

Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

Newsletter May 2011 Issue 5

Welcome to the final newsletter of the current academic year. We are in the wrapping up stage of all affairs at the school and also in the beginning stages of our exam cycle. We have students sitting for RIAM exams, ABRSM exams, Junior and Leaving Cert cycles and in the beginning of July there will be the first of our students sitting their professional diploma exams. All in all it is a very busy schedule but indicative of the hard work that has gone into the year thus far.

State of the union

When the school open its doors in September there were 245 students on our register. That number has been growing steadily throughout the year and despite the expected drop off in January due to the omnipresent economic gloom, our numbers have continued a slow but steady rise and currently we have close to 350 students attending weekly. What we find is that most of that rise is due to word of mouth and that is very gratifying. Our plans for the coming year are mostly the same as this, with a greater range of additional classes in group settings for all to attend and benefit. There is also a significant expansion of the Colourstrings program planned as will be discussed later. We also begin a deeper co-operation with St. Mary's College itself.

Most significantly for those currently studying with us, there will be no increase in the cost of lessons for the coming year, except in the case of the junior colourstrings classes which will see a rise from €7.50 to €8 per session - a rise of 50cent.

Colourstrings

As most parents will already be aware , we operate a Colourstrings class for Kindergarten



children. Colourstrings itself is a much larger program than just kindergarten as it also includes second level theory and instrumental training. The parent school for this in Finland is world famous for the standard of training it brings to its students and it is our sincerest hope to emulate those standards here.

What is truly exciting is that the woman who is the head of Kindergarten training for Colourstrings International, Karen MacKenzie, is coming to Galway this summer. We have to thank our teacher Edel Coughlan for this. Over the past year she developed a rapport with Karen and has convinced her that a brief sojourn in the City of the Tribes is a good thing. So from July 6th a number of teachers will engage in a thorough grounding in the Colourstrings

method ready to take classes of their own next September. To have a lady of this calibre to come and provide this here is a truly remarkable thing and we are nothing short of thrilled at the thought of it all.

Concerts

There is no major end of school concert this year. That will be part of a much larger project in the next year. There are however a large number of smaller concerts.

- Mr David Clarke and Mrs Rosemary Clarke have already given their end of year student recitals.
- Mrs Elena Gekker will be organising her student recital for the afternoon of Saturday, May 28th at 4pm.
- Mr Robert Solyom and Mr Hugh Kelly will be having a small recital on Sunday, May 29th at 3pm.
- On Friday, June 3rd in the early evening there will be a performance given by the adult orchestra formed by Mr David Clarke. Performance starts at 8 pm.
- On Thursday, June 2nd Mr Robert Solyom will be performing in St Anne's Church in Dublin in a lunchtime recital at 1.15 that promises to be fantastic. Mrs Elena Gekker will be accompanying and anyone with relatives in Dublin should recommend this as it will be very special indeed.

Later in June there will be an evening recital given by the schools three diploma students.

This date has as yet to be confirmed and when it is a short e mail will follow announcing it all.



photograph above is of Martina's recent interview with Hector on his morning show to promote the song.

Martina's Song for Goal

Martina Flaherty has released her song for the charity GOAL and initial response has been really wonderful and it has already begun to get some airtime on radio. The nature of this business is that the breakthrough to getting a substantial representation on playlists depends on getting a chart position. Large record companies can simply buy this for their clients. Obviously we are not in a position to do this so we are simply asking people to go to itunes and enter Martina and the song title 'Make it Easy'. Every download earns 70 cent for Goal and it all does add up. Itunes take the remainder in fees. Neither Martina nor the school take any profit from this track. Each download increases the chance of making the charts and increasing exposure. Please spread the word. The

Open Day

Open day this year is set for Saturday, August 20th. There will be a variety of activities taking place on the day including a limited number of giveaways and prizes. There will be at least one concert given by staff members and there will be an opportunity for you to meet with individual staff members and discuss your requirements for the year. The full program for open day will be e mailed to all parents at the beginning of August and it will also appear on the website later in the summer.

Enrollment for next year

All current students have an advantage over new candidates in that they have a teacher and time slot already. We are going to suggest to all students that if they wish to continue with this arrangement they can pre-book their times for next year with the office. All we ask to guarantee the place is that each family pay the annual registration fee of €30. Once this has been collected then the time slot and teacher are held. It is also an opportunity to request a time change in advance of the rush on slots later in the summer. We will see to it that every student of the school will have their place in the school held for them regardless but we will not keep time specific time slots where we have not received the fee.

Parents and students should also be aware that in the next week or two the website will be updated to include specific times for theory classes etc for next year so that parents can plan the most efficient way to get in and out to the school.

A calendar of the school year will also be posted on the website so that school breaks etc can be clearly seen.

Personal note

I want to express my gratitude to all concerned with MCnG before signing off on the year. A school of music for the people of Galway has long been discussed and now that we finally have one I wanted to point out that the success of this year has been due in no small way to the extraordinary high standards of teaching by all staff members. I also wanted to say that for me the most rewarding aspect of the year has been the response from parents. The overwhelming reaction to the running of the school and the level of service provided has been truly wonderful. I hope that every year is as rewarding as this has been and I thank those who took the time to come and express themselves good and bad so that we can learn. Next year there are more things planned and we will be revealing some of them during the Summer. May the holidays be filled with the very best of feelings and goodwill. See you all back here in September.

Sincerely

Hugh Kelly