

Cranbrook Colourstrings School Newsletter

Spring 2014

Hallo Everyone!

There has been much music-making and enjoyment in kindergarten, musicianship, instrumental and ensemble lessons this term. It has been such a pleasure for me to return to teaching kindergarten and violin lessons. The children have clearly thrived in Ali Rycroft's hands in the kindergarten and under Iva Butler's tuition in violin lessons. Very many thanks to both of these wonderful colleagues and especially to Ali who took my classes for me for a whole year! The children had clearly grown very fond of her and I still get called Ali sometimes, which I take as a compliment!

Our instrumentalists have been having enormous fun in Clare Haythornthwaite's musicianship classes and Felix Buser has continued to inspire and stretch our string players in both the ensemble and individual cello lessons.

This term we have started a Junior Violin Ensemble. Much fun has been had by all and the children can't wait to share their achievements with you at the next concert!

Concerts

Last term we were fortunate enough to be able to perform in the lovely chapel at St Ronan's School. The children played and sang beautifully.

We were treated to a wide variety of repertoire in which the children displayed their developing chamber music as well as soloistic skills. Well done to everyone who took part!

Sunday 23rd March Spring Term Concert

Venue: Ebony Oast
(directions attached)

Time: 11.30am – 1pm

Clare Haythornthwaite has very kindly agreed to host our concert in her lovely home. Do come along and listen, even if your child is still in kindergarten. Experiencing live music-making can make a great impression on children and help them decide what instrument they might like to play one day. The concert will be very informal and will last for about an hour. Everyone will have a chance to join in with some singing at the end and the concert will be followed by some well-deserved refreshments!

INSTRUMENTAL DEMONSTRATIONS.....

Instrumental demonstrations to the after-school kindergarten children take place in the spring and summer terms each year. This is so that each child who may wish to take up an instrument with us can make an

informed decision about which one s/he would prefer.

(It is very important that the child choose the instrument: the character of both the child and the instrument need to 'fit' if at all possible.)

The children will be hearing demos on the violin and cello by graduates of the Colourstrings Kindergarten and they will have an opportunity to have a little go on each instrument themselves.

Not all children will be ready to start an instrument in September. Do have a word with Ingrid if you would like to discuss the matter with her.

EXAM SUCCESS!

In Colourstrings we provide many opportunities for our young musicians to perform and therefore steer clear of the treadmill of exams through all the grades, because they limit the wonderful variety of repertoire a child can learn during the course of their studies. It is, however, a good idea to work towards a formal exam sometimes and the experience of performing pieces and technical exercises as well as sight reading and aural tests in a formal, external setting can be both challenging and rewarding.

Last term Leila Davison took her Grade 3 cello exam and gained a high merit. Many congratulations!

Music to listen to...

Each week the children listen to a piece of classical music for a short period.

This term's listening music:

Grever, Adams:

"What a difference a day makes"

Mozart:

Wind Serenade in B flat K361 "Gran Partita" VI : Thema con 6 variazioni

Chopin:

Waltz No 7 in C# minor Op 64

Music Kindergarten Repertoire

The 'Singing Rascal' series of books and CDs are **EXCLUSIVE** to Colourstrings and make up the core repertoire of our music kindergarten and instrumental programmes. I **strongly** encourage you to buy the set of books and CDs. They are exceptionally well presented, musically, and will give hours of pleasure to child and parent alike. Children get to know the songs really thoroughly, which benefits them in the class and parents are able to sing along and enjoy the songs with them too.

As the children progress through the classes, we revisit all the songs, and our activities get increasingly sophisticated as the children develop their listening, pitching, reading and fine and gross motor skills, so you will find that these materials will last right through the music kindergarten years and into the instrumental years too. As such they I think you will agree that they represent incredible value.

For those of you who already possess 2 CDs, you will be interested to know that a third CD has recently come out. Do ask Ingrid or Ali for more details.

Books: £7 CDs: £16

More Colourstrings classes on offer in Tunbridge Wells!

Just a reminder that **Ali Rycroft** offers Colourstrings classes at her '*Phoenix Music Kindergarten*' in Tunbridge Wells, so if you have friends who live near there do tell them the good news and encourage them to get in touch with Ali. Her contact details are:

Alison.rycroft@btinternet.com or she can be contacted on 01892 617491

Promoting our wonderful music kindergarten!

There are some spaces in each of our classes and we would very much like to start up a babies class again. (The babies in our last class have now grown into 2 year olds!) Please ask Ingrid for a flyer if you are able to place it on a noticeboard or in a window. If any expense is incurred let me know and I will reimburse you. Do encourage any interested friends to look at our website : www.cranbrookcolourstrings.co.uk
Many thanks!

And finally....

Do you know of anyone who would be interested in teaching piano the Colourstrings way? (We call it '**Colourkeys**'). This method has proved to be a wonderfully successful way to teach young children, so is very rewarding for teacher and pupil alike. If you know of an experienced piano teacher who would be interested in learning about new ideas on how to teach young children I would be very interested to hear from them.

Term Dates

Summer term:

Tuesday 22nd April - Friday 11th July

Please note! Because of Bank Holidays on 21st April and 5th May, the **Monday kindergarten classes** will finish their term on **Monday 21st July**

(Half term: Mon 23rd – Fri 27th June)

Have an enjoyable remainder of term!

Ingrid Sellschop

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