



MAY 2007

## NEWS NOTES

### STUDENT NEWS

#### CAMBRIDGE EPTA COMPETITION

Congratulations to our CSYM Participants :

1) Molly Upjohn, Noa Cebon, Alex Blake  
(In Peterborough: Adjudicator Noriko Ogawa)

2) May Kershaw, Lucas Kantaris, Madeline Gowers, Rose Last, Roxanna Shini, Isabella, Shallcross, Nathalie Kantaris, Alice Wood & Sam Wood  
(In Cambridge: Adjudicator William Fong)

Molly, Madeline, and Rose proceeded through to the next and final stage of the competition in Oxford at the Elementary level, as did Lucas and May at Intermediate, and Nathalie at Upper Intermediate level. Congratulations to all involved. They each produced a programme of around four pieces at performance level, took part in a performance, and received an adjudication. For us as teachers, the polishing of a programme to a high standard over a period of time, and the reward of a performance are the most valuable parts of this process in the sense of development for our pupils. But if they can take on William Fong's advice over quantity of practice, (see \* below) well.....

Festival dates have conflicted in past, but we plan for more of our pupils to be involved in next year's EPTA Festival and Competition.

\*William Fong, Head of Keyboard at the Purcell School, was most impressed by the high standard of student performances at the early levels (which included many of our students!). However, as the performance categories reached the Intermediate to Advanced Levels, he commented that the most common problem among these young performers was insufficient practice. Many played with musical intelligence but often lacked adequate technical skill to perform accurately and create a convincing performance. He reminded the students that, the more advanced repertoire they aimed to play, the more time they needed to commit to practice. He recommended an absolute minimum of 1 hour daily for students playing Intermediate repertoire, (approx. Suzuki Piano Book 4) and ideally up to 2 hours daily. (At specialist schools it would be 4 hours+ by Grade 8 standard).

June 25 is the date for entries in the EPTA Composition competition. As they have many age levels we suggest everyone makes up a piece and enters (entry forms and details in the studios).

**NEWSFLASH: GRAHAM FITKIN HAS COMPLETED THE COMMISSION!** We are absolutely delighted with the finished three movement work, entitled 'Uncertain'. Six of our Cambridge-based pupils and three others from Copenhagen and Devon are now working on the parts for its world premiere at the workshop.

If you'd like to become re-acquainted with Graham's music, you can hear both ensemble and solo piano pieces on Decca's *The British Music Collection Series: Graham Fitkin 2CD 473 434-2 (2002)*. You can also see him and his partner performing on:

**Saturday 19 May:**

Graham Fitkin/Ruth Wall: "Still Warm" tour with three harps, keyboards, electronics, etc  
London (Highbury/Islington) 7:30 PM?

[www.unionchapel.org.uk](http://www.unionchapel.org.uk)

**SUMMER INSTITUTE NEWSFLASH #2:** An absolute DELIGHT is in store for participants, as Kathryn Stott's programme for her Wednesday recital will be:

Ravel: Sonatine  
(\*Clara Haskil, Walter Gieseking)

Fauré: Nocturne No.4  
(Fauré, Gabriel: The Complete Piano Music on Hyperion CDA 66911/4 \*Kathryn Stott - You can also hear selections of her recordings on her website: [www.kathrynstott.com](http://www.kathrynstott.com))

Graham Fitkin: 'Relent' (written for Kathryn Stott) \*Ref: Fitkin's website

\*Recommended recordings to listen to in advance

Pupils attending are extremely fortunate to be in contact with not only an internationally-renowned performing and recording artist, but one of the most active and sought-after chamber musicians and accompanists of the day.

**CSYM WEBSITE** Special thanks to Penny & Steve Mullock for maintaining the group's website and keeping schedules and notices astonishingly up-to-date. We're trying our best to keep parents informed via the site, and parents can always make this their first port-of-call if in doubt of group class, lessons, or class concert dates.

**CSYM MEMBERSHIP REMINDER:** If you haven't already done so, please send your Annual Membership Fee of £77 to Rae Streets, CSYM Treasurer. Checks should be made payable to *Cambridge Suzuki Young Musicians*. Please include your full name and address for reference.

**ARE YOUR FEET NOW PLANTED FIRMLY ON THE GROUND? OUTGROWN FOOT-BOXES** can be re-cycled to new students. Please contact Stephen or Betty if you have a foot-box which has lost its purpose and is holding up your CD library or gathering dust in the corner.

## ARION CHAMBER CHOIR

The Choir is non-selective, and welcomes all interested children from ages 7-13 (approx. Years 3-8). The Choir is meeting from approx. 2:15-3 PM on Saturdays, now already 4 weeks into its introductory term. The children are making a lovely sound, working conscientiously, and we will continue in September, hopefully in greater numbers as word gets round. I hope that, through this project, more parents will begin to consider singing equally as valuable as playing a second instrument. The choir's purpose is:

- To promote singing for all by encouraging the use of the most natural instrument - the voice
- To discover, nurture, and develop the "artist in every child" through quality choral training
- To realise Zoltán Kodály's vision for all children to become true musicians by training the "inner ear" and studying music through the use of relative solfa (do-re-mi)
- To enrich all areas of young lives through skill mastery, self-expression, and teamwork
- To develop self-esteem, confidence, and self-respect.

### From Betty: A Great Way to Start the Day!...(after practice, of course!)

Lately I've become a fan of Radio 3's Breakfast Programme from 8-9 AM. Although the presenters are rotated, I'm particularly fond of Sara Mohr-Pietsch's programme, as she has highlighted some exceptional piano recordings, as well as lovely choral music. She also includes some very interesting and often entertaining background information about the composers and the performances. Via the internet, you can listen to an episode up to 7 days after the broadcast. Recent piano highlights included Granados' Goyescas played by Alicia del Larrocha, a charming Children's Suite by Sofia Bacewicz who studied with Nadia Boulanger, and an astonishing recording of Glenn Gould performing Bach's Keyboard Concerto #7. If you are doing the school cycle-run at that hour, why not listen in together later in the day, or play the programme through during the dinner hour...?

Website:[www.bbc.co.uk/radio3/breakfast/pip/ssmb9/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3/breakfast/pip/ssmb9/)

*PS Sarah Mohr-Pietsch wrote: "I'm delighted that you enjoy listening to the morning programme. And I do hope some of your students listen in too - I was an avid Radio 3 listener when I was at school and my parents' car radio was always defaulted to it in the mornings on the way to school!"*

#### Developing Great Ability: The Value of Repetition:

Dr Suzuki frequently drew parallels between the process of developing skill at playing an instrument with that of high-level sports training. A recent quote from David Beckham: "There aren't many kids who have total support from their parents...sometimes parents annoy us, but they do it for the right reason. I remember that my dad made me cry because I was playing outside wanting to shoot at goal but he was making me control the ball. He made me kick the ball up in the air 100 times and control it and control it until I got it right. And even when I got it right he made me do it some more. You don't understand how important that is at the time, but later in your career you look back and think, 'Wow I was so lucky to have that.'"

## RECOMMENDED CONCERTS

### Sunday 3 June 11:30 AM

Wigmore Hall Coffee Concert, £10

Lise de la Salle, Piano

Mozart: Sonata in D, K. 284: 12 Variations on 'Ah vous dirai je, maman' K. 265

(otherwise known as Mozart's Twinkle Variations)

Prokofiev: 6 Pieces from Romeo & Juliet; Toccata Op. 11

### Saturday 4 August:

Aurora Orchestra with Benjamin Grosvenor, Piano (past semi-finalist in BBC Young Musician of Year)

Cambridge Summer Music Festival

General Booking from 12 May from

Cambridge Corn Exchange, 01223 357851

**Book now for Angela Hewitt 2008** performing Bach's Well-Tempered Klavier at Royal Festival Hall; Book 1 on Sunday 20 January 2008 and Book 2 Sunday 4 May 2008 at 3 PM afternoon performances...Note also that Mitsuko Uchida has included selections from Kurtag's 'Games' on her programme scheduled 2 April 2008 at RFH. Ticket Office 0871 663 2500 [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

We have never seen so many incredible concert opportunities in one London season...in addition to Angela Hewitt & Mitsuko Uchida:

Monday 26 November 2007

7.30 Lang Lang

Wednesday 13 February 2008

7.30 Pierre-Laurent Aimard

Wednesday 27 February 2008:

7.30 Richard Goode

Monday 10 March 2008:

7.30 Lief Ove Andsnes

Tuesday 27 May 2008

7.30 Krystian Zimerman

All part of the International Piano Series 2007-08  
[www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

**RE: GROUP CLASS POLICY REMINDER:** As stated in our Parent-Teacher Agreement, thank you for notifying Betty in advance of necessary Saturday absences. Sadly, two or more absences per term puts a student at a major disadvantage with regards to the improvement and progression of h/her reading, writing and enjoying music with others, decreasing their overall motivation. Our overall purpose is not only to offer piano training through the Suzuki approach, but to develop musicians. Working together musically as a group remains a unique and fundamental aim of our programme. Sadly, infrequent attendance raises the need to review a family's commitment to our programme overall.

### Quotes From Dr Suzuki's Studio:

"The CD is your teacher;

I am only the assistant."