



FEBRUARY 2007

NEWS NOTES

STUDENT NEWS Anna Mullock, Molly Upjohn, Xan Hill, & Francesca Blake participated in the Early Stages Suzuki Piano Workshop at the Royal Academy of Music, London on Sunday 21 January. Each half-day workshop included a piano lesson in master-class format, and a Dalcroze session with Jacqueline Vann, during which time the parents attended a Parent Talk with Sharron Beamer, an experienced Suzuki parent of four and now an LSG Suzuki violin teacher. Each session ended with a concert performance by all students. The workshop was attended by approximately 60 young Suzuki piano students from throughout the UK.

Michaelhouse Concerts: 23 of our CSYM students performed in the two lunch-time concerts organised at Michaelhouse Centre on Saturday 3 February. The Commission Fund-raising effort was a huge success, adding £100 to the Commission Fund. A big thank-you to all who participated, and a special thanks to: Jane Kershaw for initiating contact with the Centre and helping organise the event, to Karyn Barnes & Rae Streets for organising the publicity, and to David Cebon, Lynsey Newberry and Marcus Streets for their help outside in Trinity Street. We still need another £400 for the Fitkin commission; please let us know ASAP if you have any ideas or contacts.

TEACHER NEWS Betty & Stephen were guest Suzuki Piano faculty members at the London Suzuki Piano Workshop at the RAM on Sunday 21 January...Stephen will be travelling to Spain on a monthly-basis to initiate Suzuki Piano Teacher-Training for the Spanish Association, alternating between Madrid and Barcelona...Betty has been invited back by the piano teachers in Barcelona to teach in their workshop at Montserrat from 28 June-1 July...Stephen and Betty will also be members of the Suzuki Piano faculty at the LSG's Bryanston Course in August.

PARENT DIARY DATES

Remaining Spring Term Group Classes:

SATURDAYS: February 10*, 24

March 3**, 10, 24

***February 10th:** Please note that all CSYM Group Classes on 10th February will take place in the large classroom upstairs on the first floor due to other church activities taking place in the Hall. *Please come upstairs that day to bring and pick-up your child.*

****March 3rd:** Group Class Concert Day in preparation for the 18 March Concert. All parents encouraged to attend upstairs in the piano studio. Classes scheduled as normal.

Sunday 18 March: CSYM Concert in Aid of RNID. Dress rehearsals will take place throughout the day, schedule TBA.

Summer Institute Registration

1 March Deadline: Would all parents please advise Stephen now by telephone or email whether or not you plan to attend, to enable musical and logistical planning.

RE: Kathryn Stott Masterclass:

There is only one Advanced space (students from Book 6+) and three Intermediate spaces remaining. Because the deadline was 24th December, any eligible registrants outside our group will now be allotted these places if your registration has not been received.

RE: Attending with Student. The Institute is as much a learning opportunity for the parent as the student. Parents benefit enormously from the inspiration of master teachers such as Esther, Koens, etc. They also form a learning community as they come together each day, observe classes, help with practice and encourage ALL children participating, not just their own. New friends are made, and new ideas learned & shared. Attending together demonstrates to your child that music and this special learning opportunity is worthy of your respect and attention. Only pupils 13 years and over may attend without the parent, and by special agreement.

FIVE A DAY" SUZUKI BASICS FOR 100% SUCCESS

From Betty

Dear parents, did you know that in his introduction to every Suzuki Piano Book, Dr Suzuki outlines his "recipe" for successful Suzuki education in five simple statements? If you've never read them before, take some time to do so. If you have, please take a closer look to see if you've overlooked any basic points in helping your child develop great ability. Then, try putting them into action 100% for one month. I know you will see the difference in your child's motivation, attitude, improvement and progress:

1) MAKE LEARNING AND PRACTICING A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

The teacher and parent together work to find the best way to make a pupil enjoy learning and practicing correctly at home. (Note: It is up to the parent to help the child practice daily with patience, persistence, effort and enjoyment! The parent is key to gauging the child's mood and personality and inventing ways to engage h/her concentration in the important practice tasks e.g. repetition and review. Even as children grow into teenagers, they require the help of parents to play the CD, to help organise their practice, monitor their work throughout the week, and mostly to sit back and listen attentively with BIG SMILES and words of praise and encouragement for the work they are doing.)

2) LISTEN TO THE RECORDINGS EVERY DAY

Every day children should listen to the recordings of the music they are studying or about to study - this will enable them to make rapid progress. This is the most important training of musical ability...daily listening, as often as possible.

3) LEARN THE MUSIC AT HOME, NOT AT THE LESSON!

Play by memory at lessons; learn the music at home through correct study & practice.

4) MUSICAL STUDY CAN ONLY BEGIN AFTER A PIECE IS LEARNED

Once a piece can be played without mistakes in notes or fingers, the musical study can then begin. This is one of the reasons why accurate review needs to be an integral part of every practice.

5) LEARN BY WATCHING!

Parents and children should always watch the lessons of other children, for motivation and to deepen their own understanding of tone and how to practice at home. Lessons will vary in length according to the age of the child and h/her needs of the lesson. (Note: Motivation by others also grows through regular participation in group classes, workshops, ensemble work and concert performances. You might also enjoy replaying highlights of our CSYM DVD!)

RE: LISTENING

Some parents requested the following re-print to help with **burning your own Learning CD** - with thanks to Jon Shallcross:

Link to the free software download:-

<http://www.apple.com/uk/itunes/download/>

ALSO

<http://www.apple.com/support/itunes/tutorial/index.html>

CSYM FUTURE CONCERTS:

Kodály 125th Anniversary Concert Oct. 2007 featuring Kodály's piano and choral works, with contributions from his fellow countrymen Kurtág and Bartók, etc.

March/April 2008 CSYM Charity Concert featuring the "Carnival of the Animals"

29 June 2008 International Suzuki Concert in tribute to Dr Suzuki on the 10th anniversary of his death.

Quote from Pianist Ruth Laredo:

"Playing in a concert is worth 100 lessons!"