

## Getting the best from my piano requires resilience:

### Felicity's Story

“It takes a lot of resilience to relearn to hear music after getting a CI. Not everyone can do it. In order to achieve what I now have with the piano, I practiced scale and arpeggio for hours and hours. I found this helped my hearing and helped me gain nuances in sound and pitch discrimination.

At first scales didn't sound right. I found that I have finger memory. Once I got the fingering right, then scales started to sound right. I still find it difficult to hear whether I am playing a dominant 7th or a diminished 7th arpeggio from sound alone until I get the fingering right. I practiced repertoire for hours and hours.



*Certificate of Performance*

Over time, practice paid off: In 2017, I played in the gala concert. Then in 2020, I passed my exams and was awarded the Certificate of Performance at Adelaide University. This meant far more to me than simply passing a piano exam. It reaffirmed **me**, it reinstated my identity as a musician and a hearing person.

I have used a lot of trial and error to improve my music making experiences. Some approaches have been more successful than others. Here are some strategies I have tried:

#### **1. I purchased an electronic piano.**

- Problems: The electric piano gave me complete and total distortion above a very soft volume, which is not good for learning.
- Benefits: The electric piano allowed me to record what I played and use a TV streamer. I could send sound straight to my processor and this meant others in the house did not hear me.
- I had my piano retuned a number of times and refurbished. I test its stability using an online frequency test.

#### **2. I talked to other musicians about how they cope.”**