

## **THE PIANO LESSON**

**Winner, The Orange Playwriting Prize, 2005**

“Lovely writing about the joys of music as experienced by an intense teenager on the brink of life and love”  
– ***The Scotsman***

“Eloquent”  
– ***The Herald***

“The writing captures the joy, folly and frustrations of young womanhood”  
– ***Metro***

**This is a piece for one, young female actor and traces Hannah’s growing infatuation for her piano teacher, the unseen Greg, as she stands on the brink of womanhood and deals with her parents’ bitter divorce.**

**The staging is based on the Matisse painting *The Piano Lesson* [*la leçon de piano*]**

**Hannah:**

Greg reckons you should never say music is *good*, how can you call something this powerful *good*?  
Something that’s a physical presence, something that moves you.  
Music flickers across your skin and whispers in your ear and moves your body, moves your body and switches off the bad stuff in your head and you’re breathing different, [*increasingly energetically*] breathing in rhythm, and there’s electricity in your hair and your hands. Electricity all over your body as it picks you up like a lover and cradles you in it’s arms and lifts you up, up out of this world and shows you the stars and shows you how to dream and have soul.  
Then...then it brings you down and lays you back on the earth.

At least that’s what Greg says.  
It seems a lot of pressure to put on one little piano.

© **Alan Gilmour 2005**