Today’s students learn differently from those of ten years ago. Typically they:

- No longer seek information from reference books
- Expect information to be readily available and ideally no more than a handful of mouse clicks away
- Require visual, aural and kinesthetic stimulation
- Are less likely to read long articles, preferring bullet points
- Seek video clips or interactive means to assist in learning

Our ‘time poor’ students are engaged in multiple extra-curricular activities and I’m noticing that they are often unable to solve problems through practice, particularly in scale preparation and learning fingerings.

Technology has changed the way the net generation learns and music teachers embracing the technology are having great success using internet resources such as YouTube, Online sheet music purchases and various Apps.

Audio or video recordings of almost any piece students are learning can now be easily found on YouTube. Teachers can create their own YouTube channel and upload their own video clips for students to view during the week. Tech savvy teachers can also set up an online practice buddy giving students interactive video clips to support their weekly practice.

Students often find that creating a backing track assists them in analysing chord structure and understanding harmony. Software is readily available to create backing tracks by simply typing in the chord sequence of the piece being studied and selecting the required style. Apps such as Band-in-a-Box and GarageBand can create professional-sounding backings in minutes. Students often find chord structure analysis very helpful in creating a backing track and understanding harmony.

The Aural Book app is helpful for aural training as is Sight Reading Machine for sight reading.

Our Technological Revolution has been likened to the Industrial Revolution, moving four times faster. If we take some time to learn and embrace the change music teaching can become fun again and we can keep our students motivated.

You don’t have to be a ‘Tech savvy teacher’ to be successful with technology. Just discuss your needs with a teenager and ask for help. You’ll be amazed at how quickly your resources develop.

Stuart Storer
AMEB Piano Examiner and Principal Forte Music

If students aren’t learning the way we teach, ... we should teach the way they learn.

Ignacio Estrada

Having trouble getting students to practise?
heatherlucaspianolessons.com.au has been running since 2012.

The main focus was to encourage students’ participation in any musical activity, but it has dramatically changed Heather’s success rate with most students practising 7 days a week and parents and students logging on to the page each week to see their accomplishments and scores.

Heather will demonstrate her solution to the problem of instilling a will to practise at the AMEB Information Day, 20th January 2015