Dogs and Birds: Teaching Piano to 3 - 7 Year Olds

Two-Day Workshop for Piano and Music Teachers, including Progression to the Use of Sol-fa

Speaker – Elza Lusher

Friday 3 and Saturday 4 June, 2016, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm both days (with a 1 hour lunch break)

Venue: Windsor United Reformed Church, William Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1BA

(Registration will begin at 9.30 am, with the workshop proper starting at 10.00 am)

Elza Lusher was born in Hungary and obtained a degree in Piano Teaching from the Liszt Academy. She taught piano for five years in various music schools in Hungary before moving to England in 1991. Elza has always incorporated Kodály principles into her piano teaching, in particular the use of singing and listening to develop musicality. As piano tutor on the Kodály Institute of Britain's Teachers' Course run by Prof. Cecilia Vajda she helped many piano teachers to use this approach. Around fifteen years ago she began to develop the Dogs and Birds method, together with her husband Chris. This enables very young children (ages 3 to 7) to learn to play the piano, and includes a strong emphasis on singing. As well as teaching on a one-to-one basis, Elza has applied this system to teaching groups to sing in nursery schools and to play keyboard in infant schools. The Dogs and Birds method is gaining popularity and is already being used by many hundreds of piano teachers around the world.

This two day workshop will cover the basic principles behind the Dogs and Birds method, and lead ultimately to the use of sol-fa:

- General introduction to teaching very young children – when and how.
- Improvisation – from the first lesson to using sol-fa and composition.
- Ear Training – listening and singing using the animal names.
- Rhythm Exercises – preparing for playing hands together and establishing a strong beat.
- Finger Exercises – emphasizing strong links with other elements of the lesson.
- Using the animal notes – aids sight-singing, relieves pressure, allows greater focus on music.
- Switching to the blank notes edition – learning intervals and linking with ear training.
- Introduction to sol-fa for piano – new material to make the switch easy.
- General teaching issues – questions, discussion, other teaching material.

Day 1 will be concerned mainly with the material in Dogs and Birds Book 1 and the Nursery Rhyme/Famous Melodies Repertoire Book, and will describe in detail the various musical games and exercises that form part of the Dogs and Birds Method. This will be similar to the one day Dogs and Birds Windsor workshops held earlier.

Day 2 will focus around the material in Book 2. It will follow on from Day 1 (and the previous one day Windsor Workshops). It will also discuss the switch to singing Sol-fa (using the new Simply Sol-fa Book), and the move from Dogs and Birds to conventional music. Participants of Day 2 should have either attended Day 1 or a previous Windsor Workshop.

Both days will include video and live demonstrations and also a general discussion session and a question and answer session.

This course is aimed at piano teachers and music teachers. It should be of benefit both to those new to the approach and also to those with experience of this teaching method. Delegates can attend either day or both days.

Dogs and Birds material will be available at a discount on the day.

Comments from some attendees of earlier Windsor Workshops:

The workshop was an excellent opportunity for me, well priced and set up. I was already very positive about the day and the Dogs and Birds method but I came away with far more than I expected. Reading the format for the day, I wondered initially if there were too many example lessons but in practice it was so valuable to see the students in action and, perhaps even more valuable, Elza's teaching style - her respect for the students, the manner in which she instructed, used the materials and brought the students' attention back to the task at hand. I have found myself modelling my teaching style on Elza so often since the workshop, it does make me smile especially as it is so effective!! Really I felt such joy to see a teacher truly care about the individual experience and inner life of the young person. So the student examples were inspiring. It was particularly helpful to hear about other books to branch into after graduation from Dogs and Birds and to have examples of the animal tiles and stave demonstrated. **Alison Blackhall**

I would highly recommend this course to anyone who wants to develop their teaching for young children. With these books teaching young children is a delight, all my 5 and 6 years old pupils are progressing really well and I am even starting a four year old next term! **Penelope Sapiro**

I would just like to say a big thank you for such a lovely day yesterday. I found watching the lessons being taught 'live' was a huge benefit and I am so looking forward to introducing this system more effectively and thoroughly now that I have seen it in action. **Sue Atkinson**

Thanks for a great day- I enjoyed it so much and it's been really helpful finding a method that puts into practice lots of my ideas but I've never had time to develop, as well as so many new ideas that I can't wait to try out! **Catherine Jones**

I already knew "Dogs and Birds" was great for little ones. But the workshop really gave me new ideas, especially watching Elza teach some of her students – it was amazing to see how "Dogs and Birds" worked in practice and gave even very young pupils solid musicianship skills. **Sue Martin**

Thank you so much for the workshop. I found it really inspirational. I have never taught such young children before and didn't know how to go about it. Now I can't wait to try out the Dogs and Birds method as I could see from the you tube clips and from the performances of your pupils how child friendly the approach is. I especially liked the way the children could sing and play using solfa at such an early age. **Heather Rainer**

I just wanted to thank you for the workshop you held yesterday. It was a very informative and enjoyable day and your little students were awesome. I find your methods and materials just amazing and am really looking forward to using them with my kids. Thanks so much. I'm very inspired and am so glad I attended! **Emily Hilson**

The United Reformed Church is in the centre of Windsor

Directions to the Church from M4

At junction 6, take the A355 exit to Slough (Central)/Windsor/A332

At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto A355 heading to Windsor/A332

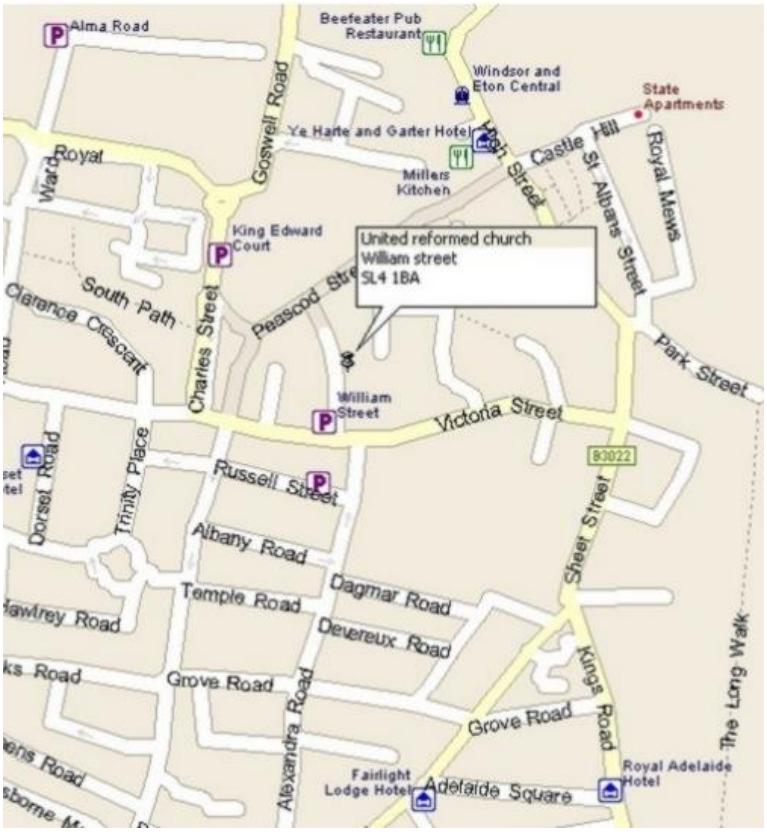
Continue onto A332

At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Clarence Rd

Continue onto Victoria St

Turn left at William St

The Church is on the Right



Car Parking

There is no parking at the church, but there is all day parking close to the church in the Victoria Street Car Park. The cost for a day's parking there is £11.00. Slightly further away is the Dials, Alma road, Windsor, SL4 3HY. There a day's parking is £7.00.

Application Form

Please print, complete and post with cheque, **made payable to Dogs and Birds**, to
Dogs and Birds, 48 Nobles Way, Egham, Surrey, TW20 9RJ

(or you can email details and pay through online banking; Bank: Barclays, Sort Code: 20-81-11, Account No. 80539740, Trading as Dogs and Birds)

Workshop Fee: £55.00 for 1 Day, £95 for 2 Days, if application received before 3rd April
£65.00 for 1 Day, £110 for 2 Days, if application received before 3rd May
£75.00 for 1 Day, £120 for 2 Days, if application received after 3rd May

I would like to attend the workshop by Elza Lusher:
"Dogs and Birds: Teaching Piano to 3 - 7 Year Olds"

Please state which days you would like to attend (3rd June, 4th June or both days) _____

I enclose a cheque for the full workshop fee, i.e.

£ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print name: _____

Home address: _____

_____

Postcode: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Evening phone: _____

Personal e-mail address: _____

There will be an hour's break for lunch each day. Tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring your own lunch, or plan to eat out. There are plenty of places to eat in Windsor.

On receipt of payment we will email or telephone to confirm that your place has been reserved for this workshop. Please email info@dogsandbirds.co.uk for further enquiries, or phone 020 8123 7665.

Website: www.dogsandbirds.co.uk