

Cranbrook Colourstrings School Newsletter

Summer 2011

Hallo Everyone!

We have been making some most enjoyable music this term and the children are developing wonderful listening skills as well as impressing me with their dancing! A very warm welcome to our newest recruits in the music kindergarten.

EASTER CONCERT

On 20th 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.

Everyone who heard them was thrilled to hear how much these young musicians had improved since they last heard them in the Christmas concert. Parents commented on how interesting it was to be able to hear the development in playing achieved between the 1st and 5th year instrumentalists.



There were some lovely duets and trios performed and the musicians in the ensemble group showed great

awareness of each others parts and played very sensitively. Well done to everyone too for singing so magnificently!

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.)

Last term and earlier this term the children heard demos by a violinist and cellist who are in their 2nd year of learning an instrument in our school and they also enjoyed listening to and playing the piano under the supervision of my colleague Ali Rycroft. 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.

Not all children will be ready to start an instrument in September, especially in the 4-5's class. Do have a word with Ingrid if you would like to discuss the matter with her.

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Concert Reviews + Workshop

Just before half term our instrumentalists played for my colleague Jane Gillie in our annual concert reviews. It was a lovely occasion when every Colourstrings instrumentalist had the opportunity to play two of their favourite pieces to an audience of parents, friends and other students and senior teachers. The following week they received (very positive) feedback in the form of a written report which was discussed in their lesson.

The concert reviews provide a prime opportunity to pass on congratulations and constructive advice to students and teachers.

We were very fortunate to have Jane Gillie presiding over the reviews. She is a violin and viola teacher of many years experience as well as being an active performer. Jane also loves teaching Dalcroze Eurhythmics, so once all the performances were over, all the children (including those in the audience) took part in a workshop which was thoroughly enjoyed by all! The hall was filled with dancing and laughter as we felt the music with every fibre of our bodies!

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Dates for your diary

Sunday 26th June 3.30pm
Summer Concert

Venue: Cranbrook Primary School

Absolutely everyone is welcome to this concert in which all our instrumentalists will be delighted to share their musical achievements with you.

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.

This term's listening music:

Handel Water Music
Hornpipe from Suite in D major

Schubert
Piano Trio in B flat major D898
2nd mvt: Andante un poco mosso

Ravel
String Quartet in F major
2nd mvt: Assez vif – très rythmé

CDs for sale!!

Listening to music can be such a pleasurable experience and you have an opportunity to buy some wonderful

CDs by **The Helsinki Strings**. This orchestra is made up of 8-18 year olds, all of whom have been brought up with Colourstrings in Finland. It has an international reputation every bit as good, if not better than, a lot of professional chamber orchestras.

There are three CDs to choose from offering a wide variety of wonderful string music.

Price: £13.50

Ask Ingrid for more details.

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 3 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.

Spread the word.....

If you have a friend who you think would enjoy experiencing some lovely music-making with their child and make some new friends at the same time do encourage them to come along for a trial.

New Class.....

From September I will be running a baby class at 1.20pm on Tuesdays.

Summer Term Dates

26th April – 11th July
(Half-term: 30th May – 5th June)

NB Term will finish on Monday 11th July for the Monday classes due to Bank holidays.

Why not log onto our website for the very latest information about Colourstrings?

www.cranbrookcolourstrings.co.uk

Have an enjoyable term!

Ingrid Sellschop

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