

# Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

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## Newsletter December 2011 Issue 8

The Christmas season is upon us once more, so let us begin this festive newsletter by wishing all students and parents the very happiest and peaceful season imaginable. As always there is quite an amount of material to get through so without further ado.....

### Christmas Holidays.

The official end of teaching is Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. However there is provision for making up missed lessons during the early part of the following week. This is at the discretion of each teacher and any queries regarding classes should be directed towards the individual teachers. The New Year begins on the January 9<sup>th</sup> and this is the week 16 of the first semester. Then on Saturday the January 14<sup>th</sup> the second semester officially begins. Saturday classes are a week ahead of all others to compensate for St. Patrick's Day which this year falls on a .....Saturday.

### A Little Good News.

Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe receives no grant aid or subsidy and as such is entirely self financing. In spite of this we do run a bursary scheme and this will remain unchanged for the second semester. This is awarded on the pull a name from a hat principal. Basically it is worth 128 euro to the winning family. All we ask is that anyone wishing to be considered, and who do so out of genuine need rather than just the desire to be 128 better off, would submit their name to the office for entry to the draw. Names will be drawn first week in January and as always winners will be kept strictly confidential. There are currently 3 Bursaries on offer.

For everybody else there is a small sweetener on offer. We have decided to offer a 5% reduction in fees to anyone that makes full payment within the first two weeks of semester. Simply put this means that anyone who pays in full prior to Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> automatically qualifies for the reduction. The offer does not apply to those paying in instalments or on standing orders.



### Christmas Concerts.

Many of the staff in the school are busily preparing students for their Christmas concerts. These are in no way obligatory but they do provide for some wonderful performance opportunities in an environment that is as devoid of pressure as any can be. We will post some of the photographs on our Facebook site afterwards for parents to see. Copies can be emailed from the office to parents if so wished.

## Colourstrings Adult Choir.

This ensemble has been running on Wednesday evenings for the first semester. The idea behind the choir is to train parents in all the Colourstrings material and to show them the potential it has for expansion and development with their children. This initiative was proposed by Edel Coughlan and she has been offering these classes to all parents in the program free of charge. Edel has asked me to announce that after the Christmas the choir is going to continue but that the frequency is going to drop and she will now take rehearsals of the group on the first Wednesday of every month.

## Colourstrings end of term and Christmas Party.

The end of term for Colourstrings is the same as for the rest of the school which is this Saturday, December 17th. However those of you that were with us last year will remember that the end of term is only the beginning of the fun. Yes indeed the Colourstrings Christmas party is set to make a welcome return. The man in red himself will be back with a sack full of gifts. There will be lots of goodies and fun for the children so do mark it in the diary. Festivities kick off at 2pm.



## New Library at MCnG

In the past year we have received three separate libraries from others who believe as we do that music should be there for everyone. In this spirit the donations were made and we intend to honour that and make the libraries available to all to use in the near future.

Our donations were received from Nessa Heaney who kindly donated a large number of score from her late husband's estate. Patrick Heaney was a cornerstone for music in the city of Galway for decades working in various musical societies as Musical Director, Pianist and Conductor. He was heavily involved with the Taibhdearc and was also conductor of the Galway Concert orchestra.

The second donation came from the Galway Concert orchestra which was a significant presence in the city. For over a decade the orchestra brought the major symphonic repertoire to Galway audiences and now the bulk of their scores will reside at MCnG.

The final part of this exciting collection is the Mallon Library. Originally belonging to Fr. Mallon of the Jesuit school. This collection was recently handed over to us and is noteworthy for the breath of its scope and the story of the players that formed this orchestra back in the day when few would be aware of the rich musical heritage of the city. Fr Mallon himself is a fascinating figure being the son of the 1916 hero who was present at the time of his father's execution.

The entire collection is being catalogued and will appear on our website in the near future for all to browse and make use of.

## What's in a Name?

We are often asked why the school is called Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe and what in fact the name means. Maoin is a special word in the Irish language in that its meaning has evolved and mutated with time. In its original form it would have meant a gift. Of late a more appropriate meaning is a resource. For this reason we often refer to ourselves as the Galway Music Resource. It was decided to call ourselves this because when the school was itself evolving we wanted it to be a place that had as its core value that it should be something available to every single person in the city and county of Galway. Because we were responding to needs in Galway that simply did not exist elsewhere we thought that the idea of a traditional school of music had a limiting value on what we might be. But to be an open resource to all, a place where talent is celebrated and shared and where structures were designed around making that all possible. That just made sense and thus Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe came into being.

## Facebook



Once more we wish to remind parents and students alike that we host a facebook page. We try not to abuse this service and bombard parents with useless information but we do regularly put up information and competitions that are of interest to the running of the school and can often be hugely beneficial in getting messages out quickly. It is also a place where staff members regularly post on their performance activity or concert schedules and a great way to keep in touch with them. We pride ourselves on having staff that are at the very top of

their game and regularly composing, performing, recording and broadcasting. All you need to do is to look up the Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe page on Facebook and click on the 'Like' button.

## Coming Soon

This coming semester is going to be filled with events that are there for the benefit of all the students. In particular there is a fine workshop in February with a piano trio from Scandanavia. This is being made available by Music for Galway and is the second such event this year. The Vanbrugh quartet came in October and were simply stunning in their professionalism and extraordinary musicianship. We will be posting regular information regarding this as the date draws closer.

We are in the process of trying to compile a series of masterclasses and performances in Irish traditional Music. At the moment we are in negotiation with some of the performers and will be able to confirm the season early in the new year.

Extra events are planned and will be advertised through our usual channels and on Facebook.

## Scholarships in St Marys College

St Mary's College is one hundred years old and to commemorate this they have taken the idea of offering a hundred scholarships, one for each of the years. We were truly delighted to hear that this was happening but even more so when they approached us to ask if we would be interested in getting involved. They are offering a large number of music scholarships over the next five years. There will be entrance examinations in January and as part of these we will be looking to award TEN music scholarships. These are worth a huge amount to each family. All scholars receive a 45 minute lesson each week at MCnG and also 50% of all book costs while at school. They also receive all the usual benefits of the music school. And on top of all this Music as a subject is returning to the curriculum in St. Mary's as of next September. An opportunity such as this is once in a lifetime and it is open to any young man entering secondary school next year. Do spread the word. Scholarships are available in sport and academic disciplines as well.