

***Cranbrook Colourstrings
School Newsletter***

Spring 2012

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. Welcome too to our newest recruits in the kindergarten!

In our Autumn concert last term the children were thrilled to play in the lovely chapel at St Ronan's School. Our youngest instrumentalists gave brilliant debut performances and indeed everyone played beautifully, enjoying the lovely resonant acoustics!

Jacob and Ella thoroughly enjoyed their duet and the Junior Ensemble, followed by the Cello Ensemble and finally the Senior Ensemble, treated us to some lovely performances in which they displayed their developing chamber music skills. Very well done to all!

Saturday 17th March
Spring Term Concert

Venue: All Saints Church
Woodchurch

Time: 4.30pm – 5.45pm

Having enjoyed playing in such a lovely venue last term, we are delighted to be able to play in another lovely place this term.

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 graduates of the Colourstrings Kindergarten 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. Do have a word with Ingrid if you would like to discuss the matter with her.

Exam Success!

In Colourstrings we provide many opportunities for our young musicians to perform and therefore steer clear of the treadmill of exams through all the grades, because they limit the wonderful variety of repertoire a child can learn during the course of their studies. It is, however, a good idea to work towards a formal exam sometimes and the experience of performing pieces and technical exercises as well as sight reading and aural tests in a formal, external setting can be both challenging and rewarding.

Our senior string players have been very busy in recent months working

towards their violin exams and congratulations must go to Maddie Fox who achieved a merit in her Grade 5 exam at the end of last term and good luck to Ellie Young Min who will be taking her Grade 4 exam this term. Ella Frost has just begun working towards her Grade 5 so you can see how busy they have been!

Maddie and Ellie will be playing in the **Lydian Training Orchestra** next weekend. They will spend two days playing a huge variety of orchestral music with other talented young musicians. We look forward to hearing all about it girls!

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

Harp Concerto Op 4 No 6
1st mvt: Andante - Allegro

Christoph

Willibald von Gluck

"Melodie" (violin + piano)

Poulenc

Sonata for Flute
1st mvt: Allegro malincolio

SINGING RASCALS BOOKS and CDS

These attractive, colourful books and their accompanying CDs 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.

More Colourstrings classes on offer!

Many of you will have met my colleague Ali Rycroft who helps me in some of the classes. Ali now runs 'Phoenix Music Kindergarten' classes in Tunbridge Wells so if you have friends who live in the area do tell them the good news and encourage them to get in touch with Ali at Alison.rycroft@btinternet.com or ring her on 01892 617491

Piano Tuition

Do you know of someone who would be interested in teaching piano the Colourstrings way? (We call it '**Colourkeys**'.) This method has proved to be a wonderfully successful way of teaching children, and is therefore rewarding for pupil and teacher alike; so if you know of a piano teacher who would be interested in learning about new ideas on how to teach children I would be very interested to hear from them.

Promoting our wonderful music kindergarten!

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer with lots of information about Colourstrings. If you are able to pass this on to a friend who might be interested in bringing their child along, or if you could place it on a noticeboard or in a window I would be most grateful. If any expense is incurred let me know and I will reimburse you. Many thanks!

Spring Term Dates

16th January – 30th March

Summer Term Dates

23rd April - 13th July
(Half term: Mon 4th – Fri 8th June)

Have an enjoyable term!

Ingrid Sellschop

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