

Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

Newsletter March 2014 Issue 23

Dear Parent

This is not our usual newsletter. That will be arriving to your inbox in about 2-3 weeks. It is just an information document regarding the MCnG prize this year and also our up-coming concerts in house.

MCnG Prize

As was the case last year, we are going to host an award evening. This is a celebration of all that is good about music. We want to acknowledge the efforts of the student body, who have taken music beyond the weekly lesson, and engaged with it in a meaningful way. Each teacher has full details of the requirements and we will be collecting the data from them at the end of April. Then those who qualify will be brought to a special celebration night on May 16th. Preparations are already underway to make the evening even more special than last year. To help with the gathering of the necessary points and to also build up a real understanding of where all this is going we are hosting a series of concerts in the coming months that will delight and inspire all of our young performers in the making.

Concert Diary Dates

Saturday 29th May. Tom Portman. 7pm sitting room St. Mary's

Monday 7th April. NUIG Concert Orchestra. 7.30 Bailey Allen Hall NUIG

Friday 25th April Paris orchestra night. 7pm St. Mary's

Sat May 3rd Piano Duet evening by staff of MCnG. 7pm in Sitting room St. Mary's

Sat May 10th Gala concert to celebrate composer in residence. Seapoint Ballroom 7pm

Friday May 16th MCnG award night. 7pm St. Mary's

Saturday May 24th Colourstrings end of year 3pm conference room St. Mary's.

Details

Next Saturday evening we are holding the second of our 'new directions' concert series. The first of these took place a couple of weeks ago with the Galway Music Residency and the evening was a huge success. As with all such things we had a thought on the night to pull all of the young ones up to the front to see and interact with the performers. It worked very well indeed and so we are going to bring lots of cushions and scatter them up the top again for this one. The idea was so successful we have decided now to rename the entire series as the 'Cushion Concerts' This coming Saturday night Tom Portman is going to arrive with every conceivable type of guitar. He has them all and has decided to bring them along to let the children see and hear them. I am told that he even has a banjo but don't be afraid we will only allow that to be played under strict controlled conditions. At the end of the concert we will have some light refreshments for all the youngsters. The concert is timed to suit the younger audience and will finish up fully by 8pm. But big people are also most welcome. Admission is free

On Monday 7th April, school director Hugh Kelly will conduct the NUIG Concert orchestra in a program designed to appeal to young and old. This year there is going to be a performance of the Schubert unfinished symphony in the first half of the program. But the second half is where the magic will happen. There is about 8 mins of film music from Pirates of the Carribean, Forest Gump

and Gladiator and while each of these is being performed there will be a screening of excerpts from the movies. The scenes will be carefully selected so that everything is appropriate for younger audiences.

This is a ticket affair and these can be bought on the door at a cost of €10, €6.

On the 25th April, we will be hosting the first leg of the Paris exchange. We will be joining the two groups for the very first time, and that, in itself, would have been very exciting, but we are also going to feature the colourstrings group in a number of special pieces, and then we are going to hear from two crack orchestras - The string group from Coole Music, and their special guests from Sweden. It promises to be an amazing night of fun, and heralds the beginning of many such exchanges in the future. Admission is free.

3rd of May is the next in the Cushion Concerts. The piano department of the school is coming together to create a memorable performance of some really difficult and exciting piano duets. It will be exceptional and it will give everyone the chance to see the sheer quality of these amazing teachers as well. Admission is free.

10th May we are in Seapoint for the Gala concert that celebrates the work of the Galway Music Education Partnership. Mr. James Ross has been working with us now for a year, and we have original music written specially for us that we will premiere on that night. We will be part of a huge collection of young musicians totalling about 170, all of whom are going to gather on the one stage for the finale. Ticketed event and they will sell out fast!

16th May is the MCnG Prize night and we are working on a very special musical presentation for that evening. It promises to entertain and showcase the staff of the school in a very special way. Admission is free.

Sat 24th May we are going to have a concert/ meet and greet for the colourstrings students. Our performance group will be in residence and they will be joined by a small number of additional colourstrings students in a presentation of what is ahead. We will demonstrate how the system works as a whole and how the kindergarten seamlessly blends into the instrumental teaching and just how successful that is. Performances by lots of young people that day and a real chance to get up close with the music and the instruments. This will happen in the afternoon to facilitate all the little ones and Admission is free.

Finally

This coming Friday at 8pm, Dr John O Connor will be playing in the Aula Maxima as part of the Music For Galway season. Then on the Saturday morning at 9am sharp he will be with us in the school, where he will present a workshop to Piano Teachers and advanced students (grade 8 and up) - it is a real opportunity to work with the master of his craft. In a one and a half hour Q and A session, he will share his vast experience with all who attend. Admission is free but must be booked in advance.