

Statement

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In May 2003 I met the teachers who together make up the PAK-BW association for the promotion of quality double bass teaching. I was greatly impressed by the enthusiasm, commitment and supportive environment in which all the teachers are working and particularly by the vision of their leader, Song Choi, for providing every opportunity to maximise the quality and quantity of bass teaching in the area.

The PAK-BW is tackling all the necessary aspects of encouraging young people to play the double bass:

- the provision of expertly produced instruments which allow the player to make music without damage to the body
- opportunities for teachers to meet to learn about and discuss the pedagogy best suited to young string players
- opportunities for the young players to get together to make music with other bass players
- opportunities for young players to work with some of the great teachers of the double bass

As one of the authors of the award winning 'Essential String Method' I am pleased that the teachers understand the need to develop the whole musician as well as the technician of the double bass. Singing, playing educational games and a generally 'child friendly' approach to teaching and learning are essential when working with young people. The teachers of PAK-BW have grasped this fully and I wish them and their pupils every success.

Catherine Elliott