

Reference for Emma Wynne-Jones

18/05/13

To Whom It May Concern:

We first met Emma when she started teaching piano to our eldest daughter Ava (then 9yrs) in January 2012. Ava was immediately so enthusiastic about her lessons that her younger sister Marli (then 7yrs) asked if she could start too and by February 2012 Emma was taking both girls for a weekly 1 hour joint lesson. Both Ava & Marli had only had rudimentary music lessons at school prior to learning with Emma

From the start Emma's warm, attentive and informative manor gave me confidence that she could work well with our daughters, and as soon as I observed her with the girls I could see that a strong, productive relationship could be formed. I am not musical and their father has only a little musical knowledge and we were not familiar with Emma's teaching approach based on audiation. What struck us was the exceptionally creative and holistic approach to music that the girls were being taught, they breathed it, moved it, sang it, read it, and played it. It felt they were not simply being taught piano, they were being taught musicality, and they loved it!

As a family we have been incredibly pleased with how the girls have taken to piano, 18 months on they are every bit as enthusiastic as when they first started. They delighted their grandparents by confidently playing carols to them at Christmas and they are always learning new pieces and techniques that are lovely to have about the house. They also converse easily with each other at home using their new musical vocabulary. The girls complete their practice and music homework willingly, happily and rarely need prompting and I know this is partly because of the huge respect they have for Emma.

On a practical note Emma has always been highly professional; all lessons have taken place as expected and with no interruptions ever occurring from her side. Whilst we are very disappointed to lose Emma, she gave us a full terms notice, recommended an alternative tutor, and even suggested a joint lesson for the girls with both herself and their new tutor. This joint lesson took Emma considerable effort to organise, due to everyone's busy timetables, but was particularly thoughtful as both our daughters tend towards shyness with new people and had some anxieties that have already been put to rest.

We feel we have been very fortunate to have met Emma both professionally and personally, she is a wonderful person to know and communicate with and it has been a real pleasure to watch our girls grow under her creative care. I can say, with confidence, that Emma is an educator of the highest order and am certain that she will enrich the lives of all who are fortunate enough to spend time with her.

My only possible concern is for our next tutor, I am sure he will be excellent but....how can anybody follow Emma?!

Below are our daughter's thoughts on Emma:

"Emma always made learning piano fun. She is not just our teacher, she is our friend."
Ava, age 10

"Emma has been an inspiring help in learning the piano! It's fascinating how rhythm and tonal patterns link into reading music." Marli, age very nearly 9.

Please feel able to contact me should you require any further information.

Kind Regards

Bettina Bunce