



Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

Newsletter

October 2015

FINLAND is Coming!!!!

For years now we have trumpeted the Colourstrings method and to date much of the promotion has gone into the Kindergarten program. This has already been a huge success both in the School and in our outreach program. Following on from that we are now embarking on a series of workshops to develop the instrumental side of things. With this in mind, we are delighted to report that Ms Yvonne Frye of the Sibelius Academy and Helsinki Institute is coming to Galway next February to work with the young Colourstrings students in the school and also to conduct teacher workshops. It is going to be huge event and all the young violinists will be treated to teaching and ideas from the home of Colourstrings. We will of course be opening the workshops and lessons to parents, but it is primarily for the advancement of the Instrumental program and is what we hope will be the first of many such visits. In preparation we will be beginning some group teaching in Colourstrings after the mid-term break.



School Ensemble



Our school ensemble accredited themselves brilliantly in the summer school in July and we are about to re-launch the group for the coming year. As with last year we are going to continue with the formula we tested where we do not ask student to attend weekly rehearsals and sit through endless practising routines. We are instead going to circulate the music in advance of each rehearsal

and ask student to be fully prepared for the session so that we can concentrate on specific orchestral skills and each practise should see once new piece fully prepared for performance. We are looking at a return visit to Paris in the springtime just after St Patricks Day, it is not yet fully arranged, but there is a lot of interest in it and if we can make it happen then we will. Having run such a successful summer school we would be confident of being able to offer accommodation in Paris thus

keeping costs to an absolute minimum. Our program for the year will be largely composed of Irish based music which is being tailor made for us by Dr Haghjoo. The idea would be to bring a little bit of Ireland to Paris for the year that's in it. As with last year we are asking for a minimum age of 12 and a minimum standard of good grade 3 finished before considering joining. First rehearsal will be on Saturday 24th October between 3-5pm.

Lastly we are looking for a name..... School ensemble is a bit of a mouthful. Suggestions welcome.



Colourstrings Training

We had 23 primary school teachers come and study with us in August and they are now back at work spreading the method to their young charges. We will be expanding the program over the next year and we wanted to take a moment to throw it out to parents that we will be offering about two places to outsiders to come and learn. It may well be that there are interested people who might want to return to work but not to have a huge time commitment or there may be friends that you know that love the area of early childcare and learning. The reason we mention it now is that there is a lot to be said for gaining a little advance learning and maybe even assisting at lessons before next summer so as to maximise benefit. This is

not open to everyone. There is a music component to the learning that requires a good singing voice and if possible some musical background but we will consider applications from anyone that is genuinely interested.

Fees

As always there has been a good response from families to the payment of fees. There are still a small number of outstanding fees to be collected and anyone now coming to pay should know that the offer of a 5% deduction for early payment has passed its deadline. We have really struggled with rising costs to the school over the last year and made a deliberate decision not to raise fees this year.

There will be no increase after Christmas either but in a large part this is assisted by prompt payment from parents so we can manage the school running costs. It is likely that there will be a small increase in fees next year but that will also be dependent on the increase in charges we have to pay such as rental and insurance, heat and light etc. Whatever it might be we do promise that it will be held to the tightest margin possible.



For any families who have not as yet resolved their accounts we would ask that you do so before the Mid-Term break. There are multiple payment options available through the office.



Drumline

Mr Terry Cooke has returned to teaching Drumming classes on Saturday mornings. These hugely popular classes are leading to the formation of a school drum line with lots of performing opportunities. He has indicated his willingness to start a new class if there is sufficient interest. Please contact the office for more information.

Mid Term Break

We will be teaching up to and including the 24th October and then we will be taking the following week off with the school re-opening on Monday the 2nd November. Expect Exams to follow rapidly after we return so as not to be caught off guard. The exam session starts on the 9th November and we can be called at anytime.



Is there a Doctor in the house?

It would be remiss of us to let this opportunity to pass without offering our sincerest congratulations to Alyson Barber who currently teaches theory and Colourstrings in school with us. Last Friday she took the Viva part of her PHD in DIT and passed. It is a huge personal achievement for her and particularly in the area of composition which is so broad and subjective a field. She will be conferred next spring with the Doctorate after years of study and weekly trips to Dublin to study.



Ongoing professional development is a huge part of everything we support. This year alone the following staff all actively engaged in professional training programs:

Rosemary Clarke, Elena Gekker, Hazel Collins, Eamon Rabbitte, Anna Mullarkey, Hugh Kelly