

Project Leader: Research Officers:



Professor Lucy Green Drs. David Baker and Maria Varvarigou

Ear Playing Project (EPP)

http://earplaying.ioe.ac.uk

Fieldwork begins

We are now in the teaching and data collection phase of the project. 129 teachers nationally have joined the project so far. The re-

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search officers, David and Maria have visited 128 students. They have observed one-to-one lessons, groups, children in primary and secondary schools and also private instrumental teaching practices. They have visited venues throughout London and also in Aylesbury, Bedford, Birmingham and Woking. Signs of the 'learning styles' broached by Lucy have been spotted, too. Moreover, it has been fascinating to witness children's aural development and creativity through the ear playing activities.

RNIB events

If you would like your lessons to be observed, please do contact David (for locations outside London) or Maria (for London-based teachers). Your help with gathering data is most appreciated. We would be delighted to discuss the arrangements with you.

New teachers join us

The research team delivered an induction session at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM), Manchester in January 2012. A group of trainee teachers from Manchester Metropolitan university as well as a group of instrumental teachers at Forest Hill School, Lewisham have also joined the project. With other teachers working in Cyprus and Brazil, this evidences great interest in ear playing.

Thank you

We are very grateful for the ongoing support of all the participant teachers and organisations such as: the European String Teachers' Association (ESTA); the European Piano Teachers' Association (EPTA); the National Association of Music Education (NAME); the Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM); and the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM). To everyone who has been keeping their members aware of the project and enthused, through newsletters and websites, please accept our warmest gratitude.

With all good wishes,

Lucy, David and Maria EPP Research Team

Drs. David Baker and Maria Varvarigou



Special ear playing events for musicians and students of the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) are being hosted at the Institute on 25 February and 3 March. James Risdon (RNIB Music Officer) and Sally Zimmermann (Music Advisor) have kindly supported these interesting and apt developments.

How participant teachers can help us

If you are willing to have your lessons observed, please do make contact with David or Maria. Similarly, please let us know if you would like to assist with the ABRSM testing as detailed during the induction sessions. The research team welcomes your views and professional expertise on the strategies, audio materials and handbook. The blog is a good way, too, in which to share your perspectives and network with other participants. It is easy. Here are the steps:

- 1. Enter the secure zone of the EPP website and click the link under 'EPP blog'
- 2. Click the 'Comments' link in the light grey bar of the webpage that appears; this will display remarks already posted; you will need to scroll to the bottom
- Type your comment into the box including your first and last name; select 'Anonymous' from the drop-down menu; click 'Post comment'
- 4. You may be presented with 'Please prove you're not a robot'; please follow this word verification step and click 'Post comment' again; please remember that your remarks will not appear on the blog immediately

On 12 March, teacher and pupil questionnaires will be forwarded by e-mail. If you have not completed the strategies at that point, merely return the documents when you are ready. Some teachers have been making their own lesson notes and/or audio recordings. If you are willing to share these with us, we would be very grateful indeed.

Contact

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