

# MAKING MELODIES

*London's Chelsea Quavers Music School is popular with budding musicians here in the UAE. We speak to the Founding Principal, Claire Meyer, to find out why...*

  
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The benefits of learning a musical instrument at a young age are well documented. Everything from a child's language skills to self-confidence and spatial awareness to attention to detail gets a boost. And while the UAE has a range of great music schools, the London-based Chelsea Quavers Music School, which runs holiday workshops and international tuition online, has an outstanding reputation among families here that outshines the rest.

"There is no other school like it anywhere in the UK, or globally," states Claire Meyer, Chelsea Quavers Music School's Founding Principal. "All our tutors are hand-picked from the top conservatoires around the UK. The qualities we look for in each of our tutors are empathy, energy, patience, creativity, enthusiasm and a passion to engage with and inspire each individual pupil."

Eric Whitacre, the Grammy-Award winning composer and conductor, agrees with Meyer on the uniqueness of the school. He says: "Claire Meyer is simply one of the most extraordinary educators I have ever met. She has carefully crafted a bespoke curriculum and the Chelsea Quavers' teaching style I believe to be the future of music education and teaching in general." Whitacre is not the only well-known supporter of the school, either. The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation provides 100% funding for a gifted and talented pupil to study at Chelsea Quavers Music School.



And, since 2014, Marsh & Parsons has been an invaluable sponsor of the facility. It is all because of the distinctive approach to music education Meyer and her team takes.

Meyer has spent the last few years creating Chelsea Quavers' curriculum, which has since been highly praised by Directors of Music and Heads of top prep schools in the UK. "I have carefully crafted a fun and educational music curriculum to teach children from age four upwards to read, write, perform, transcribe and compose music in a fun, easy-to-follow and engaging format using our highly acclaimed series of Chelsea Quavers Music Puzzles and the popular hands-on educational musical game CHENGA!"

The curriculum is specially designed to allow young pupils to work without constant supervision through reinforcement and step-by-step progression. Yet Chelsea Quavers also offers an excellent tutor to pupil ratio of no more than five pupils to one tutor. "No other club in London offers this outstanding level of support for each of its pupils," Meyer adds. "Every one works at his or her own individual level, and children are grouped according to ability and age."

But how is this relevant to budding musicians in the UAE? Chelsea Quavers

LEFT  
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of instruments

RIGHT  
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also offers international online tuition. "As well as the face-to-face camera, we use a close-up camera (she's called Ziggil!), so the student can see in clear detail what the tutor is writing as if they were sitting across a desk from each other." In this way, students anywhere in the world are taught ABRSM Theory of Music Grades 1-5, Aural Grades 1-8, Sight Reading (piano), and Sight Singing Grades 1-8.

On top of that, families can sign up for the workshops in London, too. "Many of our pupils come to the UK in the holidays and parents constantly praise the standard of our workshops, telling us there is nothing like this at home. A large contingent of families from Dubai come to our workshops every year at Easter, summer and Christmas, and we also arrange private, bespoke workshops."

So why go to the UK instead of signing up to schools or workshops here? It is simple, says Meyer - "the UK is globally recognised as a centre of excellence for music education as a whole." It is where world-renowned institutions, such as the Royal Academy of Music, were born. It is where some of the world's best tutors are based. And it is where more than 250,000 pupils from

around the world sit their globally recognised ABRSM exams. "We often work with students from China, Singapore and the UAE who may excel, for example, at performance, but whose reading, theory and general musicianship skills are seriously lacking." Tutors will also prepare international students who wish to attend schools or conservatoires in the UK.

For children aged four to 12, from beginners or experienced musicians, Chelsea Quavers offers everything they need to excel within the world of melodies. "Our tutors work as a tight-knit team to provide not only the highest possible standards in music education, but to engage with every child to unlock potential, self-belief and confidence." Now that is something worth travelling for. 

[chelseaquavers.com](http://chelseaquavers.com)

## SUMMER MUSIC WORKSHOPS

*We take a look at this year's holiday programme at Chelsea Quavers Music School*

16-20 July and 24-26 July

Each day of the Summer Workshops - taking place at the Chelsea Quavers Music School venue in Chelsea, London - children develop performance, aural, reading and writing skills, engage in a variety of fun educational music games and activities. Children participate in a number of Music Enrichment projects, develop drumming skills, and perform a wide variety of traditional and unusual instruments (such as djembe, crotales, bassoon, trombone, piano, glockenspiels, drum kit, electric and acoustic guitars). They will perform songs from around the world, from traditional, classical, jazz, African and international influence, as well as learn all about song composition.

- 4-year-olds, 9am-1pm; £75 (AED371) per day  
- 5-12-year-olds, 9am-4pm; £95 (AED470) per day  
Book online at [chelseaquavers.com/booking](http://chelseaquavers.com/booking)