

# Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe

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## Newsletter Sept 2011 Issue 7

Welcome back to all our students from last year and also to our new students. This is the first of our newsletters this year and it does contain quite a bit of important information so do bear with us we will keep it as short as possible. In relation to our newsletters in general, we have become aware that often parents get these in their mail but fail to read them and that has led to certain problems of late in relation to classes. We do appreciate that often there is a lot to get through but currently this is the most reliable and cost effective method we have for keeping parents up to date with important events in the school.

### THEORY and AURAL TRAINING CLASSES

All our theory classes are now underway. It is constantly being brought to our attention that many parents still remain unaware of these classes. Let me begin therefore by simply stating that if you are not availing of our theory and aural training classes then you are missing out on a vital part of music education. Learning an instrument is a wonderful training in itself but it is comparable with a child learning to speak a language. It is possible to speak fluently but remain illiterate and as such lead a restricted life as a result. Learning an instrument without a proper balanced grounding in the language of music itself is no different. So fervently do we believe this that we offer these classes for **free!** It also has to be mentioned that for anyone considering music as a subject in school, the classes we offer compliment the junior and leaving certificate program perfectly. The schedule of class times is listed on our web site. If there is a significant increase in demand extra classes will be added to the timetable so do check back.

### OPEN DAY

Open day was a remarkable success and there was a wonderful spread from the media in covering the event. As a result there was a huge increase in numbers looking for lessons. However there was



some confusion as to how the day was to be conducted. It was our hope that existing students would realise that this was also to be a day for re registering for the coming year. As a result the turn out from existing students was very low and we have spent the time since playing catch up with our classes from last year. Thankfully we are now almost there and everyone has been successfully assigned a lesson time. The staff concert was particularly impressive

again this year and a big thank you to those that performed on the day. It greatly added to the overall atmosphere.

## COLOURSTRINGS

Welcome to our new staff and assistants this year. In particular Marsha Hyland who is already running classes on Saturdays and mid week. There is the added bonus this year that we now have a pre age 1 class. This is run mid week and there are still a number of places in this class. There is also an interesting adjunct to the classes this year in that Ms Edel Coughlan is running a choir on a wed evening for the parents of colourstrings to give them a thorough understanding of the core material and a chance to learn a bit of wonderful music as well.

## BURSARIES

Three bursaries have now been awarded for this semester and we do hope they will continue to help and make lessons possible for many in these difficult time. There will be a structure created next semester that will include the bursary scheme and this will also include a scholarship for student of the year. Full details of this will follow in a later newsletter and on our facebook page.

## VANBRUGH QUARTET

After the overwhelming success of their visit last year we are delighted to announce that the Vanbrugh Quartet are making a return visit to the school. This time they are teaming up with two members of the Contempo Quartet for a concert on **Tuesday, October 11th**, and they are going to



draws closer.

have an **open practise at 5pm** on the previous evening **Monday, October 10th** at the school. This is a must for all senior students and those interested in seeing top professionals at work developing their rapport and refining the blend between the two groups. Those familiar with the two groups know that it will be conducted in a very enjoyable manner as well with a lot of audience interaction. Admission is as always **free** and as with the last event there will be a limit on places so early booking is essential for this. We thank Music for Galway for the organising of this remarkable event, the first of two exciting visits to the school this year. There will be updates on our facebook page as the date

## FREE PERCUSSION CLASSES

Mr Alan Preims is making a welcome return to the school this year and once again we are thrilled to be able to offer a series of workshops with him. These are a fun but valuable way of developing rhythmic skills and Alan has years of experience working with young people in this manner. Classes will take place on Fridays at 5pm and run for about 1 hour. Classes are being given for **free** once more and places are limited to twenty students. These will be given on a first come first served basis. Classes commence September 30<sup>th</sup> and will run for 6 weeks.



## INTERNET RESOURCES

Our external resources are something we are proud to offer to all students of the school. These include both the Naxos catalogue which is a CD library containing over 760,000 tracks of music for your listening pleasure. There are also the oxford dictionaries and the grove encyclopaedia which are the standards by which all others are judged. To access these simply go to our website and click on the online resources button. This will take you to a log in page which will ask for a user name and a password. These are as follows:- user name is 'student' and the password is 0xf0rd\_123 please note that the capital 'Os' in oxford are in fact zero's from the numeric pad. If you experience any difficulty accessing the sites then do call us at the office and we will talk you through it.

## STAFF NEWS

This final section of the newsletter will feature important activities by staff members over the coming year. To begin with this year we are happy to announce that one of our theory teachers Ms Alison



Barber is have some original compositions premiered shortly in the NCH. Her piece *Bóithre Bána*, for voice and cello (text by Eoghan O'Tuairisc) will be part of the CMC's next salon event on September 28th in the Kevin Barry Room of NCH from 6pm - 7pm.

The salon features members of Concorde with performers Tine Verbeke, voice and Martin Johnson, cello and Jane O'leary will be there to talk about the works.

**All important updates will be reported on our facebook page and we do recommend that for those interested in getting the most the school has to offer that you log onto the page and click on the like button. We do keep items to a minimum so as not to pester people daily but there are a lot of activities going on that we try to share amongst the student body.**