

# Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

---

Newsletter April 2013 Issue 17

## Dear Parent

It has been a hugely busy and successful term for the school, and there is a significant amount of news to go through. As always, we will err on the side of brevity, where possible, but, please check this through to the end, in case there are specific issues that affect your children.

## Musique Ensemble xx

A Paris-based school of music, with a structure similar to our own, and with student numbers roughly in the same proportions, has suggested a collaboration between our two schools. With that in mind, a visit took place in March, when the Director of the school, Arielle Zajde, and some of her



staff came to discuss the project further. We were delighted with the opportunity to meet, and discuss the plans, and the entire event culminated with a civic reception hosted by the Mayor of Galway, Terry O' Flaherty. The fine print on the project is still being finalised, but the collaboration will now go ahead by which students from the two schools will be offered the chance to study a common repertoire, which will then come together in the two venues. So, we will host the

school from Paris, next Easter, and prepare a concert at this end, and then we will prepare for a return visit to Paris, to perform in that beautiful city. There is the hope that we can transcend the borders of music a little, and make this a wider cultural exchange, and it seems likely that we will have assistance in this from groups like the Alliance Française. It is hard to describe just what an exciting adventure awaits the students of the school in this regard, and once the plans are completely finalised, we will prepare a newsletter specific to the entire project.

## Galway Music Residency.

This wonderful organisation is in the final stages of preparation for the move to St. Mary's College, hence all the building chaos on the second floor. The offices will be complete within the next two weeks, and then we can begin the clean up. I do ask that parents will understand if things are a little unkempt in the mean time while we are trying to keep up. This now means that theory classes are no longer on the second floor. For the remainder of this semester, we will be relocating these to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Room 122 to be exact. Here too, all junior and leaving cert classes and the Drum Corps.

## MCnG Prize.

It's finally here. All forms are to be collected in the next week, and we will go over the details in the office to make sure they are correct. Once the list of students is compiled, we will be preparing our certificates. The whole thing will culminate on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, with a beautiful ceremony, when each student will be officially presented with their certificate of achievement. We will be hosting the evening in the college, and there will be a short musical presentation by students of the school to begin, followed by the award ceremony. We are thrilled to announce that the Junior Minister for Education, Ciaran Cannon, has agreed to be present on the evening to officiate. A keen musician himself for many years, he willingly agreed to come and support the work of the school, and, more importantly, the efforts of the student body.



## ABRSM exams

Deadline is this Friday! If you have not registered with the office, then we cannot enter you for the summer exams. The lists are being forwarded by each member of staff, including the theory classes, and just be sure to remind each teacher to include the names.

## Drum Corps

Our newest venture, in conjunction with GYO, is the development of a Drum Corps, or Drum line, depending on where you come from. 8 young people meet each Saturday morning to work with percussionist Terry Cooke, and already the progress is just fantastic. Admission is now closed, and this first group will continue until the end of semester, and hopefully beyond. We will be taking a second strand of students in September, when we will open up another 8 places. Students will eventually form a display drumming body for all sorts of ceremonies, but more than that, they will get the chance to work in a variety of percussion environments such as marching, popular kit playing, and orchestral work with GYO on the timpani!

## Colourstrings

We have created our first young body of string players. They meet every second week on a Saturday afternoon, and, in keeping with the colourstrings philosophy, they are preparing for performance already, even though many of them are playing for the shortest time. The long-term wish for this, is to create a group of string players that will perform at a level of excellence not normally associated with younger students. As student numbers grow in the colourstrings department, we will continue to expand and grow this ensemble as a flagship group for the school.

Our primary school project is coming to a close for this year, and that has been really successful. We currently work in 5 schools, bringing music literacy back into the classroom. There is a hope now to



expand this even further next year into more schools, and discussions are underway to make that a possibility. This summer, we are hosting a training camp in colourstrings with the pre-eminent teacher in this area, Karen MacKenzie. Karen teaches the colourstrings approach all over the world, and we are blessed in that we have developed a good working relationship with her in the past couple of years, and she is really looking forward to working with the primary school teachers. Like us, she recognises what a huge thing it would be, for young children in school to have achieved full music literacy, while still in primary school. A gift for life.

We will be retaining two places on the training course for people within MCnG to train as

teachers for the school. We have already flagged this on our facebook page that we are in particular looking to train one of these people that has fluency in the Irish language. We currently have 5 applicants for the two places, but we will accept names for another short while. Particulars can be obtained from the main office.

One last word on the colourstrings classes for the moment, which is that we are full! There is currently no more space available on our weekly schedule, so, in relation to the pre-registration for next semester, we would urge all parents hoping to continue to make sure of their places early. We now have a waiting list with names hoping to fill for September.

## **Pre-Registration**

We ran this on a trial basis last year and it was of immense benefit to us from an administrative point of view, so, at the beginning of May, we will again issue pre-registration forms for next year. In short this will allow people to pre-book their times and lessons for next September, thereby lessening the burden on us trying to timetable over 300 individual students, and, helping to get the year off to a brisk and efficient start. As with last year, we will offer a small financial incentive as a thank you to those who participate.

## **Summer schools**

We are involved in two summer projects this year. There is going to be a Colourstrings week, and perhaps two, if we can organise the dates. Information regarding these will be made available in the coming weeks directly to the colourstrings parents.

We are also now going to officially support the venture Summer Music in Galway. This is a summer school that has been running for over 20 years in Clare and Limerick, and it is an extraordinary event. International performers and teachers will congregate in Galway this July, and August, to help the young players of the city to develop their skills, and to really get a sense of standards and

professionalism from outside the confines of Galway in the broader musical world. Full brochures are available in the office, and we will be having a launch night here in the school at the beginning of May, to announce the details of this summer's program. In the meantime, the information regarding the course can be viewed online at [www.summermusicingalway.com](http://www.summermusicingalway.com)

*As with all the school events, the speed with which certain things come and go is very fast indeed, and we recommend that you keep an eye on our **facebook** page:*

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Maoin-Cheoil-na-Gaillimhe/241290009207>

*for up-to-date information. It is maintained on a weekly basis and has information from ourselves, Music for Galway, and the Galway Music Residency.*