

PIANO MUSICIANSHIP CLASSES

for children who have completed the Stepping Notes curriculum

These are not conventional private classical piano lessons, in that their principal emphasis is not on learning to play correctly classical pieces written out note-for-note in absolute-pitch standard stave notation. Rather, their emphasis is on continuing the style and methods of Stepping Notes (singing, movement, solfa, relative notation and chord symbols, scale and harmonic analysis), but gradually applying these tools to the piano.

By these means, children will learn to:

- write and improvise piano accompaniments to songs
- "play by ear"
- play from chord symbols and figured bass-lines
- transpose pieces at sight
- compose for the piano
- accompany others effectively
- play the piano in vocal and instrumental ensembles

(These are skills more commonly used by pianists who play popular music or music theatre than by classical pianists, but they are very useful skills for any kind of musician - and not just those specialising in piano.)

These lessons will happen weekly, at my home. I recommend 35-minute sessions if there are two children in the group, or 45-minute sessions if there are three in the group. Consistent regular attendance at lessons will be essential, and practical homework tasks will be set regularly which will require work at the piano. Your child is still young, and to progress well will need your patient, consistent and informed involvement in his/her work. Therefore you will need to ensure your own close familiarity with what is being covered in lessons.

You will, of course, need an acoustic piano (i.e. not an electronic keyboard or synthesiser or digital piano or clavinova etc.) at home to practise on, and it will need to be tuned every six months or so. I can give you advice on this if you need it.

If you are interested, please do contact me for further information:

Nikhil Dally

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