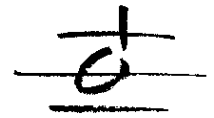


Music Notes from CROYDON MUSIC SERVICE



January 2008

The largest orchestra ever to perform at Fairfield?

Most enjoyment from learning a musical instrument is gained through getting together with others to play music. There is something very special about being part of a large group contributing to a performance which would not be possible alone.

This year we are offering this opportunity to all young musicians in Croydon. The first of these is on 17 March at the Showcase Concert at Fairfield where instrumentalists can join an orchestra to perform a special arrangement of the exciting and colourful last piece from Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Will we be the largest orchestra ever to perform at Fairfield? The Showcase Concert is the first of three days at Fairfield in a festival of music from Croydon's talented young musicians.

The opportunities provided by Croydon Music Service are part of a borough wide **Croydon Music Education Strategy** overseen by a Strategy Board including 12 headteachers. Read our first annual report, available on the music service website.

Croydon's leading position in music education was recognised nationally in November when I was invited to be part of the 12 strong Music Manifesto Partnership and Advocacy Group, chaired by Darren Hendy, the Chief Executive of Classic FM. You can find out more about the Music Manifesto and the national strategy for music education on their website: www.musicmanifesto.co.uk.

Graeme Smith, Head of Croydon Music Service

Come and join in!

We would be delighted to hear from any young musician who would like to take part in one of these events. Further details are on our website.

17 March at Fairfield (and two previous rehearsals at Ashburton) for Wind, Percussion, String, Keyboard and Guitar players from Grade 2 to Grade 5.

9.00am – 11.30am, 26 April at Ashburton, workshops for Wind, Percussion and String players up to Grade 2 standard.

5.30pm – 8.00pm, 9 May at Ashburton for Wind, Percussion and String players from Grade 5 upwards, come and play Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture, including cannon effects!

10.00am – 12.30pm, 17 May at Whitgift School, Open Day at the Centre for Young Pianists with the opportunity to take part in a workshop performance.

Concerts at Fairfield

(tickets from Fairfield box office, 020 8688 9291)

Croydon Music Service Showcase Concert

Croydon's young musicians are forming a large orchestra to perform *The Great Gate of Kiev* from *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Mussorgsky. They will also be performing in their instrument families, including some Irish music for St Patrick's Day. The second half of the concert will be a performance from **Croydon Youth Winds** followed by a choir from Croydon secondary schools performing songs from **Grease** accompanied by **Croydon Youth Jazz Band** and the strings of the **Croydon Youth Sinfonia**. Fairfield Hall, 7.00pm, Monday 17 March

Croydon Schools Music Association Infant Festival Choir, SoundStart Ukuleles and Croydon Youth Fluteharmonic

Fairfield Hall, 7.00pm, Tuesday 18 March

Junior Festival Choir, SoundStart Brass and Croydon Youth Orchestra

Fairfield Hall, 7.30pm, Wednesday 19 March

Centre for Young Pianists

Lunch Time Recital

Fairfield Hall, 1.05pm, Tuesday 4 March

Concerts at Ashburton Learning Village

Orchestral Centre and Brass Ensemble, including Haydn Symphony No 100 (Youth Sinfonia) Tchaikovsky Symphony No 2 (Youth Orchestra) Ashburton, 7.30pm, Friday 28 March

Woodwind Choir, Clarinet Choir, Guitar Ensemble, Croydon Young Musicians Concert Band and String Orchestra

Ashburton, 7.00pm, Saturday 29 March

SoundStart

In addition to the performances on 18, 19 March by Ukuleles and Brass at Fairfield, more than 1200 pupils from the 42 SoundStart projects in Croydon will be giving joint presentations to family and friends at various schools in May.

Holiday Courses at Ashburton

The holiday courses for young musicians up to Grade 5 standard will be held at Ashburton Learning Village on 7-8 April. There are courses for Wind, Percussion, Strings and Guitars. Further details and application forms for these and other CMS activities are available on our website.



News from Croydon Music Service Centres



Ashburton Learning Village

Our new home was officially opened in September by a former pupil at Ashburton School and world champion racing driver and motorbike rider John Surtees. As guests toured the new building they were treated to some music by guitarists from the Centre for Young Guitarists and *Take Four*, a quartet of clarinetists from the Wind and Percussion Centre.

Centres at Ashburton

The Youth Orchestra and Youth Sinfonia from the **Orchestral Centre** joined forces to form the Croydon Youth Pops Orchestra to play some film music for the joint concert with the band of the Blues and Royals at Haling Manor School. This should have been outside except for the typical July weather of torrential rain.

There was a buzz around the start of the new academic year due to firm friendships being formed from the tour to Lisbon, Portugal, in July. Joe Millen and Sanjay Mahtani took the spotlight and performed Haydn Trumpet Concerto and Marcello's Oboe Concerto on concerto night and the end of term concert was rounded off by a very Christmassy Troika by Prokofiev.

We were pleased to have the Deputy Major Councillor Brian Udell and his wife as our guests at the **Wind and Percussion Centre's** winter concert in December. The evening was an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the variety of experiences the young musicians have at the centre. There were performances from single instruments groups, the Fluteharmonic and Clarinet Ensembles, and mixed ensembles, the Brass, Double Reeds and Percussion groups, with the Jazz Band and Youth Winds also performing. The music ranged from the Renaissance period to music written in the last few years including arrangements of Jazz standards and popular music as well as original pieces for wind band.

Pupils from the **Centre for Young Guitarists** have been getting to grips with small group composition in the style of 1990's heavy rock and the results have shown some really creative work. Last summer players were invited to take part in accompanying children from the National Youth Choir of Great Britain 'World Song' event at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Pupils accompanied the choir in a spirited South American finale.

The **Croydon Young Musicians** Taster Session in October was well attended. Many of the children who joined us for the morning playing alongside our regular workshop members have now joined the centre. The programme for the December concert included items ranging from traditional folk songs to Elgar and an exciting arrangement of Pirates of the Caribbean. For the first time we were able to project the concert onto the large screen at the back of the hall which gave good views of the performers for all.



Guitarists performing in the library at the Ashburton Learning Village opening. On the left is Ophelia Gordon, one of the first recipients of the Jack Petchey Foundation Awards

Jack Petchey Foundation Awards

The music service has been accepted by the Jack Petchey Foundation for their awards scheme. Each month a student who has shown particular commitment is chosen by the staff to receive the award. The student also has to choose how to spend £300 for the benefit of the service. We are delighted to be part of the awards scheme which rewards our students and also develops leadership skills.

Composition Competition

The Croydon Youth Music Association, the parents association for our centres, is supporting the Composition Class at the Croydon Music Festival in May with an award of £100. The award will be divided between the winners of two sections, one for students in Years 10 and 11, and one for students in Years 12 and 13.

Compositions in all styles are welcomed, for any combination of instruments and/or voice. An essential part of the class is a performance on the day, which can be a recording, or composers may bring their own musicians for a live performance. The closing date for entries is 8 February.

Centre for Young Pianists

In November the centre hosted an important event for EPTA (European Piano Teachers Association) at which Lilian Strange, the centre's long serving Assistant Head, presented a comprehensive account of its 33 year history.

In December a masterclass was given by Murray McLachlan, Head of Keyboard at the prestigious Chetham's School of Music, Manchester, and later the same month celebrated pianist Stephen Osborne together with world-renowned producer Andrew Keener adjudicated at the annual Beethoven Sonata competition. The award was given to Holly Coma who will go on to represent the centre at the Beethoven Society of Great Britain competition.