

Cranbrook Colourstrings School Newsletter

Spring 2011

Hallo Everyone!

I hope you have all had a restful half-term and are ready to take part in lots more music-making this term.

On 28th November our young instrumentalists entertained us with some delightful performances. Even those who had only been learning for a couple of months performed with confidence and pleasure.

As well as hearing splendid solo performances, we were treated to some really special duets and trios before the ensemble performed a lovely version of Molly Dolly.

The performances included skilful use of dynamics, articulation and great listening skills, with a very pleasing awareness of each others' parts. Well done to everyone!

Sunday 20th March
Spring Term Concert

Venue: Cranbrook Primary
School

Time: 3.30pm – 4.30pm

If you missed last term's concert, do try to come to this one! You'll be in for a treat. The atmosphere is very informal, so even the youngest children are welcome. The opportunity to experience live music-making is not to be missed! It will make a great impression on them and perhaps give them an idea of what instrument they would like to learn in the future.

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 youngsters who are currently in their 1st, 2nd and 3rd year of learning an instrument 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, especially in the 4-5s class. Do have a word with Ingrid if you would like to discuss the matter with her.

Music to listen to...

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

This term's listening music:

Schubert

Sonata in G minor D408
4th mvt: Allegro moderato
(Violin and piano)

Dvorak

String Quartet in E flat major
Op 51
4th mvt: Finale: Allegro Assai

Ravel

Piece en forme de habanera
(Piano and Clarinet)

LISTEN UP!

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

so I would really encourage you to listen to music with your child regularly. At bedtime can work really well, as the brain absorbs information while we sleep, so long after your offspring are soundly snoring they can be benefiting! Ask Ingrid for our **Listening List** if you would like guidance.

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.

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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**.

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, 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 another CD is now available. Do ask Ingrid for more details.

Books: £7 CDs: £16

All books and other materials are available from Ingrid.

Recommend Colourstrings to a friend.... and we will give you a **FREE SINGING RASCALS BOOK worth £7!!!**

More Colourstrings classes on offer!

Some of you will have met my colleague **Ali Rycroft**, who has been helping out in some of my classes. She is currently training to be a Colourstrings kindergarten teacher and it has been a real pleasure to have her working with me. Ali is offering classes 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: alimatthewrycroft@hotmail.com

Spring Term Dates

10th January – 1st April

Summer Term Dates

26th April - 8th July

(Half term: 30th May – 5th June)

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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