

Happy Lunar New Year 2016!

One of our most satisfactory rewards for the teaching profession is to see our students grow to become confident young men and women, capable to use their skills for their advancement in life. There are at times when we feel that our children are growing up a little too fast and thus can't help reminiscing the past. Whatever it is, the children nowadays are being exposed to more opportunities to learn as compared to how we were in the past. They achieve milestones which were out of bounds for us in the old days. The new technologies in media and education open up new and exciting avenues for children to reach greater heights via pathways never seen before in the older generations.



We have seen more and more of our younger students reaching the diploma levels at a young age. It poses challenges for us to continue finding inspiring ways to teach and to guide them effectively to scale the new heights. Parents are most bewildered with all kinds of diplomas offered by the examination boards. Hence, I thought it would be a good start for us to begin the year by introducing highly sought after and recognized music diplomas suitable for our young children. As most of qualifications are UK based, I would introduce only diplomas for performance in this article. Most examination boards won't accept students who are younger than 18 for the entry of the teaching diplomas, but you are welcomed to come forward to ask us for any assistance in this area.

The office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) regulates examinations, qualifications and assessments in England. Their Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) is a credit transfer system to recognize each qualification by awarding credits. The QCF system gives awards at any difficulty level from 1 to 8 which is due to the size of its qualification and not its difficulty level. The latter is indicated by the title of its qualification which, however, also reveals the size of its qualification and its subject.

A few key points to consider when making decision on which diplomas to work on:

- (1) Pre-requisites of each diploma - Different diplomas have different pre-requisites so it is best to read through the most updated exam syllabus. They are normally available online.
- (2) The level of competency - It is helpful to look at the repertoire list required for each diploma and decide whether it is possible to achieve an acceptable standard of performance of the repertoire. Discussions with your teachers are crucial. Bear in mind of the preparation duration that you need for each diploma.
- (3) Planning ahead - It is possible to take different route for students to gain higher diploma qualifications. However, some students prefer to follow only the route of 1 examination board to gain their highest diplomas.
- (4) Diploma exam schedule - The diploma schedule of different examination boards maybe different from the graded examinations. So it is best to check carefully online to make sure you don't miss the registration dates.
- (5) Written submissions/Program Notes/Viva Voce/Quick Study - Please take note that some diplomas require students to submit an essay or program notes upon registration or on the day of the examination. There may be a 'viva voce' or an 'oral test' segment in the exam apart from performing the required repertoire. Some may have 'Sight Reading' or 'Quick Study' test too.
- (6) Gaining more performing experience - As these diplomas are professional diplomas, the marking standard is stricter than the graded exams, so it is advisable for students to gain as many as performing experience as possible to learn how to present a recital program and to learn how to control their nerves while playing to a live audience.

I hope that the chart below helps you to understand the different diplomas further. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need further clarification.

Examination Board	Diploma Levels	Pre-requisites	Exam Requirements	Accreditation (Comparisons in terms of level of demand)
ABRSM	DipABRSM (performance)	Practical G 8 (or equivalent)	Recital Viva Voce Quick Study Program notes	QCF Level 4 (Degree first year)
ABRSM	LRSM (performance)	DipABRSM (or equivalent)	Recital Viva Voce Quick Study Program notes	QCF Level 6 (Degree final year)
ABRSM	FRSM (performance)	LRSM (or equivalent)	Recital Written Submissions Viva Voce Quick Study	QCF Level 7 (Masters)
LCME	DipLCM (performance-Recital Option)	Theory G 5 (or equivalent)	Performance Quick Study	QCF Level 4 (Degree first year)
LCME	ALCM (performance)	Theory G 5 (or equivalent)	Performance Viva Voce Essay	QCF Level 5 (Degree 2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
LCME	LLCM (performance)	ALCM (or equivalent)	Performance Program Notes	QCF Level 6 (Degree final year)
LCME	FLCM (performance)	LLCM (or equivalent)	Performance Program Notes	QCF Level 7 (Masters)
TCM	ATCL (Recital)	None	Recital Presentation Skills & Program Notes	QCF Level 4 (Degree first year)
TCM	LTCL (Recital)	None	Recital Presentation Skills & Program Notes	QCF Level 6 (Degree final year)
TCM	FTCL (Recital)	LTCL (or equivalent)	Recital Presentation Skills & Program Notes	QCF Level 7 (Masters)

\* ABRSM : Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, LCME : London College of Music Examinations, TCM : Trinity College of Music

Lastly, I would like to end this article with a quote by Albert Einstein, who was not only a renowned physicist, but an established violinist:

"The theory of relativity occurred to me by intuition, and music is the driving force behind this intuition. My parents had me study the violin from the time I was six. My new discovery is the result of musical perception"

## Welcome

We welcome the following teachers to our Seimpi family:



Mr Wong Chee Yean



Ms Sarah Chan



Ms Nicoletta

## News & Events

### Christmas Concert (19th December 2015) @ Biopolis Auditorium

Our students enjoyed themselves in this annual Christmas Concert which also featured Seimpi's very first Musical. Thank you to all teachers and students for your hardwork in making this concert a great success.



### New outlet @ JCube

Seimpi's newest addition is now operational at JCube (#04-13/14, Tel : 62621193). Classes have started and teachers teaching there include Camila, Sarah Chan, Wong Chee Yean, Lynlibeth Lim and Nicoletta (Violin).



### New courses (in collaboration with Seimpi MIM International)



We are excited to be able to offer 2 new courses : MIM English & MIM Speech & Drama.

This is an extension of our popular Music for the Intelligent Mind (MIM) philosophy of building strong foundation in the subject matter, through fun, holistic, effective, age appropriate activities using current pedagogies. These 2 courses are created to complement the musical training of your child, to foster greater creative expression and stronger command of the English language. All these trainings will better prepare the young generation for the future economy and personal growth.

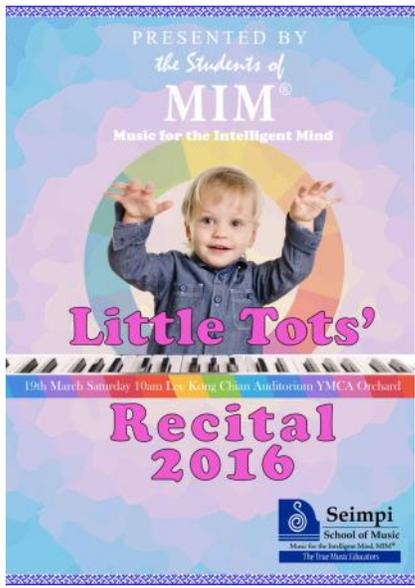


Have fun with Seimpi's own Musical Sudoku: Each row and column must contain 4 of the different note values:

**MUSICAL SUDOKU**


## Upcoming Concerts

- (1) Little Tots Recital (19th March 2016) @ YMCA Auditorium
- (2) Classical Extravaganza 9 (30th July 2016) @ YMCA Auditorium
- (3) SMART Recital (28 August 2016) @ Esplanade Recital Studio



## Achievements

### National Piano & Violin Competition 2015

We would like to congratulate Fong Jean Ann for winning the 2nd Prize in the National Piano & Violin Competition 2015. We salute her perseverance, hardwork & unwavering spirit. We also congratulate Fong Jean Ying for reaching the semi-finals in the same competition. Your fighting spirit and positive attitude sets a good example to all your peers. We also thank their teachers Mr Rado, Ms Helen, Mr Simeon and also Ms Shiely who laid a good foundation for Jean Ann in the MIM classes.



*Jean Ann & Mr Rado at the Prize Giving Ceremony.*



*(L) Mr Rado, Jean Ann, Jean Ying, Ms Flora Lim (Principal).*

### SMART Program Students' Achievements 2015

We would like to congratulate all SMART students for your tenacity and determination, below are their achievements:

#### Jean-Ying

First Prize, "The Muse" International Piano Competition, Greece, October 2015

First Prize and invitation to perform at Studio Auditorium Paris Opera Bastille, "Grand Prize Virtuoso" Paris, November 2015

Semi – finalist in the National Arts Council Piano Competition, November 2015

#### Jean Ann

First Prize, "The Muse" International Piano Competition, Greece, October 2015

First Prize and invitation to perform at Studio Auditorium Paris Opera Bastille, "Grand Prize Virtuoso" Paris, November 2015

2<sup>nd</sup> prize winner in the National Arts Council Piano Competition 2015

#### Dillon Lim

First Prize and invitation to perform at Studio Auditorium Paris Opera Bastille, "Grand Prize Virtuoso" Paris, November 2015

#### Shannen Tay

First Prize, The American Protege International Piano and Strings Competition, November 2015

Prize winner in Asia Piano Competition Taipei, July 2015

#### Kelsey Wong

Second Prize, "Grand Prize Virtuoso" Paris, November 2015

Prize winner in Asia Piano Competition Taipei, July 2015

#### Vivian Li

First Prize, International Youth Piano Competition, Singapore, October 2015

#### Casey Li

Second Prize, International Youth Piano Competition, Singapore, October 2015

First Prize, "Grand Prize Virtuoso" Paris, November 2015

#### Neo Yan Siong

Prize winner in Asia Piano Competition Taipei, July 2015

#### Grace Wun

Prize winner in Asia Piano Competition Taipei, July 2015

#### Peniel Ku

Third Prize, The American Protege International Piano and Strings Competition, November 2015

#### Hannah Hui

Prize winner in Asia Piano Competition Taipei, July 2015



*(L) Shannen Tay, Kelsey Wong, Hannah Hui, Neo Yan Siong, Grace Wun. Asia Piano Competition, Taipei 2015.*