

BMG TEACHERS COURSE OUTLINE

It is proposed to run a second Mandolin Teachers Course from December 2009, over 5 weekends, following the Course outline detailed below. The qualifications which can be gained are twofold

- Teachers Diploma offered by Victoria College
- Teachers Diploma with emphasis on Scottish Music offered by ICMA

The general contents of the course will be taught by two experienced tutors in residence, who will deal with aspects such as Teaching Methodology, Mandolin Technique, History, Repertoire and Form and who will offer participants individual lessons.

Overview of the Course contents:

The course time is split into four sections:

1. Practical Work

- Mandolin Individual lessons will prepare candidates for the practical exam
- Mandolin technique
- Conducting/ group leading
- Technical and musical aspects of the styles discussed

2. Methodology

- General teaching methodology and Mandolin methodology
- Beginners and Improvers literature
- Lessons observations
- Teaching of groups
- Teaching how to play by ear

3. Scottish Music

- History, Form & Literature of early music
- Scottish traditional music of the 18th century
- History, Form & Literature of the 19th century
- Styles and forms in Scottish Music
- New Scottish Music

4. Repertoire, History, Form & Literature:

- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- Contemporary & Popular Music
- Latin
- Mandolin Music of North America

WEEKEND 1

On the first weekend tutors will offer workshops on the basics of Teaching Methodology, for example the setting of aims and objectives and the fundamentals of Lesson Planning in the short, medium and long term. Aspects of doing a workshop and building a Technique programme will be discussed and demonstrated.

The historic emphasis of the weekend will be the music of the 18th century (both "Classical" and "Celtic"). The styles and forms and specific instrumental techniques needed to play this music will be taught. The mandolin music of the 18th century will be looked at from various angles with the resident tutors dealing with classical mandolin and guest tutors dealing with specialised aspects of Early fretted instruments and Historic Collections of Scottish Music. It is intended that participants will take an active part in all of the activities above, so that they can quickly become involved in the requirements of teaching in a group situation.

Prior to the course participants will be asked to familiarise themselves with the basics of music notation using the Associated Board Workbooks grade 1 & 2.

As well as preparatory work for the weekends, participants will be set homework tasks, which will count towards accreditation. Researching available literature will be a regular feature on all weekends.

WEEKEND 2

Weekend 2 will pick up on some of the aspects learned in Weekend 1 and many of the topics will continue; Graded Exam study will move towards Grades 3 and 4 levels; methodology will continue and amongst other things 'teaching by ear' will be explored. This will relate closely to the study of 'Celtic' music forms and instrumental techniques begun on Weekend 1 and continued into weekend 2. The History and Repertoire to be explored will be that of the 19th century in Britain and Europe and the art of ensemble leading and accompaniment will also be looked at in various ways in the context of group teaching.

WEEKEND 3

On this weekend the methodology of Group Teaching will be looked at in detail, as will the art of making a set in Celtic Music, and individual lessons and other established activities will continue. The History, Repertoire and Form of the 20th century, which shows a vast influence of various musical influences, will be the major new topic on this weekend.

WEEKEND 4

On this weekend there will be two guest tutors who will look at very different aspects of teaching mandolin. Firstly, there will be a workshop on the motivational and intellectual aspects of teaching both children and adults in a group, which will look beyond the mandolin and consider how to motivate students in a wide variety of ways. Secondly there will be an in depth look at all aspects of teaching both South American (Latin) and North American mandolin music.

WEEKEND 5

On the final weekend an opportunity for participants to review previous topics and established activities will continue. As well as these, it is proposed to look at teaching aspects of Popular Music in the widest sense. The issue of taking a piece of Popular Music and arranging parts for use in a mandolin groups class will be explored. The history, repertoire and forms of Popular music will be looked at. Throughout the course participants will be asked to undertake research into all aspects which have been taught and exploring available literature will be a key activity on all weekends.