

# Modern pupil-centred approach

## Scenario

- Harry is a 12 year old boy who has been learning for 3 years but whose interest is quickly diminishing and his parents have brought him to me as a last attempt to resurrect the once keen musician.
- I have had 4 lessons with Harry and we have established his knowledge of chords I, IV and V in the keys of C, G, and D major and A minor
- It is evident that at Harry's new school classical music is not considered "cool" and his abilities on the piano have been far from recognised, let alone encouraged.
- We have spent some time developing improvisation skills around the chords he knows and introduced a couple of "Blues" type tunes.
- However, I am aware through our discussions that Harry needs a piece to play that will connect him with his peers to give him the enthusiasm back that he needs to continue playing.
- Harry had made it clear that he doesn't want to do exams and I have found out that he has a Clavinova at home and not an acoustic piano.
- The attached song is one that still gets airplay and Coldplay is quite an acceptable band to this age of boys, so it is greeted with subdued enthusiasm.
- We start by sight - reading the RH tune and talk about the hand shifts that need to occur to cover the notes comfortably and in time.
- We then look at the chords and discuss inversions – and what will make it easier for LH (ie which inverted which root position etc).
- After RH has been put with chords, we discuss possibilities for LH variations and also discuss the Clavinova function of "fingered chords" with accompaniment and we explore some different rhythm styles. He agrees that he will have to learn to count much more accurately if he is to play with the rhythm section on his keyboard.
- We finish by touching lightly on free improvisation and popular styles.