



Playing Yamaha - 'Tips from the Top'

Our home became a studio again in June when James Woodcock and I filmed new material for the Yamaha Club's 'Playing Yamaha' tutorial DVD series.

The Club archive houses a fascinating collection of hints and tips – provided over many years by some of the top names in the world of Yamaha keyboard music. It's a treasury that's far too valuable to be hidden away – so an initial batch of mini-workshops based on the material has now been filmed in what we hope (optimistically) will be the first of a new series of Yamaha Club tutorial DVDs titled "Tips from the Top".

The DVD provides the answers to some frequently asked questions – with a few professional pointers thrown in for good measure. Hopefully the programme will help improve both your performance and your enjoyment of the instrument by introducing you to aspects of the keyboard you may not have explored previously.

James is working on the DVD as I write and we hope that the first of the 'Tips from the Top' programmes will be ready by the time our next edition is published in October when we'll be in a better position to give you more details about the content.



Fact -finders from Japan

At the beginning of July Cath and I were pleased to welcome a contingent of designers from Yamaha's Japanese team to our home in Dronfield.

Mr. Eiji Murata (Assistant Manager of EKB Product Development Department) and Ms. Kyoko Ohno visited Yamaha Club as part of a 'fact-finding' tour of Europe. We were joined by Richard Ashby from Yamaha UK and James Woodcock (YPKO) in a discussion about the future overall development of the Tyros project.

Before anyone mistakenly jumps to the conclusion that another model is imminent I should point out that this is not the case - and that visits of this nature take place routinely, both in the very early planning stages of a new instrument and throughout its life.

None-the-less, James and I are always happy to be invited to take part in these discussions because it gives us an opportunity to pass back to Yamaha feedback about its instruments that we've gathered from members - both of Yamaha Club and, until very recently, the YPKO forum. Ideas aired during sessions such as this are unlikely to be acted on directly - because, to be fair, they range from very simple software updates to full-blown plans for world domination - but they can form the basis of future exploration, debate and, occasionally, the introduction of a new feature or two. I guess it will be quite some time though before we'll be able to gauge what, if any, influence this meeting has on future products.



James Woodcock, Glyn Madden, Eiji Murata and Kyoko Ohno

(Just out of interest, the picture above the Clavinova was painted for us by Vic Hopkins - one of our multi-talented Yamaha Club members)

Coffee Time Quiz - No. 23 - by Beverley Coombes

Do you have your phrase book ready? All these popular song titles are in another language, even when the song has been anglicised:



1. Doris Day was resigned to whatever would be.
2. The Spanish teenager who wrote this very much wanted to be kissed.
3. This girl was the Beatles' belle, though she was a one hit wonder for the Overlanders.
4. Stevie Wonder thought she was as lovely as a summer's day.
5. Dean Martin loved this so much he made it his signature tune.
6. Mario Lanza said goodbye to the city with seven hills.
7. Los Lobos sang the title track to this film about the life of Ritchie Valens.
8. The hills were alive with this mountain flower.
9. Abba asked this 'little girl' to tell them what was wrong.
10. The Andrews Sisters were the first female vocal group to achieve a gold record with this song, originally written in Yiddish.

Answers: 1. Que Sera, 2. Besame Mucho, 3. Michelle, 4. Ma Chere Amour, 5. That's Amore, 6. Arrivederci Roma, 7. La Bamba, 8. Edelweiss, 9. Chiquitita, 10. Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen