

Music Newsletter Term 2 2026

Welcome back to Term 2 music lessons. I hope that you were not impacted by the stormy weather recently. Students will notice that the ranchslider door is now a lot easier to open after the rollers have been replaced. A gentle pull is all that is needed now to open the door.

This time instead of a photo I am sharing a particularly nice feijoa cake recipe below– though it does involve a lot of chopping!

Students worked well on their pieces last term. If students are unable to attend my end-of-term concerts, do encourage them to give you a performance at home of their latest piece. This way they can show their enjoyment of music making and get used to performing.

Students are all working towards my assessment certificates which are based on the exam requirements with additional material such as duets and progress through tutor books. Exam options are the digital performance exam, when a video of a student's performance of four exam pieces is sent to ABRSM for assessment. This exam can be done at any time.

Face-to-face ABRSM exams are also available but only in one session in Wellington at the end of the year. Entries for these face-to-face exams are due in July. Please let me know if you wish students to sit a face-to-face exam rather than a digital exam.

I always appreciate it if students stay away from lessons when they are sick. Please remember that I will provide catch-up lessons but not if lessons are cancelled shortly before the lesson.

Reports: These were sent home with students at the last lesson in Term 1. If you would prefer reports to be emailed, please let me know.

Changes to lesson times. It is a help to me to know about camps and other clashes with lessons well in advance. Email a.erasmuson@gmail.com

Achievements in Term 1:

Exams: ABRSM digital performance: Grade 2: Aira (term 4); Jeruel, Ethan

Certificates: Students achieved my internally assessed certificates –

Piano 4: Jonas; 3a: Isabella; 2b: Xavier; 2a: Anya; 1a: Riley

Consistent practice resulted in **Practice progress prizes for:**

Seniors: 1= Jeruselah, Jonas, Kevin, Wilson, Emily, Elysia, Luna, Kael (flute), Arya

runners-up: Eric, Lachlan, Kael (piano), Paisley, Anya

Juniors: 1= Jeruel, Vida, Nathan, Ryan L

runners-up: Riley, Sienna, Ethan, Elyse and Lucy

Well done to all of you.

Concerts coming up: Hutt Valley Orchestra, St James Church, Lower Hutt on Sunday 3 May at 3pm: includes Khachaturian "Spartacus Suite". For all the programme visit <https://www.hvo.org.nz/nextconcert.html>

Term dates: Saturday 18 April – Saturday 4 July. This term is 11 weeks long.

No lessons – King's Birthday Monday 1 June.

Fees due by lesson three, week of 2nd May.

End-of-term concert - for school students only, at 11a Lane Street

Sunday: 28 June at 5.00pm

Feijoa and Date Cake with Crystallized Ginger

(with variations but thanks to "Beyond Apple Pie" from NZ Tree Crops Association) see next page

Feijoa and Date Cake with Crystallized Ginger
(with variations but thanks to "Beyond Apple Pie" from NZ Tree Crops Association)

1 cup dates	½ cup crystallized ginger, chopped
1 cup of boiling water	2 cups of plain flour
1tsp baking soda	1 tsp baking powder
150g butter or Olivani	½ tsp ground ginger
½ cup sugar	
1 egg	
2 cups peeled chopped feijoas	

Heat oven to 175 degrees C (fanbake).

Combine dates, water and soda and put aside to soak and then, once softened, cut up dates with scissors.

Cream olivani and sugar and beat in egg. Mix chopped feijoas and crystallized ginger with creamed mixture. Sift flour, baking powder and ground ginger and fold in along with dates, water and soda.

Pour into a 24cm lined pan and bake for about 35 to 40 minutes. Leave in tin for ten minutes before turning onto rack.

Nice as a cake or warmed with some plain yoghurt on top as dessert.