



Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

Newsletter

April 2018

Ballet in Leisureland

On Sunday the 8th of April we are engaged in a most wonderful collaborative partnership. The orchestra from the Clare Music Makers school and the Ballet dancers from the Regina Rogers school are all coming together with our own Ensemble to present an evening of great music making and dancing. Music from Tchaikovsky's nutcracker ballet will form the centrepiece of the evening, surrounded by works from Grieg, Strauss and Saint Saens. It is the result of nearly a year's worth of



planning and it is really a stepping stone for all future orch projects for us.

Rehearsals over Easter will take place on Friday 6th and Sat 7th at 1.30 pm. On the Sunday we will again meet at 1.30 and the concert itself will kick off at 7pm that evening.

Tickets for the event are available on the door. It is costing us €2000 to put on this one off event and so we are really asking families to come out and support us. Even if your

child is not part of this concert they might very well be a part of the next and the continuation of these large scale events is based entirely on your support.

Next year we will be pairing up with a school Orch from Dusseldorf as part of a two year exchange. They will be coming to visit us in the Oct break for 5 days and this will be the beginning of something really special. There is a return visit planned for us the following year. This is in the style of the previous exchange with the Orchestra from Ensemble XX in Paris. These are the lifeblood of youth music and double as extraordinary cultural experiences. To that end we will be offering a summer school to everyone who wishes to be a part of the project. We have a full program of music to prepare before the Autumn and that is simply not possible with the short number of rehearsals available to us from Sept.

MCnG Prize

The school prize is set once again for May and the format remains the same as it was last year. We will have the full school assessment in the first weekend which is set for the 12th May. The following weekend we will have the Competitive round. Once again we want to stress that these are obviously related events but they represent two very different purposes. The assessment is a chance to perform in front of parents and examiner to gain performing experience and to get feedback on it. Performing is such a hugely different activity from taking examination and the skills it offers are incomparable for musicians. The number of students we have seen blossom into beautiful young

musicians over the past couple of years is the primary reason we have continued to offer this program to all.

The competition night is a remarkable event and though we will freely admit that last year was a little on the long side we will be keeping the numbers very strict this year and the standard will be of the highest order. It is worth remembering that there is almost €1500 in prizes for the winners and even those who qualify get a little something.



School of Music

Attendance at the launch of our initiative to get a better deal for musicians in the city and ultimately a school of Music for Galway was a little down on our hoped for number. But significantly the major music organisations were all represented and that fact was not lost on the attend group. Thankfully there was some serious commitments that grew out of it. Since that night there has been two meetings and these have been with the major stakeholders in the city and also 4 of our elected representatives. Thus far only Sean Kyne has not engaged with us and that is fine. The strength of reaction from the others has been very encouraging and a plan is evolving. We will hopefully begin to update in a specific way shortly.

Fees

There is it seems no way to ensure delivery of our school invoices as a large number of families have contacted us to say that they have not received same. We have actually sent them all out. But there is no way for us to verify this or to factor in the settings on peoples individual email accounts which might block some things from us. We do get responses from emails which do not deliver to an account that is dead or the email is not valid but that is all we have to go on. We will try to contact any parent with an outstanding balance in the coming weeks. It is essential for the effective running of the school that we arrive at an effective system. Last year we sent out invoices to the postal addresses and over 60 of them were reported undelivered. Please understand that it is a bit frustrating on both parties and we are constantly looking at better systems.



Pre-Registration

We will be giving out pre registration forms to everyone later in April. As always this is our way of trying to anticipate the needs for next year and to schedule lessons for current students prior to opening our registers to new students. As a thank you we also offer a financial incentive to all parents who take the time to submit their registration documents to us prior to the summer break. Full details will be in the Documents we send out.