

LAYSTON MUSIC

AND THE SINGING CIRCLE

Talena Cuthbert - Music Professional & Vocal Coach



WWW.LAYSTONMUSIC.CO.UK



TALENA@LAYSTONMUSIC.CO.UK



CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE

Newsletter - June 2026



Hello everyone,

I absolutely love this time of year.

The sunshine finally starts appearing properly, the evenings get longer, students are beginning to settle into their pieces and performances, and there's a real sense that we're heading towards all the exciting summer events and celebrations.

June and July are always incredibly busy here at Layston Music — lessons, exam prep, rehearsals, Shindig preparation, Singing Circle events, summer planning and trying to keep the music room vaguely organised amongst the chaos of sheet music, cables, coffee cups and practice diaries!

In this month's newsletter we'll be covering:

- Summer holiday dates
- Exam & make-up weeks
- **Important changes to the new Tuition Plan and pricing structure**
- Updated Terms & Conditions
- Summer Shindig information
- Sing For Your Supper updates
- Studio reminders
- Reviews and supporting local business
- A little introduction for newer families

2026

Term Time Lessons	Rest Weeks/Holidays	Make-Up/Extra Lesson Week/Exams/Workshops	Shindigs/Performance
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	
WK M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	WK M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	WK M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
APRIL	MAY	JUNE	
WK M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	WK M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	WK M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	
WK M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	WK M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	WK M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	
WK M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	WK M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	WK M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

Spring Term 2026 A
Mon 19th Jan – Sun 15th Feb
Week 14 – 17
Make-Up Week -----

Summer Term 2026 A
Mon 13th Apr – Sun 24th May
Week 23 – 25
Make-Up Week 1st June

Autumn Term 2026 A
Mon 7th Sept – Sun 18th Oct
Week 01 – 06
Make-Up Week 19th October

Spring Term 2026 B
Mon 23rd Feb – Sun 29th March
Week 18 – 22
Make-Up Week -----

Summer Term 2026 B
Mon 8th Jun – Sun 19th Jul
Week 29 – 36
Make-Up Week 20th July

Autumn Term 2026 B
Mon 7th Nov – Sun 20th Dec
Week 07 – 12
Make-Up Week 4th Jan '27

Summer Holidays

Our Summer Holiday dates for regular 1-2-1 lessons are:

Monday 20th July – Sunday 6th September

Please remember that all teaching dates can always be found on the teaching calendar here:

<https://www.laystonmusic.co.uk/teaching-calendar>

Exam & Make-Up Weeks

Our next exam and make-up weeks will be:

- Week Beginning 20th July
- Week Beginning 17th August

These weeks are used for:

- Music Exams
- Lessons owed due to teacher cancellations
- Extra lessons
- Catch-up sessions
- Intensive exam preparation

If you would like to arrange an extra lesson or discuss booking an exam, please email me as soon as possible so we can organise dates.

Important Changes To Our Tuition Plans & Monthly Payments



From September 2026, Layston Music will officially move over to our new academic-year Tuition Plan system.

This system has been designed to create:

- more stability for families,
- easier budgeting,
- more flexibility for scheduling,
- and better long-term lesson planning for students.

The first invoice for the new academic year will be issued on:
1st August 2026

Invoices will now be due by the: **14th of each month**

Individual payment plans and lesson schedules will be sent out shortly.

Your new Individual Tuition Plan information will be sent out shortly.

Although the structure of payments and lesson scheduling is changing slightly from September, your current lesson pricing will remain the same for the upcoming academic year.

The new system is designed to make payments more predictable and lesson planning more flexible across the year.

How The Tuition Plan Works

Weekly students receive:

- 34 x 30/60-minute lessons per academic year

About 6 Lessons per half term

Fortnightly students receive:

- 17 x 30-minute lessons per academic year

About 3 Lessons per half term

Your lesson slot is reserved exclusively for you throughout the academic year.

Your lesson cost for the year will be divided equally over 12 the months.

Your child's lesson slot is reserved exclusively for them throughout the academic year.

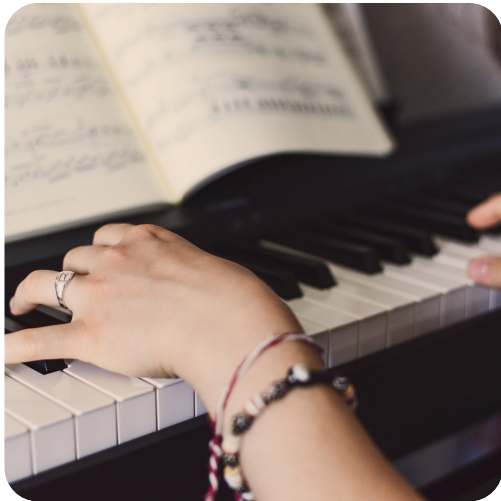
Because of this, missed lessons are not refundable or transferable.

However, where possible, support will still be provided through:

- Lesson videos
- Practice guidance
- Homework tasks
- Technique exercises
- Digital resources
- Online Lesson Via Zoom

This helps students continue progressing even when unable to attend lessons in person.

If you wish to stop having lessons, we require one months notice.



Summer Holiday Lessons

One change from previous years is that there will now be:

- A week to book lessons during the middle of the summer holidays

After seeing many students struggle returning after a full 6-week break without lessons or regular practice, I feel this is a much healthier and more supportive approach musically.

These summer sessions will help students:

- Maintain momentum
- Stay connected to their instrument/voice
- Avoid losing confidence and progress over the long break

Included Within Your Tuition Plan

All students receive access to the Layston Music MyMusicStaff Portal, including:

Practice notes, Invoices and payment tracking, Homework and lesson resources, Downloadable materials where appropriate, Important holiday dates and studio information, Lesson reminders

I also continue to provide as many learning resources as possible free of charge, including:

Sheet music, Backing tracks, Technique exercises, Lesson materials, Digital resources

Students additionally receive:

Two free Layston Music performance opportunities per year

These include supportive community events such as:

Summer Shindig | Winter Shindig

Advanced students may additionally be offered opportunities to perform at:

Sing for Your Supper, Community showcases, Local live music events, Paid performance opportunities where appropriate

Changes to Terms & Conditions | Part 1 from June 2026:

[1.1] Lessons are provided through the Layston Music Tuition Plan and are reserved across the academic year. Tuition Plan fees are spread evenly across the year through fixed monthly payments.

[1.2] Tuition Plan invoices are issued monthly in advance for both PRIVATE and GROUP lessons. Weekly payment arrangements remain at the discretion of Talena Cuthbert.

[1.3] Monthly payments must be received in full on or before the first (1st) day of each month unless otherwise agreed in writing.

[1.4] Tuition Plan payments reserve a dedicated lesson slot for the student throughout the academic year. Because this lesson time is held specifically for the student, payments remain payable whether the student attends lessons or not.

[1.5] The Layston Music academic year is structured around:

- 6 half terms
- An aim of approximately 4–7 lessons per half term depending on calendar dates and scheduling
- 1 weeks of make-up/extra lessons during the summer holidays and make-up weeks through the year.

This structure provides flexibility throughout the year for timetable planning, teacher illness, make-up sessions and academic calendar variations.

[1.6] Where holidays or unavoidable absences are booked and communicated in advance, a make-up lesson may be offered during designated make-up weeks.

[1.7] Where possible, lesson videos, practice guidance and/or homework may be provided in cases of student absence, provided notice is given before the lesson start time.

Students are also welcome to attend lessons via Zoom if unable to attend in person.

[1.8] If Layston Music needs to cancel a lesson, replacement sessions will usually be offered during designated make-up weeks, at the end of half terms, or during additional summer lesson weeks. Teacher cancellations will not reduce the student's yearly lesson allocation.

[1.9] All students receive access to the MyMusicStaff student portal, including lesson schedules, invoices, practice notes, downloadable resources, lesson reminders and important studio information.

[1.10] If accounts fall into arrears by two months or more, Layston Music reserves the right to suspend lessons and offer the lesson slot to another student.

[1.11] Ad-hoc lessons require a minimum of 48 hours' notice for cancellation. Lessons cancelled with less than 48 hours' notice will be charged in full.

Our updated Terms & Conditions are now available here:

<https://www.laystonmusic.co.uk/terms>

Sing for your Supper

Sing For Your Supper - Tuesday 7th July

Our next Sing For Your Supper event is:

🎵 SUMMER BANGERS 🎵

For anyone new to these events — Sing For Your Supper is one of my favourite community evenings that we run through The Singing Circle.

We gather together at The Chequers in Barley for an evening of themed live music, food, singing, laughter and community.

Each event has a completely different musical theme, and throughout the evening I perform a live singer showcase whilst everyone eats, chats and enjoys the atmosphere together.

Expect big 2000s nostalgia, singalong moments and some absolute classics.

Participants must be:

- Age 11+
- Under 18s must attend with an adult

The evening includes:

- a themed group singing session with harmonies
- a shared supper and relaxed social atmosphere
- a local singer or musician showcase while everyone eats
 - a huge group singalong to finish the night

It's designed to feel welcoming whether someone sings all the time or hasn't sung properly in years.

Summer Bangers is all about songs that give you that summer vibe, so expect everything from chill vibes to fun nostalgic classics.

Participants must be aged 11+ (under 18s accompanied by an adult).

BOOK YOUR TICKET HERE: WWW.LAYSTONMUSIC.CO.UK/EVENTS

Summer Shindig is nearly here!

Saturday 20th June from 3pm

Our Summer Shindig is nearly here!

Venue: **The Chequers, Barley**

Date: **Saturday 20th June**

Student performances: **12pm–8pm**

This year we are incredibly excited to be holding the event at our wonderful local pub:

The Chequers, Barley

The student performances will run from:

3pm – 7:30pm

Then from:

8pm onwards

I'll be performing a live set of rock, pop and indie covers to celebrate Father's Day weekend.

These Shindig events are such an important part of what we do at Layston Music.

Learning music is not just about passing exams or learning songs — it's also about:

confidence,

communication,

resilience,

creativity,

emotional expression,

and learning how to share something with other people.

Performing in front of others can be genuinely life-changing for many students, particularly those who struggle with anxiety, confidence or social communication.

Watching students grow from nervous beginners into confident performers is honestly one of the best parts of my job.

Event Information:

<https://www.laystonmusic.co.uk/event-details/summer-shindig>.

We will also be running a raffle during the event to raise money for:

PLRW - Youth Group

Supporting autistic teenagers and young people.

www.plrw.org

Reviews

A Small Favour – Reviews Really Help



If you've enjoyed your experience with Layston Music or UK Vocal Coaching, I would hugely appreciate a quick Google review.

As a small independent business, reviews genuinely make a massive difference and help new families feel confident choosing us.

You can leave a review here:

[If your child is enjoying their lessons, Or you have been to one of my events, I would be so grateful if you could leave a quick Google review.](#)

[It genuinely makes a big difference for small local businesses like mine — helping other families find us and feel confident choosing lessons.](#)

Thank you so much to everyone who has already taken the time to support us in this way.

QUICK REMINDERS

Student Packs

Please remember to bring student packs to lessons each week as these contain sheet music, tabs, lyric sheets, homework, practice diaries

Zoom Lessons

If your lesson is on Zoom, please remember to enable **“Original Audio for Musicians”**

Without this setting, Zoom heavily filters instrument sounds and we often cannot properly hear your playing or singing. Please note this must usually be enabled every lesson.

Prime Time Lesson Policy

For our most in-demand “Prime Time” lessons (3:30pm–9pm), we operate a no cancellation policy.

If you are unable to attend in person, we can instead offer:

- a Zoom lesson,
- lesson videos,
- practice guidance,
- or homework support.

This helps students continue progressing consistently whilst also protecting limited evening lesson availability.

If Layston Music needs to cancel a lesson for any reason, we will always offer either:

- a make-up session or account credit.

About Me

Talena Cuthbert



For those who have joined us recently, hello and welcome!
I'm Talena — founder of Layston Music and UK Vocal Coaching.

I've been teaching music for over 20 years and working professionally as a performer for over 25 years.

My background includes:

- Piano
- Vocals
- Music Performance
- Rock & Metal Vocal Coaching
- SEN Mentoring
- Music for Wellbeing
- Performance Psychology
- Sound Therapy

I specialise in helping students build confidence through music whilst also developing strong technique, creativity and real-world musical skills.

Many of our students are neurodivergent, anxious, shy, highly creative, energetic, sensitive or simply need a slightly different learning approach — and that's absolutely welcome here.

My teaching style is probably best described as:

- enthusiastic encouragement,
- honest feedback,
- lots of humour,
- and helping students discover what they are truly capable of.

Music can change lives — and I genuinely believe everyone deserves the opportunity to experience that.

Finally, thank you.

Thank you for supporting a small independent music business.

Thank you for supporting your children's creativity.

Thank you for driving to lessons, encouraging practice, attending events and trusting me with your musical journeys.

Layston Music has become a genuinely lovely little community over the years and I'm incredibly grateful to every single family who is part of it.

Have a wonderful June and I'll see many of you at the Summer Shindig!

Warm wishes,

Talena Cuthbert



THE
CHEQUERS
BARLEY

RAFFEL TO RAISE
FUNDS FOR
PLRW.ORG



Join us for a relaxed community celebration of music featuring performances from **Layston Music students** from our local community.

Summer Shindig

celebrating the creativity and dedication of our young musicians.

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE '26
STUDENT PERFORMANCES
PIANO, VOCALS AND GUITAR
3PM - 7:30PM

LIVE **POP & ROCK** VOCAL SET
FROM **TALENA** FOR
FATHER'S DAY CELEBARTIONS
8PM - 10:30PM



The Chequers Pub, London Road, Barley, Herts

Sing for your Supper

SUMMER BANGERS

SINGALONG

A MONTHLY SINGING EVENT WITH A DIFFERENT THEME EACH TIME!



HOSTED BY TALENA
Local vocal coach and professional singer. I'll lead you through the songs so everyone can join in!



WITH GUEST SINGER **ROD**
Great voice and acoustic guitar that Rocks!!



TUESDAY
7TH JULY



THE CHEQUERS
BARLEY



FROM
6:30PM

IT'S NOT KARAOKE. IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING "GOOD".
IT'S JUST A ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE SINGING TOGETHER.

No pressure, no judgement, just great songs, great people and a great night out!

HOW THE EVENING WORKS

- 6:30PM Arrive, grab a drink, get settled
- 7:00PM Group song (I'll teach it, nice and easy!)
- 8:00PM Supper + live music from Rod
- 8:45PM Summer songs singalong (songs picked from a hat!)
- 9:45PM Final song together



NEXT UP:
2000S THROWBACK
TUESDAY 4TH AUGUST 2026



£25 | £12.50
ADULT AND CHILD TICKETS
INCLUDES SUPPER

BOOK YOUR PLACE!

WWW.LAYSTONMUSIC.CO.UK/EVENTS

COME FOR THE SONGS. STAY FOR THE SUPPER. LEAVE FEELING AMAZING.

2026

Term Time Lessons | Rest Weeks/Holidays | Make-Up/Extra Lesson Week/Exams /Workshops | Shindigs/Performances

JANUARY

WK	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
14	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
15	26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY

WK	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
							1
16	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
18	23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH

WK	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
							1
19	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					

APRIL

WK	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
23	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	27	28	29	30			

MAY

WK	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
25					1	2	3
26	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
27	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
28	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
-	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE

WK	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
MU	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
30	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
32	29	30					

JULY

WK	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
32			1	2	3	4	5
33	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
34	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
MU	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST

WK	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Ex	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31						

SEPTEMBER

WK	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
0			1	2	3	4	5
1A	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2B	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
3A	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
4B	28	29	30				

OCTOBER

WK	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
4B				1	2	3	4
5A	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6B	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
MU	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER

WK	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
							1
7A	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8B	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9A	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10B	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
11A	30						

DECEMBER

WK	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
11A		1	2	3	4	5	6
12B	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13A	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
B	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
A	28	29	30	31			

Spring Term 2026 A

Mon 19th Jan – Sun 15th Feb

Week 14 – 17

Make-Up Week -----

Spring Term 2026 B

Mon 23rd Feb – Sun 29th March

Week 18 – 22

Make-Up Week -----

Summer Term 2026 A

Mon 13th Apr – Sun 24th May

Week 23 - 28

Make-Up Week 1st June

Summer Term 2026 B

Mon 8th Jun – Sun 19th Jul

Week 29 - 36

Make-Up Week 20th July

Autumn Term 2026 A

Mon 7th Sept – Sun 18th Oct

Week 01 - 06

Make-Up Week 19th October

Autumn Term 2026 B

Mon 7th Nov – Sun 20th Dec

Week 07 – 12

Make-Up Week 4th Jan '27