



“I am a teacher at a Junior school and I went on a course led by David Liggins. I was truly inspired by the ocarina and went straight back and trialled with my whole class learning to play. They absolutely loved the ocarina and I was amazed by the high standard they could reach in such a short time – in the first lesson they could play Twinkle and Kumbaya and within a term they could play Dvorák’s New World Symphony.

Following on from this successful trial, I have now got our entire school – just under 400 pupils – all learning to play the ocarina. My original class are on the second book and still loving it, and it is brilliant. The teachers are learning alongside the children rather than directly teaching them, and the whole thing is a huge success – the other day we had a whole school assembly where we all played the ocarina together – it was amazing. There is no way I would ever have done this with recorders, nor would the children have been inspired or been able to play so many fantastic tunes so quickly.

I think the ocarinas are brilliant and more schools should get their children playing them! Thank you. Abi »» Class Teacher, Herts

“I think there is no contest when selecting a first instrument for a young child, or a ‘non-musical’ adult – last year our caretaker and deputy head also joined the group. They had never experienced musical success until trying the ocarina, and had a lot of negative associations with performing, so I am particularly proud of them. I feel very strongly that children need to experience success in the early stage of learning.

The first children who joined my ocarina group are now at university, two of them are studying music. The ocarina gave them such a successful start that they were able to go on with confidence. Musical notation can be learned for those who are ready, but for those who find the code hard to crack there is still the enjoyment of performing ‘real’ tunes competently within the safety of a group. Shall I go on, or have I made my stance clear. For young children the ocarina is the best instrument!

The ocarina is as ‘real’ an instrument as any other; what a throw away comment. Will we decide that the piano, guitar or electric keyboard are not ‘real’, as they were not around when Bach was writing? Ocarinas have a long and noble heritage, are inexpensive, and easily accessible to all – even small hands can cover the note span.

I have had so much fun with ocarinas in my teaching career. If we are really serious about all children having access points in music education we need to ensure success – and the ocarina gives this. Thanks for all your encouragement.,, Jackie Qualmann, Headteacher, Anton Infant School, Hampshire

“This is just to let you know that I finally introduced the Ocs to my teenagers on Tuesday. And they were a great success! You can’t imagine how much relief there is in that sentence!

I bought the Ocs last August and started my new school in September. These are students who all have some sort of learning difficulty; dyslexia, ADHD, etc. They are intelligent young people aged between 12 and 16 who have always struggled to achieve at school. There are only eight pupils but it’s a challenging situation, for a variety of reasons. Anyway, they loved the Ocs. I wish I’d had a camera because the astonishing facility of playing a tune within 5 minutes of opening the book is priceless, especially for students who struggle to achieve everything.

**‘Can we have music again after lunch?’ (from one who loves to display disgust for most things)
‘Can I go away and practise?’ (from one who avoids anything resembling hard work)
‘How do I know how long to hold the notes?’ (the route to introducing musical notation!)**

I could go on but I’ll let you know ‘what happens next!’, I have lots of ideas... » Janet Holroyd, Independent Music Teacher and Songwriter, France

“You are quite right about children enjoying music in all forms - you should see my group play!! My infants love ocarinas and the fact that nearly thirty of them still attend the club must be good. I have taught recorders so have experience in both and know how boring the first few weeks of recorder can be if you can’t reach the holes. I enjoy teaching the ocarina so much I do it for nothing!! Just the joy of hearing the children finally get all the notes in the songs we have been learning is great.” Ann Grace, recently retired teacher, Bernards Heath Infants

“Good to hear the programme on Radio 4... I do agree with David’s opinion... We are not teaching music to train professionals for a living, but teaching music for life. Once we manage to build a firm musical foundation for children with a simple, and functional musical instrument, the school ocarina, they are able to choose which musical instruments to continue.... Regards, Sei” Sei Sumi, University Lecturer, Japan

“We have been teaching ocarinas in all of our Year 1, 2 and 3 classes (180 children in all!) for two years now, and we have found that it is a great way to get every child involved in music-making. Even the youngest manage to get a tune at a very early stage and the older children are able to perform solos, rounds and tunes together as a class. As part of a musical education that also involves singing, listening and composition, we think that the ocarina provides a good foundation for further progress in music as the children move through the school.” David Cowell, Music Co-ordinator (& Year 3 teacher), Somers Park School, Malvern



Here are some of the emails which arrived in our office in response to David’s brief appearance on BBC Radio 4 on 5th June 2007.

Please let us have your current email address so we can keep you up-to-date with new products as they happen. Our ocarina-teaching CD Rom is imminent!

Please email your ocarina news to: news@ocarina.co.uk

www.ocarina.co.uk

