



THE PIANIST

"Music is for a lifetime and I want this to be my gift to all my students," says Hong Kong-born Stephanie Fung Sin Tung, an accomplished concert pianist, accompanist and piano teacher who moved to DB with her husband, Tim and one-year-old son, Foster, in May 2014.

Through her business, Piano Lessons DB, launched in February this year, Stephanie provides piano lessons for students of all ages and abilities – her youngest student is four and the oldest is 60. She also offers piano accompaniment for public performances, examinations and auditions.

The gift of music

Having taught piano in Hong Kong for the past 15 years, Stephanie has plenty of practical advice for students, delivered both in person and on her website.

Lessons, given on a grand piano in Stephanie's DB studio, vary from 30 minutes for beginners, to an hour or more for higher levels. "Many of my students gain distinctions in their examinations," she says. "They frequently win prizes at piano competitions and perform in recitals in Hong Kong, and some have even pursued successful careers in music."

Stephanie encourages her students to choose a professional accompanist for examinations. "So many people assume that the accompanist is unimportant, but they couldn't be more wrong! If the accompanist messes up, so will the student," she says. "But if the accompanist plays well, it will bring out the best in the student's performance, pushing it to a higher level."

The making of a maestro

Stephanie graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Music (majoring in piano performance) from Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) in 2004. In 2006, she gained a Professional Diploma in piano performance from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA). Due to her outstanding performance at HKAPA, she received a full scholarship for her Master's Degree at Sydney Conservatorium of Music (SCM), plus two additional scholarships from Sydney University and SCM.

Stephanie credits three people with shaping her playing and the way she teaches piano today. "Firstly, my Grandmother encouraged me to do what I loved," she says. "Secondly, my teacher at HKBU, Raymond Young

not only became a very good friend to me, his success and attitude inspired me to be the best I could possibly be. Finally, Gabriel Kwok, the Head of the Keyboard Department at HKAPA, who took my musical knowledge to another level."

Over the years, Stephanie has performed as a solo pianist, orchestral pianist and oboist with the HKBU and HKAPA orchestras, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and the Charity Orchestra in Sydney. In 2012, she co-founded the SMS Trio, a Hong Kong-based chamber music trio for piano, violin and French horn, and in October 2014 she acted as an adjudicator for the Hong Kong Students Open Music Competition. In September, she has been invited to play a piano concerto with the prestigious Classicarts Chamber Orchestra in Tokyo, Japan, where she will also run master classes.

"I'm truly amazed and in awe of her incredible talent," says husband Tim. "There is this presence of confidence in her style of playing the piano, and knowledge in her method of teaching that makes understanding music and learning music easy. I'd recommend her in a heartbeat."

To find out more, visit www.pianolessonsdb.com or the Piano Lessons DB Facebook page. You can also Whatsapp or call 9632 9644, or email pianolessonsdb@gmail.com.