

What are the benefits of belonging to the North London Colourstrings Centre?

In joining our school, you are becoming a member of a vibrant, enthusiastic community of families and performing musicians who are also skilled teachers.

The benefits of a musical education at our school are myriad. They cannot be quickly or easily explained. This list may help!

Kindergarten



- is taught by a team of experienced, dedicated professionals and specialists (two teachers take classes where children attend without a parent/carer);
- contains a variety of musical experiences - listening, singing, playing, performing, games, creative movement, dancing - where children are treated as individuals and challenged at their own level;
- confers a lasting understanding of music;
- trains the inner ear - a crucial skill for successful music-making;
- gives children confidence in their ability to use music for their own ends (enables them to control and explore music independently);
- gives children confidence to sing alone;
- gives a solid foundation for long-term success in instrumental tuition (most children continue to learn for many years and reach a high level of skill on their first and second instruments);

Among the many secondary benefits are that it:

- enhances social interactions (taking turns, listening to others, constructive criticism);
- hardwires the brain for greater ability in maths and languages;
- develops bonds between parents and babies (gentle introductory baby classes are great for Dads, too);

Kindergarten is a complete musical experience that is thoroughly enjoyable and a great place to learn.

Instrumental Tuition



- is taught by an exceptional team of professional performing musicians with specialist training in teaching. They are dedicated and love working with all ages of children.
- follows a well-structured path that makes progress easy and enjoyable, with familiar songs that increase enjoyment and motivation;
- gives children an individual experience, tailored to their needs;
- is backed up by weekly musicianship classes
- includes ensemble participation;
- steadily builds on skills gained in kindergarten;
- creates long-term success on the instrument/s of the child's choice (from violin, viola, cello, piano, classical guitar, flute/recorder, double bass);
- creates technically-proficient, musical musicians who enjoy playing;
- allows exploration through improvisation, extemporization and composition;
- enables broad knowledge of the chosen instrument through transposition;
- leads children along a broad, musical pathway with a wide choice of satisfying classical repertoire, allowing exams where desirable but without creating a too-narrow experience (first optional grade for strings and flute is usually Grade 4; for pianists and guitarists - Grade 3... after that, students may do one or two more grades to reach grade 8 and beyond.);

Some secondary benefits are that it:

- instils self-discipline from an early age;
- gives a challenge to bright children that they may not encounter elsewhere;
- facilitates an understanding of deferred gratification!

Musicianship



- is a more grown-up version of the music kindergarten and is familiar in format;
- teaches music theory in a practical and enjoyable way including many games in the earlier years;
- Is the rock upon which the instrumental tuition rests;
- allows learning to take place that cannot easily be achieved in a one-to-one situation;
- includes solo performance and challenges children at their own level within each class;
- encourages exploration and sharing of music-making within the group;
- provides an additional peer-group within the school community.

Performance



- an inextricable part of being a musician!
- enjoyable, informal and formal settings;
- performances start in the kindergarten - solo and group in class; to parents at end of term; older kindergarten children sometimes perform at concerts;
- performance continues as soon as possible on instruments;
- nerves - so often a problem for children, especially from the age of 10-11 years - are rarely a problem for Colourstrings children who, by the age of 7 or 8 are seasoned performers;
- each child performs solo in public at least three times a year in a variety of settings;
- regular, enjoyable performance to a large extent replaces the need for exams as (potentially false) goals.

Ensembles/Orchestras & Choir



- bring together all the skills of an artist - listening, playing together, playing individually, following and leading, creating a work of art;
- teach co-operation and teamwork (the opposite of solo performance, where the soloist 'rules');
- develop a high level of concentration and self- and group-discipline;
- provide children with a tremendous motivation to improve on their instrument at an individual level;
- give children enormous musical and emotional satisfaction;
- introduce children to the richly rewarding world of classical repertoire appropriate to their technical and developmental level;
- endow children with real confidence and pride in their joint efforts;
- include performances to the wider public;
- can lead to tours and exchanges with children from other countries/cultures;
- create lasting friendships.

With all these benefits, children reap rich rewards from their music education.

Deborah or her deputies, Laura Forbes and Frankie Papadakis, will be pleased to answer any queries you have about any aspect of tuition or activities in the school. Deborah also runs termly surgeries where parents can meet for 10-15 minute chats to discuss concerns or issues such as secondary school entrance requirements.

Please call 020 8444 9435 or email us enquiries@nlcolourstrings.co.uk.

Look at the website NEWS pages for details of forthcoming events - concerts, seminars, new classes and much more!