fourth term we are intending to take everyone to Wollongong as part of the Viva La Gong Festival. This is a big commitment, but should be great fun.

## Second Main Concert

This will be held at the Maso's Club, Mortdale, on 11 September. As we did last time, the run through will be during normal rehearsals on Saturday. There is an enormous amount of gear to be taken including the wonderful sound system bought by the parents last year. We would appreciate any help you can give. Please write your name down if you could help carry or would like to help our wonderful parents who organize fund raising.



*Pearlie? St George Festival*



*Simon can dance*

# Photos



## Important dates:

Please check the ones relevant to yourself and put them in your diary.

There will be other concerts, especially for the string groups, that will be advised during the year.

DAY	DATE	EVENT	VENUE	COMMENTS
Monday	25 July	Start of term 3		9 week term
Saturday	3rd September	Kogarah Bed Race	Railway Parade Kogarah	All bands
Sunday	11th September	Major Concert	Masos Club	All players who are part of a group
Friday	16 September	Fringe Festival	Newtown Theatre	The Moving Picture Show
Saturday	17th September	Fringe Festival	Newtown Theatre	The Moving Picture Show
Sunday	18th September	Spring Festival	Gannon's Park	Jazz Band and senior strings
Sunday	25 September	Fringe Festival	Newtown Theatre	The Moving Picture Show
Sunday	25 September	End of term 3		2 week holiday
Monday	10 October	Start of term 4		9 week term
Sunday	30th October	Solo Concert	Masos Club	All having private lessons expected to perform.
Saturday	12th November	Viva La Gong	Wollongong	All Saturday groups to march and perform during the day. Private lessons to be made up the following week.
Sunday	20th November	The Moving Picture Show	Masos Club	Silent film mayhem with our top 20s orchestra. Come and enjoy
Sunday	4th December	Christmas Chamber Music	TBA	All groups
Saturday	10 December	End of term 4		Christmas holidays



*The Moving Picture Show  
Getting ready for  
the Sydney  
Fringe Festival*

