



North London Colourstrings

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2007

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome back to another year of music-making and another exciting beginning for our students! We also welcome seven new teachers and soon, another new piano, which will go in the office. Last year was a big success, with many outstanding achievements, both individual and group, and visits by a number of musicians and educators from various organisations interested in best practice. Annually, we provide over 70 concerts for the children to perform at in a variety of types. We have expanded that provision again this year, with no less than five Showcase Concerts and some extra 'Days of Concerts'. Do come along and listen, even if your child is still in kindergarten! Also look out for our expanded Adult Education Programme which includes adult ensembles, instrumental tuition and Music Appreciation classes!

Lastly, I would like to apologise to everyone who was affected by any errors at the beginning of term: the summer was disrupted by me contracting pneumonia on holiday in Scotland (well, it was rather damp), followed by complications, and regrettably a number of things slipped, some of which only became apparent as term started. Julie and Petra did their best to cope but I was not in a position to help or advise properly for some weeks. They did a terrific job in the circumstances and I would also like to thank Laura Forbes for helping out. The fact that August is also the major holiday period did not improve things. My thanks to everyone who has been so understanding that I have been slower to respond to some things than usual.

I sincerely wish you a very happy term and look forward to meeting many of you at the Concert Days in November.

With best wishes,
Deborah Harris

Dates for your Diary 2007

October:

Saturday 13th October 10.00-11.00am
Practice Concert - *Muswell Village Club*

November:

Friday 9th November 10.00-11.00am,
"What is Colourstrings all about?"

*76 St James's Lane, second floor, Room S2
- for all new parents and anyone not new who wants
to know more!*

Saturday 10th November 10.00-11.00am
Practice Concert - *Muswell Village Club*

Two Days of Concerts

St James's School, Woodside Avenue, N10
Sunday 18th & Sunday 25th November

December:

Saturday 8th - 10.00-11.00am
Practice Concert - *Muswell Village Club*

Sunday 16th December 6.00-8.00pm
Festive Showcase Concert

Highgate United Reformed Church, Pond Square, N6

Tickets £3.50 and £7.50 including drinks and nibbles.
Programme to include Corelli's Christmas Concerto, the Senior Strings, Senior 'Cello Ensemble and Children's Choir

Spring Term begins

Monday, 7th January 2008

For further dates, please check the website!

www.nlcolourstrings.co.uk

LISTEN UP! Classical music is a pleasure and also really good for you!

It is a well-documented fact that classical music is good for the brain. Did you also know that regular listening is one of the quickest ways to increase your child's musical ability and understanding in the long term? It is both emotionally and intellectually rewarding and not a mystery at all once you've got going. Interestingly, 50% of those parents who responded to the kindergarten survey in November 2006 said they would like to attend **music appreciation classes**. This is wonderful - see below!

A great way to start with your children is to have music at bedtime. It need not be loud and as the brain absorbs information while we sleep, it can still be of benefit even after your offspring are soundly snoring!

To build up a repertoire, I suggest you might use the same piece three nights running, then switch to a new one, then a third, then back to the original one night, second for one night and the third, then move on to something else. This rotation and reinforcement will maximise your child's familiarity with a variety of works and ultimately provide a choice. Concertos are good because they are melodic and keep the attention. You can progress to symphonies later if these seem too long to start with.

If you are wondering where to start, please refer to our **Listening List** (available by email). Also, the new **Listen Up!** sheet (Beethoven's 5th Symphony this half term) will be distributed shortly to take you through one of the best-known classical compositions of all time.

***We are planning new **Music Appreciation Classes** for parents at minimal cost. If you are interested, please complete the slip attached to this newsletter or ring/ask at the office for an application form. We are trying to establish best times of day/ evening for such classes.

Talks on Colourstrings

These happen regularly in both evening and daytime slots of one hour. Find out more about this inspired approach to a complete music education. Everyone welcome, including friends and acquaintances! The next one is on ...

Friday 9th November 10.00-11.00am in Room S2

Dublin strings light up Showcase

In May 2007, we welcomed 16 string players aged 13-17 years from Leeson Park School of Music in Rathmines, Dublin in a return visit (our Senior Strings, aged 9 -13, travelled to Dublin at Easter 2006).

Leeson Park was established in 1989 by its Director, Tom Toher and now has 1100 students, a staggering number! Deborah, Tom and Margaret Collins Toher have been

friends since 1994 and have collaborated for many years on various projects. This was the first occasion that the Irish players had visited London and it was a great time for renewal of friendships made the previous year,



Arthur Leadbetter's leprechaun hat came into excellent use again in the finale!

Parents' Handbook

All parents of first year instrumentalists should receive a copy of the Handbook. Although the text is somewhat dense, please take time to read it as it contains very useful and important information.

Parents who have read it have consistently said how useful it has been and they wished they had read it sooner! A revised version of the book will be published in due course in an easier-to-read format. There is a helpful section on Practice Advice!

If you have not received a copy, please ask for one at the office. A new version will be printed for 2008.

Office News

We said goodbye to **Sue Ettinger** in March after five years of solid (and frantic) work: Sue is opening a **shoe boutique** in Muswell Hill Broadway very soon - "Jan Jansen, London" - and we wish her great success with this new life! Do pay her a visit!

We welcomed Petra Schallert and Jo Tocher to the office in April. Life in the 'front line' is often stressful but Julie, Petra and Jo work flat out to provide the best service they can. If there is a problem - something forgotten or overlooked, a misunderstanding or a query - please be assured we will always do our best to sort it out quickly. Some things cannot always be tackled in a timely way, owing to extreme pressure at certain times of year, but will be dealt with as speedily, and as courteously, as possible. We are reviewing the administrative needs in the next few weeks, once term has settled down properly.

Benefits of Colourstrings

In the last newsletter, I laid out the many benefits of joining our school. By popular request, this information is being left on the website in the '**Newsletter November 2006**'.

Please check the website regularly for news and updates!

www.nicolourstrings.co.uk

New teachers! New teachers!

We welcome the following new teachers to our 'United Nations' school:

Kindergarten



- Urszula (Ula) Galuszka - (also a professional guitarist) - from Poland
- Anna Wiatr - (also a professional pianist and sound engineer) - from Poland
- Roxsolyana Lasica - (also a Colourstrings parent and music specialist) - from the Ukraine

Instrumental Tuition



- Becky Green - violinist from UK
- Michiko Negami - violinist from Japan
- Urszula (Ula) Galuszka - guitarist from Poland
- Andrea Pakolitz - 'cellist from Hungary
- Sarah Wortley - 'cellist from the UK

Musicianship & Choir



- We welcome back Emma Cornet, after the birth of her son, Eric. No doubt Eric will soon be singing 'Way Up High' while clapping an ostinato!

Ensembles & Choirs 2007-8



One of the most important aspects of studying music is being able to share it with others. We have the following group opportunities this year:

- Training Orchestra
- NEW Junior Orchestra
- Intermediate Strings
- NEW Intermediate Chamber Strings (occasional)
- Senior Strings
- Chamber Strings (occasional)
- Junior (NEW) & Senior Guitar Ensembles
- Junior & Senior Cello Ensembles
- Children's Choir
- NEW Piano Club - we are dipping our toe in the water for this occasional group
- **Adult** Learn-to-read-Music - Level 2 (Tues eve)
- **Adult** Choir (Tues eve)
- **Adult Beginners'** Learn-to-read-Music (Tues eve)
- **Music Appreciation Classes**
- **Parents' Ensemble (Grade 3-4 +) - proposed!**

Congratulations

to the following students for their excellent results!

Marianne Kelly for gaining a music place at Dame Alice Owen School

Max Spensley - Grade I piano

Selin Musillo-Ates - Grade II piano

Katie Smith, Ellen Pearce Davies, Daniel Hawke, Adam Warren - Grade III piano

Veronique Lacloche - Grade IV piano

Parsa Sadigh - Grade V violin

Rose Limaye, Rosie Busiakiewicz - Grade 5 theory

Testimonials

Thank you to parents who have given permission to quote them.

"I've felt this before, but on Saturday [at the Showcase Concert] I had one of those moments, realising how special Colourstrings and what you have created is! Eleanor and Ben took such pride in participating. Thank you for your inspiration and for all you do for them."
S Wallis

"I couldn't believe the beautiful sound that filled the room as Will, the teacher, played Kiran's compositions. Kiran beamed! I didn't know Kiran could write music!"
S Patel

"[Colourstrings has given] a marvellous start to our daughter's musical life."
R Blackwell

Adult Classes!

Please see the attached sheet at the back of this newsletter for information and application form for our newly-expanded Adult Music Education Programme!

Photo-Shoot photographs

In May, a number of children were called in for professional photographer Chris Capstick (Blue Peter annuals, etc) to take pictures of every variation of music class we do for a new website. A complimentary photo was promised to each parent.

Due to unforeseen difficulties, there has been a delay in dealing with these but they will be sent out by the end of October. I apologise for the long wait. (I hope parents of the babies will still recognise their offspring!)

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Concert Types - A Summary

Practice Concerts - Saturdays

(2nd Saturday of the month)

Muswell Village Club (upstairs) - 10.00-11.00am

- for students to perform pieces that are not quite ready for public consumption. Includes instant feedback from an experienced teacher and may include a little coaching, time permitting. Informal, supportive, collaborative atmosphere.

Days of Concerts - various Sundays in November, February, June

- St James's School, Woodside Avenue

Informal 40-45 minute concerts, hosted by a senior teacher and including all age ranges and disciplines. Sometimes Kindergarten children and the Adult Choir also participate.

A great opportunity for Kindergarten children to see young and not-so-young players in action and to understand more about the instruments they may themselves end up playing.

Showcase Concerts - Saturdays

December (Sunday), January, March, May, July

Highgate United Reformed Church,

Pond Square, N6 6.00-8.00pm

Formal concerts including small and large ensembles, specially-selected solos and a 'Teachers' Corner' where one or more teachers will perform a piece.

Special concert dress (black and white clothing) is worn by all the performers and wine, soft drinks and nibbles are served in the interval. Not suitable for the youngest members of our Colourstrings community but very suitable for 5+ up to the interval and older children for the whole event.

Bring grandparents, teachers, friends! A lovely occasion with superb feedback from audiences.

Open Rehearsals and Classes

At or towards the end of each term, we habitually invite parents in to watch group classes and rehearsals. Please be alert to when these happen: it is usually the last or penultimate week of term and may vary from teacher to teacher.

Please also be aware that your children's behaviour is usually very different when they know you are watching than it would normally be and the teachers may deal with the class in a different way than normal. Do not be alarmed if you suddenly think your child is either very shy or very disruptive! We will always discuss extremes of behaviour with you, and it is very unlikely that any such behaviour you see at these opportunities is 'normal' for your child in a weekly class.

North London Colourstrings Summer Course - July 2008 -

In days gone by, we used to have regular holiday courses for the children. We are reinstating this idea in 2008. so please PUT THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Thursday 24 July - Sunday 27 July

- string players
- guitarists
- pianists
- choir

- to include rehearsals, musicianship, Dalcroze Eurhythmics and a final jamboree!

Older players are welcome to assist with the younger groups for experience when they are not participating themselves.

The course will be non-residential (we are planning a residential course in July 2009). Any parents who would like to help out, please contact the office or Laura Forbes.

Look for updates on our website!

www.nlcolourstrings.co.uk

*Although we don't normally carry advertising, I wanted to place this as a personal recommendation to repay Aila Baron, homeopath and wife of Stephen Baron, for her skill and kindness in treating a young member of my family.
Deborah

*The Little Homeopathy Room

Aila Baron, is a fully qualified, Registered Member of the Society of Homeopaths and has been practising since 1996. She treats both physical and emotional problems in adults and children.

Children: chronic ear, nose and respiratory problems, eczemas, bedwetting, sleep problems, school fears, behaviour problems, ADD and learning difficulties. **Babies & pregnant mothers** and those about to give birth can also benefit.

Adults: problems with skin, joints, hormones, headaches, IBS, lack of energy, stress, depression, panic attacks, anger, grief or just not feeling oneself.

Contact Aila on **020 8888 6536**

- Adult Music Education Programme -

Form for Enrolment / Information / Registering Interest

Name _____ Tel _____ Parent of _____

Email _____

Instrument _____ Standard _____
(if applying for an ensemble)

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE RELEVANT PARTS

1. Music Appreciation - £5.00 per session Deposit: £15.00

Tuesday evenings, NLPAC 7.45-8.45pm £5.00 per session (6 week block)

OR - I cannot attend the above but:

I would like to attend a class on a weekday morning from _____ am
 on a weekday afternoon (ending before 3pm)
**please delete as appropriate* *Mon / Wed / Thurs evenings from _____ pm
 Saturday from ____am ending before ____pm

2. Learn-to-read-Music through Solfa (35 weeks per annum) - Deposit: £40.00

(Only one of these popular classes will run - two are offered to gauge the most suitable time for parents on Tuesdays. Further classes may be started on other days/evenings if there is enough interest.)

Beginners Tuesday evenings 6.00-6.45pm (£85.00 per term)
 Beginners Tuesday evenings 6.45-7.30pm (£85.00 per term) **OR**

I cannot attend the above but:

I would like to attend a class weekday morning from _____ am
 weekday afternoon (ending before 3pm)
**please delete as appropriate* Mon / Wed / Thurs evenings from _____ pm
 Saturday from ____am ending before ____pm

3. Adult Choir (35 weeks per annum) - Deposit: £40.00

(You need to be able to read music to join the choir; graduates of the Learn-to-read-Music Class usually join after a term or two)

Tuesday evenings 8.15-9.00pm (£85.00 per term) **OR**

I cannot attend the above but:

I would like to attend a class weekday morning from _____ am
 weekday afternoon (ending before 3pm)
**please delete as appropriate* Mon / Wed / Thurs evenings from _____ pm
 Saturday from ____am ending before ____pm

- Adult Music Education Programme -
(continued)

I would like to register my interest in

4. Adult String Ensemble *for amateur players Grade 3-4 & above* **Deposit: £15.00**

△ **Tuesday evenings - 1 hour** c. £5.00 per session (depending on numbers)

You will receive further information once we have collated responses.

I would like to register my interest in

5. Adult Wind Ensemble *for amateur players Grade 3-4 and above* - **Deposit: £15.00**

△ **Tuesday evenings - 1 hour** c.£5.00 per session (depending on numbers)

You will receive further information once we have collated responses.

6. Adult Instrumental Tuition

I am interested in: (*please delete as appropriate). *You will receive further information once we have collated responses.*

△ **Adult Violin Tuition - evenings / Sat a.m./ weekday a.m./p.m.***
**please delete as appropriate* with / without musicianship class

△ **Adult 'Cello Tuition - evenings / Sat a.m./ weekday a.m./p.m.***
**please delete as appropriate* with / without musicianship class

△ **Adult Wind Tuition - evenings / Sat a.m./ weekday a.m./p.m.***
with / without musicianship class

△ **Adult Piano Tuition - evenings / Sat a.m./ weekday a.m./p.m.***
with / without musicianship class

△ **Adult Guitar Tuition - evenings / Sat a.m./ weekday a.m./p.m.***
with / without musicianship class

Cost: probably in the region of £15.00 per 30mins lesson or £7.50 for 30 shared mins (two people). If m/ship included, more like £17.00-£19.00 per week, depending on numbers.

Please return this slip (with a deposit where indicated) by FRIDAY 22nd OCTOBER.

The deposit will be returned if numbers are not sufficient to run a class. The subsidised prices above are for parents of Colourstrings children; slightly higher prices would apply for non-Colourstrings parents but they are also welcome to apply.