

Foundation Course Part Three – Task 10a

Self - Review

Sound comes before Sight and Practice comes before Theory .

After becoming a mother, my eyes were opened to the way we learn. I witnessed babies learning our spoken language through song, repetition, and mimicry. I loved watching young children learn through play and exploration. I'd fallen in love with music and the power it possessed to control our emotions, teach language and allow expression without words.

My desire is to nurture my students, supporting them to reach high technical aptitude, confidence in reading advanced repertoire, all the while giving them time and skills to express their own emotions through composition.

My belief in making the process enjoyable and rewarding, will retain interest in forever learning the language of music.

I've come across many wonderful quotes that resonate with my philosophy of teaching...

"The more I teach the more I realise that I am not teaching these children to be who I want them to be, I am helping them be who they want to be" Anon

"Playing the piano isn't just about hitting the right notes, it's about expression. It's a tool to express emotion, thought and longing. If you play it that way, even imperfectly, you'll sound better than the best player in the world who plays correctly but with no feeling." David Nevue

How has this course changed me as a beginner teacher? Before completing this Foundation Course, I had never come across the word Pedagogy. I know can say it confidently and understand its meaning. Key competencies were new to me too and now T.R.U.M.P is in the forefront of my teaching plans. I have loved researching teaching methods, collecting wonderful resources that so many generous Piano bloggers, teachers and educators have made available online. I've been introduced to the world of podcasts and webinars and feel so incredibly fortunate to be starting my teaching career in this day and age. Not only can I watch other teachers in my community teach, I have access to online masterclasses from great masters. I am a member of a very active creative music teaching community, with access to many experienced teachers all passionate about sharing their knowledge and expertise.

I have become a teacher with a sense of direction. A more confident teacher, one with goals and a strong sense of how I want to teach. The course has made me evaluate how I see myself as a teacher, what I consider a musical student and my philosophy of teaching. It has helped me see my gaps and weaknesses but then given me tools to fill these gaps. It has helped me establish a kind, generous and enthusiastic network of beginner and experienced teachers.