

# *Cranbrook Colourstrings School Newsletter*

**Summer 2014**

Hallo Everyone!

A very warm welcome to all the parents and children in our new **Baby Class** which started earlier this term. We wish you many years of enjoyable music-making with Colourstrings!

## **EASTER CONCERT**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March all the children who are currently learning instruments with Colourstrings had the opportunity to perform to an enthusiastic audience of parents, siblings, friends and grandparents in the lovely home of our Musicianship teacher, Clare Haythornthwaite.

Everyone who heard them was thrilled to hear how much these young musicians had improved since they last heard them in the Christmas concert. Even our youngest musicians performed with confidence and sang with pleasure and conviction! Well done to everyone!



A pleasing variety of music was performed, including an original composition! The **Junior Violin Ensemble** performed with confidence and musicality which was

a real pleasure to hear and the **Senior Ensemble** treated us to a wonderful performance of Variations on Molly Dolly. First of all Felix highlighted for the audience the different listening skills that were required for a successful performance and brought to our attention how important it is to have a spirit of co-operation between the musicians for an ensemble to thrive.

In Colourstrings this is high on our list of priorities for young musicians, which is why we offer ensemble coaching to the children after only one year of playing an instrument. After the performance several parents commented how they had really appreciated gaining an insight into how much work goes into preparing a piece of seemingly simple music!

## **INSTRUMENTAL DEMONSTRATIONS...**

Instrumental demonstrations to the children in our oldest kindergarten class 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.)

Last term the children heard demos by a 2<sup>nd</sup> year violinist and our cello teacher, Felix Buser as well as spending a happy half hour in St Dunstan's Church trying out the piano! They were delighted to hear the tunes of songs they could sing

being played on these instruments and were very excited to have a try at playing the instrument under the supervision of the teacher. The children will have another opportunity to have a go on the violin and cello and piano this term and will hopefully be drawn to one instrument in particular.

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.

### **Parents' Meeting for New Instrumentalists for September 2014**

Venue: Clare Meredith (Max's mum) has kindly offered to host the meeting at her home:  
1 Waterloo Place, Cranbrook

Attendance is **mandatory** for all parents who wish their child to join the instrumental programme

Date: **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 8pm**

Ingrid will be talking about the Colourstrings approach to instrumental teaching and the commitment involved to ensure that your child's experience of learning an instrument is a positive and successful one.

We offer only the instruments that are the hardest to learn and require the best teachers for success – violin 'cello and piano. There will be an opportunity to ask lots of questions and to hear what other parents' experiences have been.

Don't miss it! It's a journey that is not without challenges but it is inspirational for many!

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### **New Piano Teacher!**

We are very fortunate to have a new teacher joining us in September. Glynis Dickinson is a very experienced teacher and active violinist and pianist. She is currently teaching music at Holmewood House School in Tunbridge Wells as well as teaching violin and piano. Glynis has trained in Kodaly Musicianship ( the inspiration for the Colourstrings method) and has enjoyed incorporating Kodaly techniques in all her teaching. Glynis has decided to step down from classroom teaching and to develop her peripatetic music teaching practice. She has begun her training in the Colourkeys approach and is keen to join us in September to teach the piano.

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 3.30pm Summer Concert**

Venue: St Mary the Virgin Church  
Goudhurst

Do come along to this concert in which our young instrumentalists will be delighted to share their musical achievements with you. They will be playing solos, duos, trios and playing in larger ensembles as well as singing to you. It will be a feast of music-making! This is the third occasion in which we will have had the good fortune to perform in this lovely venue. We will no doubt enchant unsuspecting members of the public who will come in to visit this very

special 12<sup>th</sup> Century church. As they admire the wonderful views of the Weald from the top of the recently refurbished tower they will be treated to the resonant tones of young voices and lovely instruments!

The concert will be very informal, so our youngest children in the Kindergarten are especially welcome. The opportunity to experience live music-making is not to be missed! It will make a great impression on them!

### **Music to listen to...**

Each week the children listen to a piece of classical music for a short period. Over the term we listen three totally different styles of music.

This term's listening music:

#### **Bach**

Violin Concerto in E major  
3<sup>rd</sup> mvt: Allegro assai

#### **Ravel**

Piano Concerto in G major  
2<sup>nd</sup> mvt: Adagio assai

#### **Dvorak**

Serenade for Strings Op 22  
3<sup>rd</sup> mvt: Scherzo: Vivace

### **SINGING RASCALS BOOKS and CDS**

These attractive, colourful books and their accompanying CDs/tapes form the **core repertoire** for our music kindergarten and instrumental programmes.

They are **EXCLUSIVE** to Colourstrings and are particularly well presented, musically. With a child singing each

song, followed by a solfa rendition of the song and then a beautiful string orchestra arrangement.

**It is well worthwhile acquiring the set of 3 books and 2 CDs...**they will not only give hours of pleasure to children and parents alike but will also confer a thorough knowledge of the songs that will bring myriad benefits to your children in their classes for years to come.

**Books: £7      CDs: £16**

All books and other materials are available from Ingrid. Enjoying them with your children over the long summer holidays will help them to remember all they have learnt over the year and look forward to more singing when we return in the autumn, so do think about ordering them through Ingrid before the end of term if you don't already possess them.

### **COLOURSTRINGS CLASSES 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 lived near there do tell them the good news and encourage them to get in touch with Ali.

Ali's classes take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays as follows:

**Under 3's** on Wednesday mornings

**3 – 5's** on Thursday afternoons

For more information you can contact Ali on 01892 617491, email her at [Alison.rycroft@btinternet.com](mailto:Alison.rycroft@btinternet.com) or on Facebook: Phoenix Music Kindergarten

Last week of lessons: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Have an enjoyable term!

*Ingrid Sellschop*

[www.cranbrookcolourstrings.co.uk](http://www.cranbrookcolourstrings.co.uk)