

PIANO, SAX, BASS & UKULELE LESSONS AT CHALFONT

with James Vigurs

james@imtuition.co.uk

Lessons

All lessons are tailored to the needs and expectations of students/parents/guardians.

It may sound like a truism but I am primarily concerned with getting students to play music; grades might look good on CVs but are not always conducive to facilitating the learning process. In my experience students tend to respond better to playing music they enjoy; they work harder and progress quicker. For some students grades and the sense of achievement that comes with that will be what they thrive on and I do encourage students to do grades when the time is right. Higher grades tend to carry UCAS points so are worth doing if students have aspirations to go to university even if they have no intention of studying music.

Piano

I teach piano a number of different ways. The first is the traditional method; this is for people that want to be able to read piano music and is better for those who are more classically inclined or know they want to read music. This is a slow process and requires a great deal of dedication and effort from the student. The other way of teaching is more modern and is about understanding chords and how to use them to produce something that sounds like a piano part and extends to skills such as learning to play by ear. This is described as playing keyboards as opposed to piano and is better for those who want to learn to accompany their singing or want to play pop or rock music. It is more instantly gratifying in the sense that students end up progressing much quicker at the early stages. I also teach jazz piano which is a combination of these two disciplines.

For absolute piano beginners I tend to use the Play Piano Teenage series until they reach a level that could consider grade level pieces. From then I like to use the ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal School of Music) or Rockschool Piano grade material for those who want to play modern piano music. For keyboard I tend to teach using material chosen by the student to progressively understand chords and their potential. For jazz piano I like using the ABRSM jazz material.

Saxophone

For saxophone tuition I tend to use jazz material produced by ABRSM or Jamey Aebersold's series of books which focus on jazz, blues, funk and improvisation. Both sets of material cater for a wide range of abilities and styles as well as including CDs with quality backing tracks which make playing much more enjoyable and aid the learning process. I am also happy for students to choose their own learning material in any style or to take pupils through grades for which I tend to use ABRSM (either classical or jazz).

Bass

For bass guitar I like to blend learning songs that the student enjoys with the bass grade material produced by Rockschool which teaches reading standard music notation and tab (guitar notation) as well as nurturing the ability to play bass in a wide range of genres. Rockschool books also come with CDs with quality backing tracks.

Ukulele

The ukulele is more commonly taught in classes of 3+ but can also be done in pairs or one-to-one. I teach the ukulele almost entirely by learning songs usually with a combination of books and songs chosen by the students so be prepared to have some ideas of songs to learn.

Instruments

Students will be required to bring their own instruments to lessons with the exception of piano. Bass players do not need to bring amps; just a bass and lead will suffice. If you would like advice on buying or hiring instruments please contact me using the email address above as buying instruments is very difficult especially if you are not well informed. If you buy a cheap instrument you may find it virtually unplayable and therefore a false economy. I am often able to get discounts on new instruments compared to prices on the high street.

Prices

- * Individual lessons: £150 per term - 10 x 25 minute lessons
- * Shared lessons (pairs): £100 per term - 10 x 25 minute lessons
- * Group lessons (3+): £80 per term - 10 x 25 minute lessons

Shared and group lessons subject to availability of suitable partners.

Terms & Conditions

- * Payment is due at the beginning of each term; non payment by third lesson may result in the termination of lessons
- * Payment can be transferred to my account (preferred) or a cheque can be brought to lessons
- * You commit to lessons at the beginning of term for the whole term and attendance of a lesson will be taken as that commitment. If you decide to cancel lessons part way through a term there will be no refund. I appreciate as much notice of cancellation of lessons as possible but before the first lesson of term is sufficient.

Please feel free to contact me regarding the progress of students using the email address above.

I tend to give an update when I send out invoices and will contact you with any concerns regarding amount of practice being done.