

# Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

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## Newsletter Aug 2013 Issue 19

### Dear Parent

Let me begin by saying that I am sorry that this newsletter is a little late going out. We were so very busy with the new admin system and the colourstrings training program that it has simply taken this long. We do hope that everyone has had a wonderful summer holiday this year. Certainly the weather has provided some wonderful opportunities at home and how often can we say that! We are writing to everyone with a few updates prior to the school re opening on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Some of them are to do with registration itself and more are to do with events planned for the year. Please have a read through and if there are any questions then do contact us in the office and we will help where we can.

### September Schedules

As mentioned, we return to teaching next Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. All members of staff will be attending to their own registers and schedules this semester because of not having an open day this year. It's a corollary to having such a panel of teachers that they are either attending courses and adding to their skills and knowledge base, or in fact performing on the one weekend we had available for registration. So for those that have not yet confirmed their places for September there will be contact emails and some phone calls directly from teachers in the coming days. We genuinely have waiting lists of students looking for lessons in Sept and it would make our lives so much easier if parents can try to reply to any requests when they get them.

### Theory Classes

Please note that theory classes are **NOT** commencing next week. We are giving the instrumental program one week to bed in and then starting the theory. So theory begins on Monday Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. Our theory classes remain largely unchanged from last year. There is a slight amendment to the Tuesday schedule. The pre grade 1 class is still at 4.30 and the Grade 1 itself will be at 5.30. Then we are adding a grade 2 class at 6. SO there will be essentially two grade 1 classes now. One on a tues (5.30) and one on a sat (10.00). Then we will be offering 2 grade 2 classes. One on a tues (6pm) and the other on a Monday (6pm)

As always the theory classes are provided **free of charge** and though not compulsory they are to be highly recommended because they provide so much extra information and clarity to the instrumental classes. In the case of certain exam boards it is a compulsory requirement for the higher grades. We have also noticed difference in exam results between those who do attend theory and those who do not.

## Administration

Because the school has grown so much since we opened, we have outgrown our original administration structures and have spent the summer redesigning some new ones to help with office procedures. Not without hiccups. Last week I deleted 1300 emails and there has been so much fun recovering those! But by and large it is working okay. What it does mean is that some parents that paid pre-reg fees did not as yet receive an official receipt. We will be issuing them in the coming weeks. They are all on file.

## Composer in Residence

As we mentioned in recent newsletters we are a part of the Galway Music Education Partnership. This large group is essentially made up of the many groups involved in music education in the city and county of Galway. The main purpose of the group is to try to improve the level of service for music and to develop a network of like minded people in a way that help all of us to grow and improve. One hopeful outcome is to secure some funding from the music generation scheme and to launch a number of seed projects to expand the music base throughout the county. But recently in a statement of real affirmation a sum of money was made available for the appointment of a composer in residence. A position was created and now I am happy to report a composer has been offered the position. Final details of the appointment will be released at the beginning of September. What this means for MCnG is this. The new composer will work with the staff in the school to discuss ways to incorporate more contemporary music into their daily teaching. Secondly the composer will seek to work with young people that want to learn something of the composition process and even to producing original work of their own. Lastly he will work with an ensemble within the school and produce an original composition for them. Then this work with a further large scale composition featuring all the groups he works with will be featured in a series of concerts in the late spring or early summer of 2014. This is something new and truly original and we are hugely excited to be a part of it. The proposal is that he will work with the ensemble created to twin with the school of music in Paris. So we are still accepting applications from students that wish to be a part of that exchange. Unfortunately this is confined to string and wind players only for the moment. But the entire project has taken on such significance that we do urge all those that can avail of it to do so. We are setting an age requirement of about 12 to 16. All those involved will commit to a camp at Easter with the French students whom we will host here and a concert. Then in June we will fly to Paris for a return visit that they will host. We have about 10 students at the moment and room for about 6 or 7 more to balance things with the French.

## New Staff

We are welcoming two new teachers to our faculty this academic year. Mr. David Szabo, who is a concert pianist and a young man with a hugely impressive CV already. His skills on the keyboard are truly immense and his pedigree is from the Ferenc Liszt institute in Hungary. Same lineage as our Mr. Solyom. He is currently accepting students for lessons on a Monday and, subject to demand, Tuesday afternoons.

Ms. Suzanne Mc Eneaney is joining our colourstrings dept. She hails from Dublin where she has been involved for years now with the Leeson Park school of Music. They were the first school in Ireland to

introduce Colourstrings teaching. Suzanne has a BMus from Maynooth with a distinct predilection on her part for composition. She completed all of her CS training with us under Karen Mac Kenzie and is a fully qualified Kindergarten Teacher. Her classes will run on a Sat.

## Colourstrings

Our primary school program continues to grow and we have just finished training 17 new teachers from the primary schools themselves in the first stage of training that we hope will see them upskill further next summer and take over the work of spreading colourstrings within their schools. Our instrumental teachers are taking on the first crop of colourstrings kindergarten graduates next week and we have high hopes for them.

## Drum Corps

We kicked off a 10 week pilot last semester in our formation drumming class and it was a huge success. This partnership with the GYO is something that holds real promise. All the young Drummers learned some good skills and we hope to see those really yield results this next semester. There will be opportunities to work with the GYO and a number of other exciting drumming surprises. We are now going to offer a second class to help build a real Drum Line and develop them into an exhibition group of real class. Mr Terry Cooke is the man with the skills and enthusiasm and we thank him for his work thus far. We will be offering another 10 week run of classes soon after the GYO reforms in Sept and there will be 8 places only on offer. Cost is €60 for the 10 weeks or €45 to students of MCnG. First come first served.

And finally.....

## Concerts and Workshops

This year will be the year of concerts. In addition to the usual student concerts which are becoming firmly established in the calendar we are planning a large number of young people friendly concerts. Mostly based around the performing professionals on staff, these are planned for an earlier start in the evening and to be of just one hour duration. Our facebook page will offer immediate updates on all these events as they happen and we hope it will be the start of a new adventure for our many young people.

In October this year the IAYO are bringing their chamber music course to St. Mary's college. This is a fantastic introduction to chamber music for young string players and there is on site tutoring for the weekend. More details will be available in the coming weeks.