



North London Colourstrings

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2009

Dear Parents, Friends and Colleagues,

It's quite astonishing that the academic year is already nearly over: each year seems to pass more quickly than the last. Evidence of a great deal of hard work and enjoyment has been all around us... our first years have gone through what is probably the hardest part of learning an instrument - the first term or two! They are now settled into a regular practice routine, have made their debuts in performance and have all done extremely well. Our now relatively experienced second years have participated in more concerts and their first ensembles; and our seasoned older players (from 8-17 years) have shared music in additional various ways, including chamber music, workshops and musical outings.

Re-enrolment & Timetabling

This is the busiest time of year for the office staff - Julie, Petra and Lisa - so please bear with them. They do not have any information about timetabling: they can only pass on messages. They are normally very well-organised and will always try to help. If you need to speak to someone for advice, they will pass on your request to one of the senior teachers.

If you need advice about next year (e.g., you are wondering what to do, or wondering about a change of teacher, for example) or you want to talk about any aspect of tuition, please do call us. We want you to have an excellent experience for a long time and we can only make this happen through good communication.

DVD of Summer Fiesta!

This should be out in the next 2 weeks! Please keep a look-out for notices. They will be on sale at the forthcoming Days of Concerts (*see below*).

More Concerts!

We have still more concerts to come before the end of term! Please see the website for dates and other news. Enjoy the remainder of the academic year!

With warm wishes,
Deborah Harris

Dates for your Diary

Days of Concerts

Sundays 14th & 21st

- St James's School, Woodside Ave, N10

Concerts at: 10, 11, 12, 1.30, 2.30, 3.30, 4.30

AND

Saturday 20th June - *St Michael's Church Hall, N6

Concerts at 1.30, 2.30, 3.30, 4.30

Saturday 4th July

Summer Showcase Concert

Highgate United Reformed Church, Pond Square, N6
Tickets £3.50 and £7.50 including drinks and nibbles.

See www.nlcolourstrings.co.uk for more!

Summer Term Ends 13th July

Autumn Term begins

Monday 7th September 2009

New N16 and N7 venues



Those of you who live, or have friends or family who live in N16 or Islington areas will be pleased to hear the following news:

Music Kindergarten - Stoke Newington

New classes on **Thursdays** in **N16** from **June** at the **Scout Hall** in Bouverie Road!

Enrol now for the last half of the summer term!

Music Kindergarten - Holloway

New classes on **Saturdays** in **N7** from **September** at **St Mary's Academy**, Liverpool Road.

We are already taking enrolments for September NOW for these classes on a Saturday,

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New Saturday instrumental centre scheduled to start in **September 2010** at **St Mary's Academy, N7!**



If all goes well, we aim to start an additional centre for instrumental tuition on Saturdays in September. Not all year groups will be available immediately but some instrumental tuition may be available to years other than Y1 in September 2010. More details will be given in due course.

Sign up all your tiniest tots with us for kindergarten if you can: remember that the younger your child starts our classes, the better for them later on. (Under 3 is best of all.) They absorb so much in the first three years of life and it is quite astonishing what they are capable of. The under-3s never cease to amaze me and it makes the learning so much deeper to start this young. The older the children become, the more we see the benefits of the earliest years they spent in kindergarten.

More communication?

Do you feel you would like more contact?

If at any time - now or far into the future - you would like to speak to someone about a problem that has arisen, or just to get some reassurance or feedback, please do call!

We can only put right problems we know about and we are always happy to discuss your child with you! This applies to all parents, whether your children are in the kindergarten or learning an instrument.



July Showcase Concert!

Our festive programme includes:

- Junior Cello Ensemble
- The Chamber Strings
- some chamber music items
- and a selection of solos ...

... and the DEBUT of the
TRAINING ORCHESTRA
under the direction of Laura Forbes



Congratulations!

The following students deserve our congratulations:

Amy Robinson Grade 4 violin
Abigail Rayment Grade 5 violin

Swine 'Flu and basic hygiene

Please remind your children about maintaining basic hygiene with colds -

- Cover nose and mouth when sneezing
- Cover mouth when coughing
- Dispose of tissues after use
- Wash hands after using tissues

The chances of passing any infection are increased by touching the hands of people who have just used a tissue. As teachers are constantly touching children's hands in the course of their normal teaching at the school, you are asked please to remind your children of the need for good hygiene. We don't want to spread ANY infections - let alone potentially more serious ones than the common cold!

Thank you for your consideration.

Listen Up!

Build your classical library!

Our **Listen Up Project** is now on its final run for the year.

We have covered: **Bach's Double Violin Concerto** and **Haydn's Piano Variations** - if you have missed these and would like a copy of the notes, please ask in the office.

Our third sheet for the year will be a Mystery Item for Cello or Guitar.

Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra

Lots of students and parents went to this inspiring concert during the Easter holidays. Tickets were like gold dust - they had been sold out for over a year - so we were very lucky to be offered 50 tickets for a special, additional, performance.

What stood out for one the teachers present was their sheer exuberance and vitality. "Of all the items in a varied and colourful programme, it was the last movement of Tchaikovsky's 4th symphony, its clarity and precision, which was most astonishing. For me, this demonstrated the quality of their playing better than the less familiar South American repertoire. The sight of such a huge

string section playing with perfectly synchronised bowings was a string teacher's paradise! Their 'trademark' encore, the Mambo from *West Side Story* by Leonard Bernstein made a real impression. Cellos and basses were spinning like tops, while violins flew high in the air during the rests. Wind and brass instruments were swaying to the pulse and the players danced. In spite of the antics, the playing was impeccable!"

If you ever get the chance to hear them, grab it!

How can I easily find good concerts?

- Want to go to a Concert but don't know what's on?
- Want to find a concert suitable for children?
- Want free tickets for classical concerts?

Go to www.bachtrack.com!

You can search by composer, artist, piece or venue. Free tickets are often available through the Cavatina Trust.

Our Head of Cello, Laura Forbes, writes ...

When I first discovered Colourstrings in 2002, my life changed! Here was a method that nurtured musicality from the very beginning. Use of solfa provided a means of achieving perfect intonation in every key, as a matter of course.

And the inspiration didn't stop there... Csaba Szilvay, co-founder of Colourstrings, and one of our Honorary Professors, formed the **F Clef Group** with his students at the East Helsinki Music Institute.



Now we proudly follow in his footsteps with 'cello ensembles of our own. From Rhapsody to Rumba, from Bach to "Bare Necessities", the Senior 'Cello Ensemble rehearses with enthusiasm, diligence and humour! Being part of the wonderful sound of massed 'cellos is something very special for us, and our recent performance at the Summer Fiesta enabled us to combine with the Junior Cello Ensemble for Tallis's Canon. This was a tremendous experience for everyone and we hope the audience enjoyed it as much as we all did!

Laura Forbes

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