

# Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

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## Newsletter November 2012 Issue 14

### Dear Parent

This newsletter has been a little while in coming, and we do apologise for that, but we have been playing a game of catch up for much of the semester, and only now find ourselves with a bit of breathing space. As always, there is a lot of detail in the following paragraphs, so, please read it through, and we are at your disposal in the office, if you have any questions.

### New Administrator



After two years of sterling service, we finally said goodbye to Aileen Maloney as school administrator. She has decided to re-enter the world of academia. Aileen is to become a primary school teacher, and we wish her the very best in her new endeavours. Her work in the office was nothing short of wonderful. She designed much of the administrative structures that we use on a daily basis, and her clarity and knowledge of her subject did so much to ensure the smooth running of the office.

Taking over from Aileen is Thelma Hanrahan. Her task on entering the school was a daunting one, and she really has spent a huge amount of time learning our systems, and attending to the detail of the school infrastructure. She has embraced the role with real conviction, and she is in the office Monday to Friday, between 10 and 4, for any questions you might have.

### Colourstrings

MCnG has formed an alliance with the Galway Education Centre and the Galway Music Residency to bring music literacy back into primary school education. This is simply the most exciting project we could have ever wished for. Last year, we ran a pilot project in Furbo national school at the invitation of principal, Sean Breathnach, and such was the success of that, that we now find ourselves returning there for a second year. Given the success of the venture, we sought out a partnership to help us expand it further, and we could not have wished for better. The partnership is set to run for a minimum of three years in its present guise. Part of the initiative is to train the teachers in the schools, so that, in time, they can take over and continue to build. So, we now operate out of the four Deis schools in the city, and plans are afoot to expand this to at least 4 more schools next year. In the coming years, it is a realistic possibility that we might see full music literacy in the national schools of the entire city.

For our own gang, please put the 15<sup>th</sup> December in the diaries for the childrens' Christmas party!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## MEP and Drum Corps

MCnG has attached its name to the application of the Galway Music Education Partnership in an attempt to secure funding for music in the city and county. If successful, it will enable us to expand a small number of the services we currently offer. More importantly, it represents a coming together of the many and disparate music groups within the city and county. Out of the discussions, it emerged that we share a common interest with the Galway Youth Orchestra in the establishment of a Drum Corps. What this means in practise is the formation of a drumming school. The skills learned will be transferrable to any genre, be that Classical, Jazz or Pop. It is proposed that we will set up this school in the new year, but if anyone is interested, then do let us know in the office. Costs will be low for the lessons, and while students will be asked to purchase their own drum sticks, and practise pads, the actual drums themselves will be provided by ourselves, and the GYO.

## New Members of staff at the school

We are thrilled to welcome some new faces on board, and also saddened to say goodbye to others. Mr Carl Hession has finally retired from music teaching. Carl's work as an educator in the city has been the benchmark that other teachers worked to, and after giving his life to music in Galway, we wish him a long a fruitful retirement. He is involved in so many other musical ventures throughout the city you will see his name for some time to come. We welcome Ms. Claire Keville to take over his role as leaving cert and junior cert teacher, and classes are working extremely well . Some spaces do still exist in these classes for anyone considering music as a subject outside of school hours. Gerard Madden MA has joined our piano Dept. along with Dr. Ramin Haghjoo. Both are accomplished musicians in their respective fields, and do watch out for them on the performing circuit. Ger, a regular accompanist and wonderful jazz pianist, performs all over the city. Ramin is a superb pianist and academic and will be performing in a number of high profile concerts in the new year. Finally, we have Hannah Conneely joining our ever expanding colourstrings team. Hannah is qualified at kindergarten and also at second stage violin teaching in colourstrings.



## Music for Galway concert

Anna Lardi at Music for Galway does a sterling job of administrating a varied and exciting program of events. As part of the recognition of the work in the school in promoting events for them, they have made some very generous offers for us again this year. Last week, there was a beautiful concert of piano music, given by the young virtuoso Nikolay Khozyainov, and parents, adult students, and staff of the school were able to attend the concert at the concession rate. Next week, there is a very interesting concert that combines the

instruments of the early baroque period with the musical language of 20th century Jazz. Groove

Theory promises to be a very special event. And yet again, the same offer has been made to the school. We cannot recommend this event highly enough, and if there are those out there interested in attending, let us know in the office, and we will attach your names to the door list so that you can avail of the concession.

## **Christmas Concerts**

Many of the staff have already booked the sitting room for their Christmas concerts, and there are others that have chosen to do something early in the new year. Do check with your teacher to see what arrangements are being made on your behalf.

## **Concerts at MCnG**

We have a dazzling array of concerts coming up in St. Mary's college itself over the year. Some of them are being run by outside organisations that are coming to avail of the facilities we can offer, and some are being hosted directly by ourselves. All of these events will be listed on our facebook page, and, where possible, with newsletter updates. Already this year, there will be an "Adventures in Music" concert on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm. This is a concert by Contempo String Quartet, aimed directly at children under 8 years of age. Adventures in music run a very slick program, they know what children love, and they deliver very high quality. Family tickets are very reasonably priced. Watch the facebook page for more details on this.

On Dec 8<sup>th</sup> we are going to give all the students and parents of the school a treat - a respite from the shopping if you will. We are going to host a free lunchtime concert. Given by Robert Solyom, Pat Jones and Elena Gekker, this is a joyous program of music for Horn and Clarinet, which will bring a seasonal cheer to anyone who wishes to attend. We are not charging for this one, and hope to see a huge turn out from all our students.

## **GAS (Galway Adult Strings)**

The adult string orchestra run by David Clarke, goes from strength to strength, and this weekend, worked with Contempo in a series of sectional rehearsals, and this culminated in a full concert on Sunday. The event was absolutely wonderful, and the concert was really excellent, with the highlight of Beethoven's Fifth symphony sounding truly powerful. Membership of this orchestra is still open, and they meet every Friday evening in the school. Contact the office if you wish to enquire further.



## MCnG Prize

After much delay, we have decided to launch our prize initiative. Simply put, this is a way of rewarding those students that take a real interest in their studies. We are offering points to students that demonstrate a willingness to engage with their studies in a positive way, and the proposal is, that, when students make the required level of points, a certificate of merit will be awarded at a special ceremony at year's end. Included in this letter is the draft proposal for the Prize for your consideration. Each teacher will be given an original copy for each student of the school and, as the student completes the various tasks, they will have them filled out by the teachers. This is an entirely voluntary scheme, and no student will be forced into participating. Our objective is purely to encourage the amazing talent we have around us.

### Template for MCnG Prize

- Attendance and punctuality at weekly lessons (Marks given by teacher 15)
- Regular and Careful Practice (Marks given by teacher 15)
- Attendance at weekly theory classes ( Marks awarded in full for regular attendance 20)
- Performance at concert, either within or outside the school (Marks awarded in full 10 for each performance)
- Performance in a Feis or Fleadh (15) winning a prize at same, bonus of (10)
- Attendance at public concert within the school or at an event outside (5 marks in full for each concert)
- Read a music book make a short report (10 marks in full)
- Play in an ensemble, orchestra or choir (10marks in full)
- Compose a piece of music (10 plus a bonus of 10 if you perform it)

Students who achieve a mark of 70 will be given the MCnG prize, those who score a mark of 80 will be awarded the McnG prize with merit and those who score 90 will be given the prize with honours. This will be reflected in their certificates.