

Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

Newsletter March 2012 Issue 10

We did send out a special newsletter last week to cover some of the extraordinary events taking place at the school in the coming weeks but this then is the newsletter proper. We shall keep the details succinct and to the point as best we can.

MCNG will be closed this coming Saturday, March 10th. The All-Ireland School's Cross Country Championships are taking place and will occupy the whole school grounds making access impossible. This day of teaching will be made up later in the year. We are also closed on March 17th for St Patrick's Day which is part of the year's calendar and we are closed on the March 19th which is a Bank Holiday and that is also included in the calendar. Easter Holidays are from Tuesday, April 3rd and we reopen on Monday, April 16th. Please note that classes will be held on Monday, April 2nd. Please check our Facebook page if you have any doubts as the open and closed days are always posted there.

Colourstrings



Our Colourstrings training course in February was a huge success and having Karen Mackenzie back to refine teaching skills and introduce new concepts to the workings of this beautiful program was really fantastic. We are so grateful to her for her time, patience and years of shared experience.

This summer we will see a significant number of staff training in the next stage of Colourstrings in Surrey, London. This is the instrumental end of the business and we will have tutors training in violin and piano to compliment those already equipped in cello and wind. This is of huge significance to the future of Colourstrings in Galway as it allows for the progression from kindergarten into primary education and from our position it means we can finally begin to deliver on the promise that has been shown by the children in the kindergarten classes.

We propose to have a **parents meeting** in the school on the evening of the 21st March at 8pm for about 1 hour. The purpose of the meeting is simply to bring everyone up to speed on the program. It will outline the objectives of the classes and how to get the most benefit from it at home. It will also be a great opportunity to ask questions and perhaps to meet with other staff members to discuss possible instrumental options for later. Colourstrings thrives on parental involvement and it can be a hugely rewarding experience for parents to feel involved in the development of the core skills, all the while having fun and bonding with their children. Music really is a gift that will stay with them the rest of their lives. We hope to see a huge turnout on the night.

It is also proposed that the **Colourstrings Parent's Choir** be revisited. This group would learn the core material and ways to develop and mix it up at home. There will also be a small amount of Kodaly training involved for the parents so that they too can begin to acquire the language of music with their children. We will be taking names over the coming weeks to see how much interest there is for the rest of this year. If numbers are low then we will likely postpone until September but the choir will be starting again and it is open to all parents to attend.

Finally just to mention that Marsha and Katri are currently in the process of looking at running a summer school for Colourstrings of one week duration. Once the details of the school are finalised we will be in touch with all parents.

Concerts and Masterclasses

The schedule for the coming weeks is as follows:

Sunday, March 11th at 2pm: Workshop in early piano fingering technique with Mr. Roy Holmes from DIT. Cost €10 and this is open to all teachers of piano and all senior students to attend. Mr Holmes is a hugely experienced accompanist and teacher and greatly respected intellect on all things piano. This will be a fantastic afternoon.

Sunday March 11th at 2pm: Masterclass in Banjo by one of the great names in Traditional Irish Music, John Carty. There are spaces in this class and the cost is €20

Sunday March 11th at 8pm: Public concert given by John Carty. Tickets at a concession to all students and parents of MCnG priced at €10 and €5. This event is recommended to all as an example of real virtuosity and skill from a real master of his art.

Saturday March 31st at 11am: Masterclass with Martin Hayes on Fiddle. Cost €20

Saturday March 31st at 2pm: Masterclass with Martin Hayes on Fiddle. Cost €20

Saturday March 31st at 8pm: Public concert by virtuoso Martin Hayes. Tickets at special concession to all students and parents of MCnG are €15 and €5. Known the world over for his amazing gift, Martin Hayes' concert will be one of the highlights of the musical year.

Special Awards Program

Starting next year MCnG is going to introduce a special award program for all of the students. This will be a way of nurturing talent within the school and giving encouragement to those who are really using the resources to the maximum effect. The award program will involve a number of set requirements for each student to complete over the year and upon completion there will be a special award ceremony and presentation of certificates. Full details of the program and a list of the requirements will follow in the next newsletter. This type of program is being offered on the recommendation of a parent who was in a school in New York where the implementation of a similar initiative there really captured the imagination of the students and really encouraged them to become more involved with their music making across a number of areas. We are always thrilled to hear of such ideas and glad to introduce them when we think they will have a positive effect.

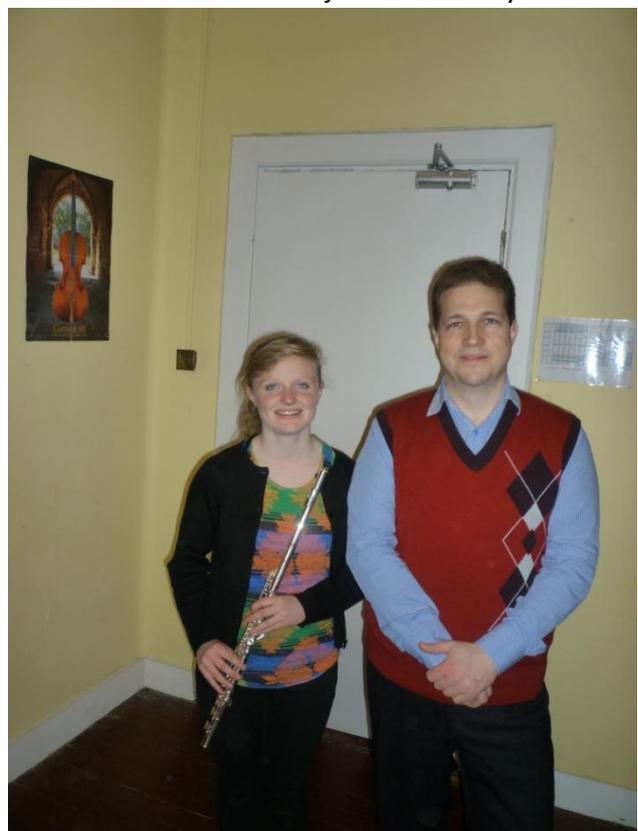
Examinations

Results are in from the Spring Examinations already and they are really superb once again with a third of all students entered achieving marks in excess of 90%, which is a distinction and not one student scoring less than 85%. Full credit to both staff and students for the excellent work done.

Our summer entries are now lodged with the RIAM and there remains just the theory exam entry for the Associated Board. Entries for this must be submitted to the office by Wednesday, April 18th. The exam itself will take place on Saturday, June 16th.

Bursaries and awards

All bursaries for this semester have been awarded and most of our instrument awards were also given. Winner of the AIB Flute Award is Elaine Carey who is a remarkable young lady that finds time not only for her flute and music lessons but also to be part of the Jesuit College hockey team that won the Connaught Seniors School Palmer Cup for the fifth year in a row. Financial bursaries have been given out and it will be September again before we award the next series. There remains two instruments that are available to students that might wish to avail of them. We have a



double bass, an excellent starter instrument for anyone curious about taking it on as an instrument and we also have a clarinet that is similarly a wonderful starter instrument. These instruments are free to any interested student but the lessons will have to be booked and paid for by the student.

Library

Our online library facilities are not really being utilised by students so we have embarked upon a process of creating a full in-house library that will render the need for a paid online facility unnecessary. Thus far, there is an extensive amount of instrumental and orchestral material already amassed and we are adding to that with a full set of the Grove Encyclopedia in the coming weeks. In addition to this there is still access to imslp.org which is an amazing collection of free music to print off and which is out of copyright, so therefore suitable for examination purposes. Youtube has rapidly become the mainstay of students looking to hear performances of particular pieces of music because there are often very wonderful video shots of performances to accompany the recordings, but we do also have an extensive library of CDs in the office for all to browse. In short we are trying to establish a balance between an online and hard copy system that will best benefit each student of the school.