

Craig Smith Music

TUITION AGENCY

Information & Prices for schools 2011-2012

Craig Smith BA (Hons), AVCM(TD) (Hons)

www.craigsmithmusic.co.uk

07793 811318

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Testimonials...

I have been having keyboard lessons with Craig for almost three years. He is a very good keyboard teacher and I have learnt a lot from him. He is patient, funny and makes lessons fun! I look forward to my lessons each week.

Jake, Aged 10

I have been receiving music tuition from Craig for nearly three months. In that time I feel I have progressed more than I did in the twelve months before with my previous tutor. Craig listens to what you want to do, not just following a set syllabus week by week.

Stuart Braid

[Since moving to Craig Smith Music] My son is thoroughly enjoying his piano lessons and playing at home, as I don't think he sees this as practice anymore. He now asks us to come and listen, where before we would be asking him to practice.

A very happy parent in Wrea Green

About...

Craig Smith Music

Craig Smith Music, based in Preston, is run by freelance professional musician Craig Smith and operates throughout the North West and beyond. We offer several musical services, including composition and live performance, and became one of, if not *the*, busiest privately-run providers of piano lessons and keyboard tuition anywhere in the North West, before taking on teachers on other instruments.

Craig Smith Music Tuition boasts a remarkable client-base with students living as far afield as The Fylde and Yorkshire Borders, Cumbrian Border as far south as Manchester and Merseyside.

Craig trained at the world-renowned Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, cofounded by Sir Paul McCartney, from whom he received his degree when graduating with first class honours in 2007, with offers of work in Europe, the UAE and USA. He continues to perform as a soloist and with several bands across the country, including most of the major venues, theatres and hotels in the North West, and has made various TV and radio appearances.

The Tuition Agency

Demand for his tuition saw Craig's lessons become oversubscribed a few years ago, with a nine month waiting list, so he looked for other teachers to work with him to take on students he couldn't accommodate himself. Soon guitar teachers, percussionists and drummers, and a woodwind tutor joined the agency too. There are several teachers working with the agency, and 8 available to schools.

The teachers are all self-employed and Craig acts as their agent; this simply means that they are free to choose their own teaching methods and materials, so as not to stifle their creativity and enjoyment of teaching. That said, all teachers are chosen because they employ a similar teaching style and ethos to Craig's. All are young but highly-skilled with first class training, and are enthusiastic and inspirational.

All teachers are asked to provide a valid CRB disclosure.

Lessons & teachers...

Teachers

Teachers accepted onto the books of the Tuition Agency for tuition in schools have to meet various criteria. In addition to enthusiasm for the job, all must perform at or beyond Grade 8 standard on the instrument they teach. Most have – or are in their final year of – music degrees.

Piano / Keyboards	Craig: BA (Hons) Music, AVCM(TD)(Hons) Kimberley: Dip LCM, BA Music (expected 2012 from Salford) Chris: BA, PGCE, CT VCM Stephanie: BA Music (expected 2012 from LIPA) Sarah: BA Music (expected 2012 from Salford)
Guitar / Bass	Paul: BA Music Nick: BA Music, PGCE
Drums / Percussion	Craig: BA (Hons) Music, AVCM(TD)(Hons) Jim: qualifications TBC
Flute / Saxophone	Sarah: BA Music (expected 2012 from Salford)

One-to-one Tuition

One-to-one lessons are available on all of the instruments above, and include tuition in all aspects of learning an instrument: technique, repertoire, theory etc. They can be 20mins or longer. Most students have 30min lessons. Pupils are given the opportunity to choose songs that they like to learn alongside their course books, which we find is a superb way of maintaining and developing their interest.

Our one-to-one lessons can take place during the school day or after school, to suit the needs of the school. Perhaps with the exception of drums and percussion, one-to-one tuition does not require a dedicated practice room; a school hall, canteen or vacant classroom will all provide a sufficient space without too much noise disrupting lessons elsewhere in school.

Group Lessons

By far our most popular option for schools, group lessons allow up to six students to study together in ability groups, friendship groups or simply groups at times that best suit them or the school.

We offer group lessons, but only on the following premise: we will not allow students to share instruments during the lesson and will only allow one student per ten minute duration of the lesson. Too many school services providing group lessons are trying to maximise profit by asking six children to share three keyboards during a twenty minute lesson. We know, because their parents regularly come to us asking for private lessons when their school classes show no progress and they'd like to try our services instead. Unfortunately, their children usually have poor technique by this time too, because the old teacher hadn't time for even the fundamentals.

School group classes are available on piano / keyboard, guitars and woodwind. Due to the space needed for several drum kits, we regret that drum lessons are not available as group classes. However, hand percussion allows experience of group drumming.

We encourage parents and teachers to join after school groups.

Whole-class Lessons

Our whole-class lessons are planned and structured to cover certain skills on your various music syllabuses, rather than as on-going instrumental lessons. An example would be our "reading music" lesson, which introduces the notes of the staff and how to translate those to keys on the piano, without writing the letters on the keys.

Other lessons include those on timbre, rhythm, melody etc, through to composition and song writing classes, and combine listening with practical group work. We can structure a lesson for almost any topic, and find that this particularly helps primary school teachers who can feel a little out of their comfort zone with certain aspects of their music syllabus.

Pricing...

At Craig Smith Music, we truly believe our teachers are the best around. Anecdotal evidence tells us that music coordinators moving to us from council-run music services see a significant difference in enthusiasm, punctuality and commitment in our teachers. This is partly due to the younger age of our teachers, who pupils seem to respond better to, but is also in some respects because they are paid per lesson, rather than in salaried pay, as with many council services.

We don't accept a contract unless we can provide a second teacher in the event of the usual teacher's absence; in other words, your lessons won't be frequently cancelled or rearranged. You will be given the option to postpone however, if you'd rather stick to one teacher.

We understand that our prices are not as low as council music services, and as a result, we tend to supply smaller schools to which council music services don't like to send teachers for small numbers of students. Whether yours is a small parish school, or one in a city centre, we know you'll notice the value for money in a service that your pupils will prefer, and stick with.

Students	Lesson Length (mins)				
	20	30	40	45	60
1	£8.00	£12.00	£16.00	£18.00	£24.00
2	£4.00	£6.00	£8.00	£9.00	£12.00
3		£4.00	£5.50	£6.00	£8.00
4			£4.00	£5.00	£6.00
5					£5.00
6					£4.00

Other lesson lengths are available. The prices above require the school to handle the invoicing for the pupils' lesson fees, and to pay Craig Smith Music in one lump sum. We simply add £1 per family (not student) to the above prices if you'd like us to handle the invoicing of all students, to cover the costs of phoning parents to book lessons and produce and send out invoices.

Frequently Asked Questions...

CAN YOU PROVIDE INSTRUMENTS?

Yes! We are able to provide almost all of the instruments on which the lessons will take place (with the exception of woodwind instruments for obvious hygiene reasons). These include electric pianos and keyboards (the latter are brand new touch sensitive Yamaha keyboards, equipped for sustain pedals), guitars and drum kits, plus all necessary accessories. All electrical equipment is PAT tested, and you will receive a copy of the certificate if you require one.

WHO WILL TEACH THE LESSONS?

Lessons through the Tuition Agency are taught by self-employed teachers to whom we contract work. There is a rigorous interview process, which also includes observing their work. All teachers are suitably qualified in performing on the instruments to be taught, usually with music degrees, and many also have specific teaching diplomas. They are also advised on public liability insurance choices and suchlike.

DO STUDENTS TAKE EXAMS?

It's up to the students. Exams are available with all exam boards, but our most popular is the more modern (and therefore, we feel, more relevant to today's young musicians) London College of Music, which offers Ofqual / NQF accreditation, meaning certain marks at certain grades are actually GCSEs with UCAS points! Schools are able to use these towards results league tables. The more traditional ABRSM, and other boards, can also be used.

ARE TEACHERS CRB CHECKED?

Of course. All teachers are asked to provide valid CRB disclosures before being offered work. You will receive a copy of these at your request, or we're happy to wait while you carry out your own CRB cheques.

WHAT AGES DO YOU TEACH?

To a large extent, we leave this up to the music co-ordinator at the school, although years of experience have shown it's usually better to start from around 7 or 8. It's possible to start the lessons from 4, but it tends to be those

children who excel with language and maths skills that do better at this age; for younger children, understanding what is being asked of them and developing the coordination to achieve their goals can be a slower process and occasionally leads to frustration or concentration lapses. That said, we're happy to persevere as long as parents understand this situation.

CAN PARENTS / STAFF HAVE LESSONS?

Absolutely! Learning an instrument is not only great fun, but for teachers it can also be great for the CV. Many of the teachers who study with us comment that they start to remember what it was like to learn as a child and therefore to understand their students' frustrations and difficulties in taking in new information.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE TEACHER IS ILL?

We hear a lot of gripes about teachers not showing up for, or cancelling at short notice, lessons provided by other music services. This shouldn't happen with Craig Smith Music, simply because we rarely take on a contract if we can't provide a second teacher as cover in the event of the regular teacher's absence. It's then up to the school / parent / pupil to choose to have the lesson with a different teacher, or to choose to miss a week in exchange for a credit or refund.

More Testimonials...

Craig was recommended to me by A&C Hamilton's music shop, where I bought my piano. I am thrilled at the progress made since the lessons began.
Mrs B. Burton, a primary school music co-ordinator

I thought that my lessons and practice might consist of playing scales for hours on end but this is not the case. [I've learnt] a variety of styles of playing and I am presently really enjoying playing blues and jazz.

Sandra Brookes

Craig Smith Music

290 Tag Lane
Preston
Lancashire
PR2 3UY

Dear parent / guardian,

You are receiving this letter because your child's school is considering Craig Smith Music's Tuition Agency to provide school musical instrument lessons.

Craig Smith Music has been established as one of the busiest choices for instrumental tuition anywhere in the North West since 2003. There are several teachers, offering piano, keyboard, guitar, drums, flute and saxophone lessons. They are highly trained, and expert performers on their instrument(s). Perhaps more importantly though, they are all young, enthusiastic and inspiring. Many perform regularly on the live music scene, some with chart acts that you may know and love.

For all the information you could possibly need about Craig Smith Music, please visit www.craigsmithmusic.co.uk or call Craig direct on 07793 811318.

If you would be interested in lessons for your child (we also invite parents to join in too if lessons are after school!), please complete the slip below and return it to school.

Yours faithfully,

Craig Smith BA (Hons) Music, AVCM(TD) (Hons)

I, _____,
would be interested in the following lessons:

Piano Keyboard Guitar Drums Percussion Flute Sax

In school hours and/or after school on (days): _____

Please contact me with details by phone on _____

or by email at _____