

# ***Cranbrook Colourstrings School Newsletter***

## **Autumn 2009**

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 and the audience participated magnificently too!

This year there will be three concerts for the instrumentalists. Do come along and listen, even if your child is still in kindergarten. It may help the younger children decide which instrument they themselves might like to play later on.

## **Dates for your Diary 2009**

### November:

Monday 16th November 11.15am – 12.15pm.

#### **"What is Colourstrings?"**

An entertaining talk by Ingrid Sellschop for parents, teachers and anyone interested in Colourstrings,

including anyone who is just considering whether or not to try it!

It will show and tell what Colourstrings is, how it developed, what it enables your child to achieve and the instrumental programme we offer.

**Please try if you can to bring a friend along** because this is the perfect opportunity for everyone to learn more about this inspiring approach to music teaching!

Venue: Church House

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2.30 - 4pm  
**Autumn Term Concert**

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

Absolutely everyone is welcome to this concert which will provide our 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th year instrumentalists with the first of several opportunities this year to show us what they have been learning! 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!

## **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:

### **Handel**

Sonata for violin and harpsichord in F major.

2<sup>nd</sup> mvt: Allegro

### **Schubert**

Symphony No 5 in B flat major D485  
4th mvt : Allegro Vivace

### **Grieg**

Lyric Piece for piano

"Homeward" Op 62 No 6

## **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.

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.

**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?

Our baby class on Monday mornings **needs babies** from birth upwards. This class provides a gentle introduction to music which builds on the parent-child bond and tends to be as much fun for the mums and dads as the babies!

### **VACANCIES.....**

Our classes for older children are nearly full, but we do have spaces in the **Younger Under 3's classes**, so please tell your friends and acquaintances about us! 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....**

Does anyone out there have a burning ambition to work with small children?

Ingrid would love to have an assistant to work with her on Tuesday afternoons with the 4-7 year olds. You do not have to be a professional musician, but you do need to be able to sing in tune and enjoy doing it! Speak to Ingrid if you would like to know more.

### **Autumn Term Dates**

**8<sup>th</sup> September – 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Have an enjoyable remainder of term!

*Ingrid Sellschop*

Cranbrook Colourstrings School 01580 720 135

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

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