

Jane Cartney CT ABRSM

Professional Member: ABJM, ISM, MU

PRIVATE SINGING LESSONS

Information for Pupils

Assessment

All pupils who are interested in receiving tuition attend an assessment lesson in the first instance. This is a friendly informal session of 40 minutes duration, which enables me to assess the singer and to offer advice on the most appropriate level of tuition needed. Pupils are encouraged to sing a short item of their own choice and to respond to a range of simple aural and rhythm tests.

Lessons

Pupils, usually from the age of 16 upwards, including adults who are beginners, are accepted for private tuition in singing, following assessment. All pupils must be prepared to commit themselves to regular attendance. Regular lessons are offered for 60 minutes or 40 minutes duration. Lessons are accompanied at the piano. Pupils who are preparing for Grade examinations are advised to take 60 minute lessons. Lessons can be taken either on a weekly or fortnightly basis. In special circumstances pupils may attend more frequently, but pupils who wish to attend on a less frequent basis will not be accepted for tuition, as no discernible progress will be made.

Lessons include tuition and work on voice development and production, aural skills, rudimentary theory, and preparation of songs (including foreign language coaching where appropriate) as well as performance skills.

Advanced students and professional singers may arrange ad hoc attendance for specialist coaching, (see paragraph 'Contracts and Fees' together with separate leaflet 'Language and Performance Coaching').

Group lessons and special courses of 60 minutes or 120 minutes, for 2, 3 or 4 pupils are available, in agreement with myself. These can be arranged for one whole term, either on a weekly or fortnightly basis. This may involve the hiring of an external pianist.

Term Times

My terms run for 12 weeks in line with the local school terms. A half term break of one week usually takes place at the end of weeks 5 or 6. Pupils are provided with the list of term dates and half term dates. In special circumstance lessons may be available out-with term times, particularly for ad-hoc coaching.

Contracts and Fees

Tuition in singing is offered to pupils by way of a legal contract between myself, and the pupil. The contract in current use is that which is produced by The Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM), of which I am a professional member. The contract is agreed and signed by both the pupil and myself at the commencement of tuition and will be in force until such time as it is cancelled by either the pupil, or myself, or until the course is completed. Please note that this contract is a binding commitment by both the teacher and the pupil, and it is advisable for pupils to pay close attention to the section on notice of cancellation, and non-attendance for lessons which have been booked in advance.

Please also note that pupils who have entered into an ISM contract are precluded from entering for singing and music theory examinations, and festivals, without my consent.

Ad-hoc specialist language and performance coaching will be offered on the basis of an informal written agreement.

Fees are based on the current ISM recommended rate for private music tuition, and are currently set at £27 for 60 minutes and £18 for 40 minutes. ***(Please note that specialist language and performance coaching fees are negotiable and generally around £30 per hour.)***

Fees are payable in advance for half a term (6 weeks) for single lessons, and one term (12 weeks) for group lessons. Pupils who have weekly lessons will be invoiced at the start of the series for 6 lessons. Pupils who have lessons every fortnight will be invoiced at the start of the series for 3 lessons. Pupils who take group lessons will be charged the appropriate rate for group lessons, (including the cost of hiring an external pianist if appropriate), set by the ISM, and must be paid in full before the commencement of the course.

Fees for specialist language and performance coaching, for the agreed duration of the course, will be payable in advance, and students will be invoiced before the commencement of the course

Entrance for Singing Examinations

Some pupils wish to enter for examinations in singing and theory. I will prepare suitable candidates for entrance to examinations run by The Associated Board Of The Royal Schools of Music. Grade examinations are set from Grades 1 to 8. Beyond Grade 8 are Advanced Certificate and Diploma Level. Examinations take place 3 times per year at the local centre. The Board charges a nominal fee for all entries.

Pupils must provide their own piano accompanist for the actual examination. Accompanists must be experienced and suitably qualified. I can provide a list of qualified pianists who are willing to play for exams. A fee will be payable to the pianist for this service and for any rehearsals or practice sessions which are arranged.

I normally enter pupils at Grade 5 and above, although pupils may enter for the lower grades if they wish. Pupils must have achieved the appropriate standard before an entry will be made. Pupils who have passed Grade 5 Singing, and who wish to continue with examinations at a higher grade, must have passed a Grade 5 Theory examination in the previous examination period or earlier. Advice on taking a theory examination will be given.

Competitive Music Festivals

Most major towns hold competitive music festivals. A number of different classes are offered, eg Oratorio, Italian Song, German Lieder, Folk Song etc, for which certificates of achievement, and prizes in some cases, are awarded. Again, a nominal fee to the festival organisers is payable on entry. These are public events and participants from a wide background can be expected to take part. In some cases competition can be very stiff and only pupils who are committed and have the ability to prepare to a high standard will be eligible for entry.

As with examinations pupils will be expected to arrange for their own pianist to accompany them. I can as before, provide a list of available pianists.

Competitions are a useful opportunity to perform in public and to receive a non-biased report from the adjudicator, who is in most cases either a professional performer and/or eminent teacher.

As with examination, I will enter pupils who wish to take part in a competitive festival. Pupils who have demonstrated ability at the appropriate level, will be eligible for entrance to a competitive festival.

Library and Study Facilities

I have an extensive library of recordings, music journals, books and video recordings, for pupils' use during their studies. Pupils are encouraged to make use of this facility, which will enhance development substantially.

Items may be referred to during lessons and many items can be borrowed at any time subject to availability. These must be returned at the following lesson. A loan may be extended by request.

A list of items for loan is available in the music room, for reference.

No charge is made for borrowing items other than a nominal £1.00 per pupil per series to cover wear and tear. However a charge will be made for any items lost or damaged, and pupils will be invoiced accordingly.

The library is continually expanding, as items are added to it on a regular basis.

Performance Opportunities

Pupils are encouraged to perform in front of others and small concerts are arranged from time to time at the Music Studio for all pupils to participate in. If necessary a pianist will be engaged to accompany singers. All pupils are encouraged to take part in these concerts, to which friends and relations may be invited. No charge is made for this opportunity.

Contact Details

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