

ADVANTAGES OF GROUP LESSONS

Social Development - the students make friends with their classmates and they learn how to better relate and cooperate with other people in a disciplined learning environment. Being among friends makes learning fun and a delightful and valuable experience - it builds confidence that will last a lifetime.

Ensembles - playing different parts of a song at the same time with other people give the students experience at playing music in a group and develops better sight-reading.

Motivation - people (children in particular) are highly motivated by what they see each other doing and therefore get inspired to practice more and to try new things.

Less Pressure - there is far less pressure on students that are in a group as compared to a one to one basis with a private teacher. This allows them to relax and enjoy the music more.

Less Inhibited - because they play in front of other people every week in class, the students become comfortable with audiences and are less inhibited to play in front of friends, relatives or strangers. They develop confidence and ease in performing.

Regular Performing - regular in-class performances motivate the children to polish and complete each song they learn.

Theory is Fun - many people find theory a hard and sometimes boring aspect of music. In a class it can be taught through games and group activities, which makes it more interesting and a lot easier to remember.

Positive Competition - the competition the students feel from each other is healthy and encourages them at home as well in class. "Kids learn from kids". Children increasingly enjoy being part of a group. The group can provide them with reassurance, the opportunity to learn from others and to give as well as take constructive criticism from classmates. It exposes them to a mildly competitive atmosphere that can encourage learning and practice.

Learning Models - in the group approach, one student may be an excellent sight-reader, another may be adept at improvisation. Each student has a contribution to make to the class.

Longer Lessons - a 1 hour group lesson is generally more economical than private lessons & because of the length there is time for more activities & to master skills during the lesson.

Ear Training - this one of the most important aspects of music and there is often no time to do this in private instruction. Many different ear-training activities are covered in group lessons.

More Exposure - because the students are exposed to a variety of instruments and situations in the classroom, they become more flexible and versatile in their playing.

Singing - this is an extremely valuable part of music, not to mention one of the best learning tools. Most students will sing in groups but often not by themselves in a private atmosphere.

Creativity - there is more diversity of input, ideas and reactions and most importantly, more time to experiment with them.

Activities - because there is so many different kinds of activities, it is possible to hold the student's attention for longer periods and everyone can find at least one thing that they do well and enjoy.

Team Spirit - this developed through all of the group activities and by supporting each other through festivals, exams and in-class performances.