

# Client Testimonials

I started having tenor horn lessons with Martyn in January '20 after a 30 year absence of playing. We managed two face to face lessons before lockdown happened. Zoom sessions took over from there which proved incredibly successful. It enabled more lessons to take place than face to face, therefore successfully taking grade 5 (distinction) and 6 (merit) in a shorter period of time. I found that Martyn's teaching technique and explanations easy to understand therefore giving me the drive to practice and achieve. Martyn clearly has a tremendous amount of experience, knowledge and expertise of which I'm grateful to have found. Highly recommend and I very much look forward to taking grade 7!

*Sonia - August 2020*

My daughter has been having weekly Zoom trombone lessons with Martyn for the last 3 months and has been great seeing her progress from being a complete beginner to sounding SO much better!! She's already preparing for her Grade 1 exam and is enjoying playing as many pieces as she can. Martyn is great at helping her improve her tone and musicality and giving her great tips to work on in the week between each lesson.

*Emma (parent - Saudi Arabia) - July 2020*

Martyn prepared my son for his grade 7 [Music Teachers' Board] exam. The online format has enabled Kieran to continue progressing with his music though the period of pandemic, and it worked remarkably well. The exam itself was done over an online platform from the comfort of our home, and with great success. Martyn is a gifted and natural teacher, with an ability to identify problems and find the best fixes. He has helped to select exam material most suited to Kieran, and we are very grateful for all of his help!

*Leslie (parent) - July 2020*

Martyn has taught my son all the way from Grade 1 to Grade 7. He builds great rapport with his students, sets high expectations and provides really good support which is reflected in the results achieved. I'm really pleased that we have been able to continue lessons on-line. My son finds the on-line sessions as productive, stretching and fun as his face-to-face lessons and he continues to make pleasing progress as a result.

*Ian (parent) - July 2020*



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Martyn has only been teaching my six year old daughter the trumpet for eight months and already she has taken and passed her grade 1 exam with distinction. His patience and thoroughness in ensuring she has developed the correct techniques right from the start are impressive. I am very pleased that Martyn is her teacher, under his style of teaching Alice has blossomed and she is now looking forward to her grade 2 exam. Alice quite simply loves her trumpet lessons, which is thanks to Martyn.

*Sandie (parent) August 2016*

Martyn has proven to be an enthusiastic, motivational and extremely thorough teacher. He has helped my son a trumpet player begin to tackle his embouchure problems with support and encouragement which has moved him from a struggling grade 4 to a grade 5 merit in just a few months. Martyn has embraced my son's love of jazz music to ensure pieces are of interest and we leave every weekly lesson feeling enthused and ready to practise. We would recommend Martyn's meticulous but humorous teaching method to all.

*Delphine (parent) August 2016*

My 11 year old son has been having Baritone Horn lessons with Martyn for two years and has loved every minute of his lessons. As he is a child who has some SEN we were worried that he would struggle with music lessons and find his music exams too challenging. We need not have worried. Martyn is an excellent teacher who has managed to bring out the musician in our son. Distinctions in both grades one and two have provided him with a massive confidence boost. Martyn's one to one teaching style and insistence on developing the correct technique from the start are brilliant. Our 8 year old daughter has also recently started trombone (mini p.bone) lessons with Martyn and is really enjoying her lessons.

*Jennifer (parent) January 2016*

Martyn proved to be an excellent teacher to help my son move from an intermediate to more advanced level of trumpet playing during his mid teens. My son says he particularly valued Martyn's knowledge of good technique and his ways to explain and work on this. Beyond technique, Martyn helped keep interest with the choice of an engaging set of exam pieces, and provided a good mix of inspiration, encouragement and realism to bring about progress. A merit in the Grade 8 exam was a very happy result! Prior to the final Grade 8 preparation, Martyn was also very helpful with guidance for the solo and ensemble performance elements of music GCSE.

*Carolyn (parent) December 2015*



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Martyn has taught the cornet to our son Alfie for the past 3 years. With his previous teacher, Alfie was on the point of giving up & struggling with his lip positioning, with his tone & breathing. He has now dramatically improved these aspects of his playing & is much more confident also. Martyn's strong technical knowledge & patience makes the lessons enjoyable yet challenging to the extent that Alfie has achieved Grades, 2,3, & 4 to Distinction level! He is also enjoying playing in the school's music groups under the enthusiasm & expert guidance of Martyn. We are very pleased with Alfie's progress & are keen for him to continue with Martyn in the future!

*Bridget (parent) December 2015*

My son (who is nearly 6, has a fairly short attention span and is easily distracted) had said he would like to learn to play the trombone. So we bought him a 'pbone mini' plastic instrument and looked for a teacher. Before having any lessons he could just about make a noise on it.

After eight lessons with Martyn he can play 5 different notes with a reasonably good sound and get through a short tune. He has also learnt to read these 5 notes in the bass clef and knows which ones should last for 1, 2 or 4 beats, and what a rest is. As he had zero musical knowledge or skill beforehand we are very impressed with this!

Martyn teaches with a lot of encouragement and humour; he is extremely patient with our fidgety 5-year-old.

We got back home this morning, his Dad said 'how was your lesson?' and the reply was 'Brilliant!'

*Mags (parent) March 2014*

Believing my son, Jasper's trumpet teacher wasn't getting the best out of him, I approached Martyn with a view to switching. Not knowing a lot about brass playing, I wasn't sure I'd know when I'd found the right teacher. How wrong I was. We went for a trial lesson with Martyn, and within fifteen minutes, he had diagnosed and demonstrated the problems that existed and how they needed to be addressed. With a few small exercises, the tone Jasper was producing improved dramatically, just in the course of that lesson. I am now absolutely confident that we're giving Jasper the best possible chance of success - the rest is down to him!

*Pete (parent) March 2013*



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Since starting with Martyn only a short time ago my daughter's trumpet playing has been turned around. She has pushed through her grade 6 block and looks to the future now. She has improved so much, not only in her playing, but she has also regained her confidence and love for the instrument. Martyn has given her clear direction, with a sense of clarity and understanding that has been lacking in her other teachers. Not only is he able to see where technique is slightly weak but also then has the knowledge to give instruction and exercises to turn playing around. Thank you Martyn we are both very grateful for your continued expertise.  
*Fiona (parent) August 2012*

Martyn teaches trombone to my loquacious and concentrationally-challenged 9-year-old son every week with seemingly endless patience, engagement and professionalism. His skill was recently born out with a high merit at Grade 1.

I'd heartily recommend Martyn to prospective pupils.  
*Alex (parent) July 2012*

