

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

Full Day Workshop for Piano Teachers, including Progression to the Use of Sol-fa

Speaker – Elza Lusher

Saturday 14 April, 2012, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm (with a 1 hour lunch break)

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



**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 twelve 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 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.

This is a repeat of the successful workshop held last summer. It should be of benefit both to those new to the approach and also to those with experience of this teaching method. It will include both video and live demonstrations and also a general discussion session and a question and answer session.

**Dogs and Birds material will be available at 20% discount on the day.**

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

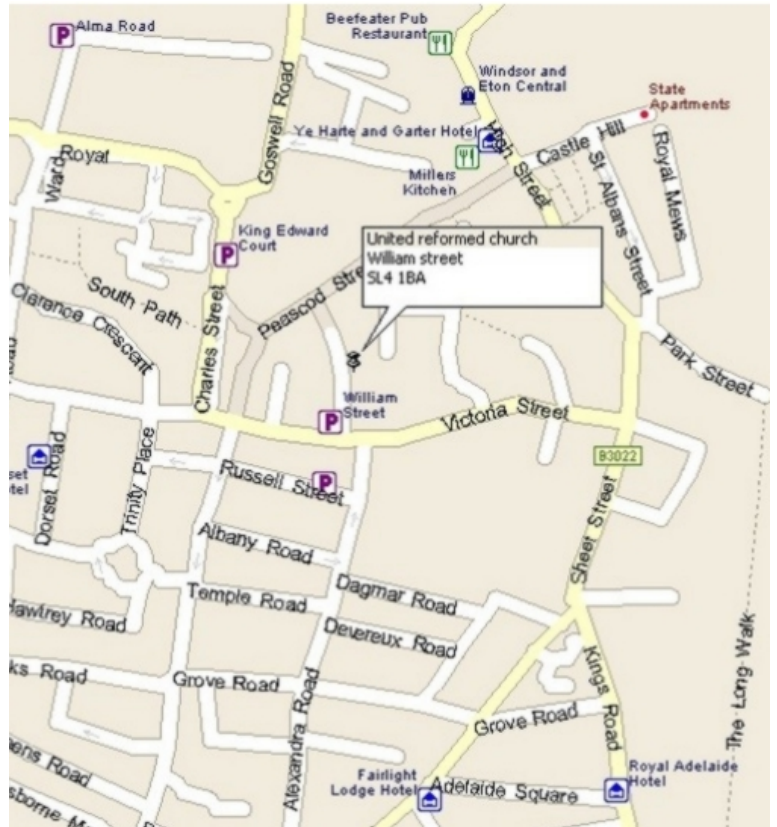
Continue onto A332

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 £10.60.

# 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

Workshop Fee:       £45.00 if application received before 14<sup>th</sup> March  
                          £55.00 if application received after 14<sup>th</sup> March

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

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. 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](mailto:info@dogsandbirds.co.uk) for further enquiries, or phone 020 8123 7665.

Website: [www.dogsandbirds.co.uk](http://www.dogsandbirds.co.uk)