

Cranbrook Colourstrings School Newsletter

Spring 2009

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 15th 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.

We were treated to some lovely singing from the musicianship groups and some delightful chamber music from the ensemble and some of our violinists.

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!

Dates for your Diary 2009

March:

Monday 9th March 11-11.45am

"What is Colourstrings?"

An entertaining talk by Ingrid Sellschop, with a chance to ask questions and learn more about this

wonderful approach to learning music.

- * Why is Colourstrings so successful?
- * Why is it different from other music tuition?
- * What are the differences between Colourstrings music classes for children and other local groups?
- * Why do more musicians send their children to Colourstrings?

Venue: Church House, Cranbrook

If you know someone who is interested in finding out more about this inspiring method, do bring them along.

Saturday 14th March 3.45 – 4.45pm

Spring Term Concert

Venue: Cranbrook Primary School

Absolutely everyone is welcome to this concert in which our 1st, 2nd and 3rd year instrumentalists will perform individually and in groups. 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!

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, cello and piano by youngsters who are currently in their 2nd and 3rd year of learning an instrument.

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:

JS Bach

Concerto for Violin & Oboe in D min.
2nd mvt: Adagio

Beethoven

Piano Concerto no 3 in C minor
Opus 37
3rd mvt : Rondo

Anton Bruckner

Ave Maria
(7-part unaccompanied choir)

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**.

It is well worthwhile acquiring the set of 3 books and 2 CDs...they will not only give **hours of pleasure** to children and parents alike but will also confer a **thorough knowledge** of the songs that will bring myriad **benefits** to your children in their classes for years to come.

Books: £7 CDs: £13

All books and other materials are available from Ingrid.

New classes on Mondays

We will be starting classes for babies and Younger Under 3's on Mondays at the following times:

Younger Under 3's.....9.30am
Babies.....10.20am

The baby 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, so do encourage any friends with babies from newborn upwards to come along!

VACANCIES.....

Our classes for older children are nearly full, but we do have a few spaces in the **3-4s and 4-5s 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!!!**

Spring Term Dates

5th January – 3rd April
(Half-term: 16th Feb - 22nd Feb)

Why not log onto our new website for the very latest information about Colourstrings?

www.cranbrookcolourstrings.co.uk

Have an enjoyable term!

Ingrid Sellschop

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