

# ***Cranbrook Colourstrings School Newsletter***

## **Autumn 2010**

Hallo Everyone!

Welcome back to another year of music-making and another exciting beginning for our young students. A very special welcome to our new recruits. Hopefully you will feel well settled in by now!

Last year was a big success for our young instrumentalists, with an excellent level of achievement, both individual and group.

### **Concert Reviews**

The concert reviews on 12<sup>th</sup> May proved to be an enjoyable and stimulating occasion. The children performed to family, friends and Anna Salmi, a senior violin teacher from the North London Colourstrings Centre, who gave a thought-provoking workshop on how the brain works. She gave us lots of ideas on how to practise effectively and finished off with some fun singing and ensemble playing. We all went home feeling much wiser!

### **Summer term concert**

We rounded off the year with a hugely enjoyable concert on 27<sup>th</sup> June in which everyone played and sang magnificently. There were some lovely duets played and the ensemble performed beautifully, with everyone displaying great awareness of all the other instrumental parts whilst playing

their own independent line. All the parents agreed that their children had made terrific progress over the year. Well done to everyone!

This year there will be three concerts for the instrumentalists. 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.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2.30 - 4pm

### **Autumn Term Concert**

### **Venue: Cranbrook Primary School**

Absolutely everyone is welcome to this concert in which our instrumentalists will be able to share with us what they have been learning! There will be singing as well as playing and the concert will be very informal, so our youngest children in the Kindergarten are especially welcome. The concert will last for about an hour and will be followed by some well-deserved refreshments!

## **PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES**

Fundamental to the Colourstrings approach is giving children the opportunity to perform very early on in their instrumental life. Giving them this experience so early on (and it may be simply playing open strings) enables them to share their music-making with others and to develop a confidence in their ability to perform in public, so that it becomes a natural thing to do before self-consciousness

becomes an issue. They are so pleased with themselves, and rightly so!

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

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

This term's listening music:

### **Haydn**

Symphony No 78 in C minor  
4<sup>th</sup> mvt: Finale: Presto

### **Beethoven**

Symphony No 8 in F major Op 93  
1<sup>st</sup> mvt : Allegro Vivace

### **Bruckner**

Motet for unaccompanied choir  
'Locus Iste'

## **LISTEN UP!**

**Classical music is a real pleasure and  
also really good for you!**

It is a well-documented fact that classical music is good for the brain. Regular listening is one of the quickest ways to increase your child's ability and understanding in the long term. It is both emotionally and intellectually rewarding and not a mystery at all once you've got going.

If you are not a classical music buff and do not already have copies of the music we use, you may like to invest £5 or so in one of the Naxos CDs. This is a cheap but usually good quality recording series that covers a broad range of musical styles and eras. You'll find them in most music shops.

Listening to the whole work can be exhilarating, especially when you find that, if you listen long enough, you get the same tune again!

Getting to know a new piece of music is rather like a car journey to an unfamiliar destination: the first time, it seems long and sometimes confusing; the second time, you begin to notice landmarks; and the third and subsequent times, you usually feel you know more or less where you are going.

Music at bedtime, or while children are playing, is a wonderful idea. So much of what is heard is absorbed unconsciously by children. It gives such pleasure for a lifetime that it's well worth spending a little time each day listening to Radio 3 or Classic FM. Radio 3 tends to play whole pieces rather than just the tuneful bits, so is better in the long run.

## **CDs for sale!!**

Listening to music can be such a pleasurable experience and you have a 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.

## **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 for more details.

**Books: £7      CDs: £16**

All books and other materials are available from Ingrid.

## **Spreading the word.....**

We are SO pleased with the way in which the Cranbrook Colourstrings School has established itself as a

centre of musical excellence, but please **DO** help us to spread the word by mentioning it to all your friends and acquaintances! If you are able to put up the enclosed A5 flyer in a prominent place, it would be much appreciated. If you incur any expense, please tell me and you will be reimbursed. Alternatively, perhaps you could pass the flyer to a friend?

If you recruit a friend we will give you a **FREE SINGING RASCALS BOOK worth £7!!!**

**MANY THANKS, IN ANTICIPATION, FOR YOUR EFFORTS !**

**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.

## **Autumn Term Dates**

**6<sup>th</sup> September – 10<sup>th</sup> December**

Have an enjoyable remainder of term!

**Ingrid Sellschop**

Cranbrook Colourstrings School 01580 720 135

Email: [info@cranbrookcolourstrings.co.uk](mailto:info@cranbrookcolourstrings.co.uk)

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