

# ***Cranbrook Colourstrings School Newsletter***

## **Autumn 2012**

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.

### **Summer term concert**

We rounded off the year with a hugely enjoyable concert on 8<sup>th</sup> July in which everyone played and sang magnificently in the special setting of St Mary the Virgin Church in Goudhurst. The musicianship groups sang songs that were inspiring and humorous and the instrumental performances were truly exceptional, with the children displaying great sensitivity as well as passion in their playing. We were treated to a musical feast of duets and trios; the junior ensemble displayed pleasing awareness of each other's playing and the senior ensemble gave a truly memorable performance of the 1<sup>st</sup> movement of Boyce's 2<sup>nd</sup> symphony. The afternoon was rounded off with the audience joining the children in singing Summer is a Comin in! Everyone agreed that the children had made remarkable achievements

in their playing and we all came away feeling inspired by what we had heard!

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.

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 4 -  
5.30pm

### **Autumn Term Concert**

### **Venue: St Ronan's School**

We will once again be performing in the lovely chapel at St Ronan's School in Hawkhurst. It promises to be an enjoyable concert, with everyone, including our newest violinists, who started this term, excited about sharing their musical achievements with you!

Absolutely everyone is welcome to this concert. 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!

### **Kent music summer school**

Several of our more senior instrumentalists took part in the residential music course run by Kent Music in July. They had a wonderful time playing in orchestras, singing in choirs and playing tennis, swimming, watching films and generally having loads of fun in the very special setting of Benenden School. It was a marvellous way of socialising with like-minded children and they can't wait to go again next year!

### **Kent Schools Orchestra**

During half term Ellie Young Min and Maddie Fox took part in a 3 day orchestral course in Rochester. They loved every minute of it, saying that the music was challenging and good fun to play. They are already looking forward to taking part in the next course in the Spring half term. Watch this space for a review from the girls themselves...!

### **Further training for our teachers**

The children are not the only ones to have been busy with matters musical during the holidays! Violin and Musicianship teacher **Rebecca Aimi** attended the Colourstrings International Summer School in July and was thrilled to work with Geza Szilvay, the founder of the Colourstrings method. **Ingrid** attended the European String Teachers Association summer school and thoroughly enjoyed meeting and exchanging ideas with many other string teachers.

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

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

This term's listening music:

#### **Bach**

Concerto for Oboe + Violin in A minor  
2<sup>nd</sup> mvt: Adagio

#### **Beethoven**

Symphony No 1 Op 21  
3<sup>rd</sup> mvt: Menuetto: Allegro molto e vivace

#### **Prokofiev**

Romeo + Juliette Suite No 2 Op 64b  
No. 5 : Masks

### **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.

THEY WILL MAKE GREAT  
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!!

**Books: £7      CDs: £16**

*More Colourstrings classes on offer in  
Tunbridge Wells!*

Just a reminder that my good friend and colleague **Ali Rycroft** offers Colourstrings classes at her '*Phoenix Music Kindergarten*' 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:

[Alison.rycroft@btinternet.com](mailto:Alison.rycroft@btinternet.com) or  
she can be contacted on 01892 617491

**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.

## Term Dates

**Spring:** 7<sup>th</sup> Jan – 29<sup>th</sup> March  
(Half term: 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb)

**Summer:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April – 12<sup>th</sup> July  
(Half term: 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May)

Have an enjoyable remainder of term!

*Ingrid Sellschop*

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