



v i r t u o s i s c h o o l o f m u s i c

Newsletter – Winter 2009/2010

Happy New Year...

As we welcome 2010 we say goodbye to Theodoros, who takes up his post as Piano Professor at the Department of Science and Art of the "Macedonia" University in Thessaloniki. He had little time to pack following his appointment, and we warmly welcomed his esteemed colleague Giovanni Cardilli as his recommended replacement: "My thoughts are often with my pupils there...hope that everything is going well for them and that they are happy with Giovanni."

ABRSM Grade Exams in 2010

The ABRSM exam consists of Scales and Arpeggios (committed to memory), three contrasting pieces, as well as sight reading and aural testing appropriate to each grade. The ABRSM exams are very popular and for good reason. The course

materials serve as the goal posts to developing rounded musicianship in all pupils. Even the avid rock n' roll guru would be well advised to have the grade exams under their belt. Syllabi, dates & fees as well as application forms can be found at the ABRSM's Dutch web page: <http://www.abrsm.org/NL>. It is possible for new students (typically whom have been learning less than a year) to sit a preparatory test, gaining helpful, positive feedback from the examiners and also invaluable exam experience. Please talk to your teachers about exam possibilities, and do email me with further questions, support or materials. Note the early deadlines for entry into each exam period, two months prior to the exam, which as those attending the concert will remember, leads us to our next item...

Practical Exam:	Last Date of Entry
March	Saturday 16 January
May/June	Saturday 13 February
November/December	Saturday 25 September

The Christmas Concert!



Despite many absences due to the festive season there was nonetheless a full house at de Boskantkerk for our Christmas Concert on December 19th. Our hosts commented on the quality and ease of the performances from self - accompanied song to traditional ballads, Christmas tunes and rock and roll. Those performing immediately appreciate the importance of formal concert opportunities, and it was especially great to see the new students perform for the first time. Well done to all!

Above: Special thanks again to Vanilla Music for providing Flynn with his new electric guitar. We are very lucky to have such generous business partners and we look forward to extending our working relationship, with Caroline & Marcus' offer of teaching space at their Westeinde Studios.

