

John Wilmshurst, Freelance Music Tutor

CV Autumn 2011

D.O.B. 11.10.1981
Nat Ins Number: JJ478191D
Tax Ref: 8285983803
MU Member: 475881

Specialism: Contemporary Guitar (Acoustic/Electric), Music Theory and Harmony
Secondary skills: Piano, Keyboard, Bass Guitar, Drums, Singing, Music Production

Relevant qualifications and registrations:

Diploma in Performance Arts (BTEC)

Suffolk College, Ipswich '98-'00

Higher Diploma Contemporary Music (Grade 8)

Academy of Contemporary Music, Guildford '00-'01

RGT registered freelance guitar tutor

Qualified to teach up to grade 8 - '00-present

Musicians Union Member

Union member 475881

Current Public Liability Insurance

Musician's Union, 2000 – present; up to £10,000,000.

Attended numerous tutor training days including safeguarding, working with vulnerable adults, teaching those with special educational needs and inclusion

Suffolk Artlink, Suffolk County Council '05-present

Current Safeguarding Certificate Level 1

Safechild, SafeAdult

Examiner for 'Rock School' grades

On behalf of the 'Amplifier Project' '07

Numerous CRB clearances

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Relevant experience:

Freelance guitar tutor

Self employed professional guitar tutor '00-present

I run my own successful music tuition studio in Felixstowe, Suffolk and a guitar tuition service in London, both at my home studio and on behalf of a company named *City Music Services*.

The main focus is on one-to-one tuition but often, I teach groups and I also have tutors who work for me, teaching different instruments.

This role means I have to be well planned and also adaptable. It requires me to understand that I am not only a tutor, but a source of motivation and inspiration.

Ultimately each student wants something different out of their lesson and I see people who are at many different levels so I am required to be well versed and proficient in many styles of music. My experience as a session musician has helped me with this. On top of this I have taught in various schools and colleges and as part of Suffolk county council's music service.

Music workshop leader

Suffolk County Council/Essex County Council/The Junction/CSV/Wolsey Theatre '05-present

I became a music workshop leader for Suffolk County Council as part of a countywide project, 'Amplifier' and quickly became a lead tutor for the main group in Ipswich. Amplifier regularly sees groups of up to 20 participants per session whose ages range from 12-16.

This role is very much a mentoring position and requires me to oversee the group's progress towards playing in bands and performing in front of their peers.

The participants, some of whom have been in the project for a full 4 years, have learned at least one instrument, performed at their own shows and gained an NVQ through the project's alliance with 'Rock School', a company who provide a certified music syllabus. I was responsible for delivering the qualification and acted as part of the examination board.

The project has been a resounding success and still runs to this day, performing at least 4 shows to the public each year.

Essex County Council

In 2006, Essex County Council asked me to lead three annual workshops, each lasting up to two weeks during the summer holidays.

The workshops were put on by 'Child First', an organisation that gives young people a chance to try something they may not otherwise have the opportunity to do due to social or economical circumstances.

Participants were required to learn an instrument, join a band and put on a performance in a professional venue within 14 days.

Myself along with 3 other staff worked with 30 students - 90% of whom had no prior experience in music.

As each student came from a variety of different backgrounds, the challenge was not

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to teach the music, but first overcome their confidence issues and gain their trust. We put on 3 shows and each one contained over an hour of music performed by the students in the workshop. These were videoed and presented to the children as a record of their amazing achievement.

SEN and present work

In 2009, I started working with those who have Special Educational Needs and I was asked to join a team who ran workshops for such a group, funded by 'Child First'. Part of my role requirement was to attend training days and I volunteered for as many as I could because I felt a lack of confidence in working with vulnerable adults and children. Through these, I met many contacts and began to gain work from 'Suffolk Artlink' as a tutor.

In 2010, I was asked to take on the role as lead tutor for a project called 'UPBEAT', which features a mixture of teenagers and vulnerable young adults with various needs, including Autism, ADHD and Down's Syndrome.

I have alongside me another tutor and also a trainee.

The project is now on it's 4th term.

I now have a company 'Contempa' and I employ a team of tutors and musicians who deliver music workshops in SEN schools around the country. This is an area I continue to work in and enjoy.

Further work includes:

- Tutor for 'Aiming High - Autism Music Workshops' for Reading/Wokingham councils 2010 –present
- Freelance music writing and recording workshops in youth clubs
- Lead tutor for VXM, a Europe-wide project that encourages cultural integration through music and the arts
- 1st Call music tutor for Suffolk Artlink – 2005 – present
- Felixstowe International College; Guitar Tutor - 2002 – present
- Extended schools music faciliator on behalf of various organisations 2009 – present

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Professional performance work

Since 2000, I have worked alongside my tuition business as a freelance guitarist. I have toured the UK and overseas and performed in some of the country's most prestigious venues. I have worked in live situations and studios as a session guitarist and have written and recorded for TV and radio.

I believe that as a tutor, it is important to be passionate about what you teach and to know, first hand, about the subject you are talking about.

I believe that my passion and enthusiasm genuinely shines through when I'm teaching and having been in a situation that most aspiring young musicians would love to be in, gives me an advantage on how to shape their musical future.

I continue to perform, write and record and because of this, I teach with a fun, practical approach and one of my skills is that I'm able to explain music to a beginner in an easy to understand manner with my life-long love for music shining through.

I love the challenge that teaching such a diverse group of people presents and I believe that a good tutor should inform, enthuse and inspire. One of the biggest rewards for me is being an *enabler*, helping somebody achieve something they couldn't do or didn't think they could do before they met you.

References:

Candida Wingate, Market Square Cottage, Bickers Hill Road, Laxfield, IP13 8DP

Tony Shevlin, 78 Constable Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 2UZ

'The Junction', Cambridge - www.junction.co.uk

Suffolk Coastal District Council

Amplitude

Essex County Council

New Wolsey Theatre - www.wolseytheatre.co.uk

The Amplifier Project - www.suffolk.gov.uk/LeisureAndCulture/Arts/Amplifier

'Soundwaves' - www.suffolksoundwaves.co.uk

Childfirst - www.child-first.org.uk

Felixstowe International College - www.felixstoweinternationalcollege.co.uk

Sir Charles Lucas Arts College - www.sclucas.essex.sch.uk

Heathermount School, Ascot

UPBEAT (Suffolk Artlink)

Numerous Primary and Secondary Schools

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