



2012 Newsletter



This cartoon, kind of depicts our facial expressions and what other musicians think of us, but **Drummers**....we are far more intelligent than we look....and we have HEART!! So drum students and fellow enthusiasts, continue to do what you're doing...we march to a different beat and we drive the rest of the bandwagon too!!

The end of the school year is almost upon us and I am sure we are all looking forward to some rest over the summer holidays. I have had a splendid year teaching and also meeting and chatting with parents that come by for the lessons...and I hope, you, as students, have learnt a wee thing or two this past year!!

My apologies that the drum concert did not go ahead this year as planned, but we will certainly arrange to do this in Term 1, possibly end March or early April 2013. I know a fair

number of students were looking forward to this...but we did not have enough support to make this feasible.

Some of my very first students (when I migrated to Auckland in 2006) are graduating from school this year and moving on with their lives at University or at their new work places and I have mixed emotions seeing them move on!! Like an old dad, I am sad to see them go but honored that I have made an influence in their lives. 2 students have decided to follow their mentor and make music their careers and have taken this on at University. Natasha Easey and Jayan Bhikha I wish you every success in your future endeavors and I am always available to you if you need any advice or support. I have 3 more wonderful students who finish/finished this year – Waverley Taylor, Ben Bristow and Jessie Baker and once again, I wish you a bright future in whatever you decide to do and you know where to find me...if ever my help is needed!

I must mention one very outstanding young lady, Michelle Watson (graduating from Uni this year) who took on drum lessons for a period of 4 months and rocketed from Zero to Grade 2 in that amazingly short time frame. She moves on as well to take up work at Disney World in the U.S and I hope that she will continue to develop and hone her drum skills in her spare time.

With only a limited number of slots available during the year, a handful of talented new students started lessons and I hope to encourage, develop and nurture them to reap rewards both at school musical events and/or public performances.

As I write this newsletter, 11 students have sat the Trinity College of London drum examinations from Grades 1 to 5 and I am confident we can expect fabulous results. Almost every student that has sat their NCEA levels 1-3 exams and mock exams during the year (Years 11-13) have attained "Excellences" in their reports....this represents a score of 90% and above. Once again, you students do me proud and I am certainly impressed...the pieces that you've had to perform are NOT easy and your dedication and hard work paid off!

A very young talented student, Ethan Archer (10 years old) from Willow Park School, most of you will remember his "no holds barred" performance at last year's concert, was auditioned as a finalist for a special workshop with the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra (APO) as an understudy to Mr. Eric Rennick, the Principal Percussionist and though he eventually did not get selected...his talent did not go unrecognized!! I'm confident more opportunities will come his way in the future. Great stuff ET for taking up the challenge!!

On my own personal musical journey, it's been a hectic year with my band D'Groove, playing the pub circuit and some private events and I also started NZ's first 'Bollywood' Band in May of this year. It's a unique ensemble comprising both band and dancers and we go by the name 'Nasha'. In the last 3 months, the band has done a few fundraisers as well as some pretty high profile events, The Auckland Council Diwali Celebrations at Aotea Square and also the Manukau Indian Association/Humm FM's Diwali Celebration at Telstraclear Pacific Events Centre...so this project has also kept me on my toes!! More to look forward to, in the coming year. I was involved in another stage Musical 'Barnum' early in the year with an 18 piece "Circus" styled Big Band and have already been booked in for "Chicago-The Musical" for March 2013. This will be another fantastic spectacle...with awesome music from the 40's Jazz era!!

For the next 2 months though...I think I will kick back a little and enjoy sitting around the many Bays on the Shore and soak up some sun...and spend some time with the family...NO DRUMS!!!

I will be preparing my schedules around mid January, so if you have plans to continue with lessons in 2013, please ensure you have made this known to me before **23 November 2012**, so that I hold a slot for you. If not, I will assume you are NOT continuing and your slot will be made available for new students. I have received a fair amount of confirmations already, but there are still some who have not responded.

Once again my sincere thanks for your patronage over the past year/s, and through your support I have been fortunate to continue to do what I do. It's been great fun!!

I wish you all a wonderful summer break and a Blessed Xmas Season and a Prosperous 2013!!

Mark

