



Maestro Music



Hi, I am Sonja Whitehouse from Maestro Music Studio. I will be joining the team at Balmoral SDA school next term and look forward to ministering to your children through music.

I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Music from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, in 2008. I have done extensive work as a vocal coach for various choirs in South Africa, as well as doing private teaching in piano and singing from my home studio in Auckland. As a Christian, I see my studio as a ministry, and I would like to teach your child to develop his musical talent to be used in God's service.

So why should you let your child have music lessons? Do you need a good reason to make room among the ballet, soccer, basketball and many other afterschool activities to enrol your child in music lessons?

Here are just a few good reasons why music education is worth the investment:

1) Develop a Musical talent.

Believe it or not, but children are not born with an innate gift of music. Musical talent is developed just like learning a native language through early-age training.

2) Learn study skills.

During music lessons, students develop memorisation and study skills that can easily be transferred to other subject areas.

3) Music education will help your child develop a critical ear which will improve their ability to hear pitch and sound. This, in turn, will help them to sing in tune.

4) Music education improves academic skills. Maybe he won't be the next Beethoven, but he may have an easier time learning math. Music and math are highly intertwined. By understanding beat, rhythm and scales, children are learning how to divide, create fractions and recognise patterns.

5) It develops mental and physical skills. Playing the piano is a whole-brain activity. This means both the left and right hemisphere of the brain is fully engaged when you play. Learning to play the piano develops your coordination and motor skills, as it requires movement of the hands, arms and feet, often demanding different actions from the left and right hand

simultaneously. It is a bit like rubbing your belly and patting your head at the same time. Then add tapping your foot...

6) It refines discipline and patience. Learning an instrument teaches students about delayed gratification. Playing an instrument teaches kids to persevere through hours, months, and sometimes years of practice before they reach specific goals, such as performing with a band or memorizing a solo piece. Private lessons and practising at home helps students to develop the ability to focus and concentrate for longer periods of time.

If you think it is time for your child to develop his musical potential, why don't you contact me today? Lessons will be given at the school on Fridays during school hours, and are \$25 per half hour, or \$50 per hour.

Kind regards,

Sonja