

A Child like Tirion

Although Tirion is only ten, she is planning to take her grade 3 piano and violin, as well as her grade 4 flute, all of which will use music enlarged by the Sibelius computer software she received through AMBER. Amazingly, Tirion has only had a piano for 18 months, but she has still managed to get herself to grade 3 without any lessons at all. She also plays the descant and treble recorders, plays in her school orchestra, in two recorder groups as well as a folk band.

At first, Tirion used Sibelius to enlarge music, which made a huge difference as she was able to see the notes better and turn out professional looking music very quickly. Now, she has combined it with a screen enlarger and is using it to compose her own pieces. Overall, she has progressed rapidly thanks to this software.

Tirion's mother says:
'It's a simple fact that Tirion just LOVES music. The first thing she does when she gets home from school is play something – sometimes it is all we can do to get her to go to bed! She often talks about playing in an orchestra when she is older, and although she is still very young to really know what she wants, I would be extremely surprised if music didn't continue to be a large part of her life.'

Tirion has achieved good grades including merits and distinctions in all her music exams. She has learnt how to play the piano and is expanding the number of instruments she plays. She is also a very active member of her local folk band and thanks to an AMBER Music Award she is able to adapt every piece of music she needs. She recently played a solo with the group and was the youngest child to do this. Her confidence has really grown and she is a joy to listen to.

Music is the one area that Tirion does not just keep up with her fully-sighted peers, but at which she excels. Bearing in mind the trouble she has with other activities, such as sport, this is really good for her confidence. She is now helping other children to play music. She helps out with the beginner recorder group at school and is teaching some of the children in the intermediate group how to play the treble recorder as well.