

Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

Newsletter Feb 2011 Issue 3

Welcome to the first newsletter of the New Year, and for those new to the school welcome to MCnG where I can promise this is going to be an absolutely fantastic semester. Despite the worst recession in living memory numbers at the school are up on the previous semester and this we are being told on a daily basis is as a result of word of mouth. For this we are most grateful and for our part we promise that things are going to continue to grow and develop.

Mid-Term Break.

The standardised school term has set the dates for this year. So our break will take place from Monday the 21st Feb until Saturday the 26th Feb. St Marys College itself is closed this week so please take note of these important dates to save disappointment.

Vanbrugh Quartet visit.



Next Sat the 12th of Feb. there is a very special event taking place in the school. We have already sent a circular out regarding this so just a reminder. The Vanbrugh String Quartet are coming to MCnG to present a talk with performance on the late Beethoven quartets. Music such as this occurs once in a millennium and these performers are amongst the very best there are. Music for Galway have arranged for the visit and we at the school are very excited to be involved in such an exchange. The event itself begins at 11am and is one hour long. Admission is free. We have an issue regarding venue though. There are two possible locations within the school and the choice of which will be dependent on numbers. So if you have a moment to reply to this newsletter to say that you will be attending, it would help greatly with preparations.

Music Technology Classes

Part of the Leaving Certificate music program now includes an option called music technology. In essence this is a question of demonstrating a facility with a music software package such as Sibelius or Finale. There are free versions of the software offered by the companies that produce them which means this option is open to all who have access to a computer. As a subject it offers a method of gaining the maximum 25% in the exam with a minimum of real effort by Leaving Cert standards.

Given the pressure for points felt by students nowadays we cannot but recommend this option to all, but even more so to those who might have performance anxiety in relation to the upcoming practical exams in April. To this end we have engaged the services of Mr Duncan Moore to come and offer a suite of classes on this specific topic. Duncan is the tutor of choice for many of the schools in the city and county and his experience in this area is second to none. There will be 4 classes in total which is ample for gaining complete confidence. The class will take place on a Wednesday evening at 6pm for one hour. A fee of €28 is being asked for the classes for external students but students of MCnG will be offered the lessons for €20. For further information or to register interest please call the office on 091 528965 or email admin@mcng.ie

Violin Masterclass



We are delighted to announce the first in a series of masterclasses at MCnG. Violinist Bogdan Sofei, leader of the Contempo String Quartet will spend a day working with three of the schools diploma students to facilitate them with their upcoming examinations. Bogdan has such a wealth of performing experience at the very highest level and is known for his tremendous generosity of spirit in working with young people. The value of interactions such as these cannot be overestimated and it is hoped that we will host a variety of such classes as the year progresses. The dates are yet to be finalised due to work commitments for Bogdan so we will be advising you of these shortly. As with all such events this is open to

all students of the school to come and observe, particularly those considering taking a diploma themselves at some future time. There is no charge for attendance.

Parents Question.

There have been a number of questions of late in relation to practise. Some parents are uncertain what the guidelines are and how long it should take. Before offering a general guide it should be pointed out that individual teachers will almost certainly have individual requirements and will be happy to communicate these to any parent who asks.

Practise serves two distinct functions. The first is the improvement of playing ability and the development of strength and agility as performers. This is the area of practise that requires regular work. The amount of work will depend on the age and grade of the student but the important aspect is that the work is done at regular intervals. Simply put the muscles attached to the playing of an instrument function like any other muscles. If you do not train them they do not develop. A very famous pianist was once asked how often he practised and he replied that he tried to work every day. His now famous add-on runs ' If I miss one day of practise I notice, if I miss two, my friends notice and if I miss three, the audience notices'

The second area of practise is the mental development of the student. This might range from theory work or ear training to developing sight reading or perhaps spending time listening to and memorising a work. Again the individual teacher will chart a list of things he feels necessary to help each child to grow musically, and these can often be overlooked in a week as less important than the act of playing on their instrument. This is not the case at all and indeed many of these extra tasks are often the very things that maintain the joy in music for children. A child that loves what they do will never complain about practise because to them it's not work anymore. It forms as much a part of their daily framework as sports or other gameplay.

Conga Classes

We will shortly be announcing a second set of free hand percussion classes with resident Latin specialist Alan Preims. We ran three weeks of these classes prior to Christmas for younger children and the response to them was just fantastic. Alan will now offer them to older students over a similar period. So we will be taking names over the next week or so in relation to these. The exact dates are not finalised and we will be sending these out with the masterclass notice in about a week. Entry to the class is again free but as with last time places are limited to about 12 people so to register interest please call the office on 091 528965 or email admin@mcng.ie.

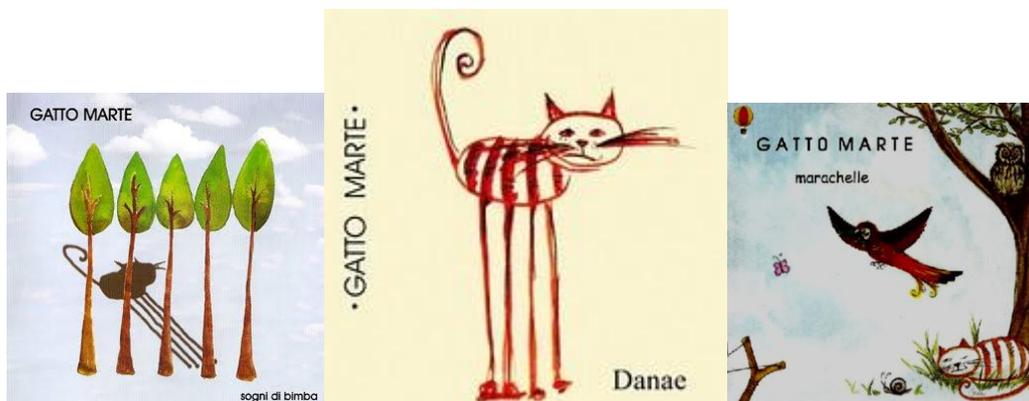
Facebook

All school information is posted on the notice board on the second floor and on our Facebook page. The advantage to the Facebook page is that the updates are more regular and there can often be giveaways that only appear there. We recently gave away three copies of Tom Portmans new CD 'At One'. This album is a must for guitar lovers and Tom will be doing a concert in the school in March featuring highlights from the album. Go to Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe and click on 'like' button.

And finally.....

We were asked as a special favour to give some space to two upcoming events in Galway that might be of interest.

Galway Community Circus and Gatto Marte present:



Evening of live music and circus entertainment by the GCC performers

Thursday 10th February at 7.00pm

St Joseph's Community Centre, Shantalla

Tickets are available at the door for €5 per person / €10 for family of 4

All proceeds will go towards the running costs of the

Galway Community Circus (Charity No. 17420)

GALWAY – Thursday 10th February – Galway Community Circus is hosting a fundraising concert by Gatto Marte in the St Joseph's Community Centre, Shantalla. Evening will include live-music and performances by the Galway Community Circus performers from their recent show *Attack of the Circus*.

For more information please contact Galway Community Circus on 085 111 7224, email galwaycircus@gmail.com or see www.galwaycommunitycircus.com

Indaco at the Museum!

The Quartetto Indaco are four string players from Japan, Italy, Muldovia and Ireland. They will be performing together at Galway Museum on March 1st at 8.00 pm. This is a young professional string quartet based in Italy. They have however a strong link with Galway, as their Cellist, Naomi Berrill is originally from Headford.

The Indaco Quartet, with their eyes set on the horizon of new possibilities in performance and working with other art forms, are currently completing a specialized masters course in chamber music in Basel. There, they are also working on integrating dance and choreography into their string quartet performances in collaboration with choreographer Gaby Mahler.



This will be an evening not to miss. An acoustic journey from the joyful courts of Haydn's Austria to a dramatic and passionate interpretation of a jealous love story from the Czech Republic of Janacek. Then to Ireland for an interesting work by Donnacha Dennehy.

Tickets 10 euro (8 for students!)

For tickets call the museum on 091 532460

Tickets also on door but with limited seating we advise to book in advance.