

Sing & Play

There are still places in our Sing & Play groups for 5 to 7 year olds, although the groups are growing again.

Please contact Jane Lopresti via Carole or Lewis on the desk.

Senior Folk Group

At the other end of the age spectrum, the Senior Folk Group has some space. Almost any competent instrumentalist is welcome here to play World Music, led by Louise Appleby. Don't let the 9.30am start time put you off!

SaMS Brass Group

This group is continuing to grow and improve this year. Although we lost a couple of the more experienced members of the ensemble at the start of the school year, we have still maintained the standard, with regular members and some new recruits - which is encouraging news. I'm pleased to say that we have a wide range of brass instruments in the group, including a French horn, Trombone and Euphonium, all of which are considered to be 'endangered' musical instruments, so we are extremely fortunate to have these members.

We are continuing to rehearse music of varying musical styles. We have gone from studying a piece by Marc-Antoine Charpentier (late 17th Century) to a new single by James Morrison (2008!).

We welcome anyone who plays a brass instrument to come along and have a try - parts can be adapted to suit any player. Anyone interested should speak to Carole or Lewis at the desk, or just come along at 10:35am to the Ariel Theatre any SaMS Saturday to see what we do.

Grades I-IV Theory

The Grades I-IV Theory group numbers are steadily increasing, and we have a wide range of abilities studying within the group - everything from complete beginners to pushing Grade V Theory. The group is run like a 'drop-in' session - anyone can come in at any stage during the year, either for help starting from scratch, or coming with any music theory problems they are having in their school or individual music lessons - hopefully we can sort them out!

If anyone would be interested in attending, either speak to Carole or Lewis on the desk, or just turn up at 11:40am in Room 26 (upstairs language room).



saturday music school



website
www.samstotnes.org.uk

newsletter

Spring 2009

sams as popular as ever

Despite the cold weather and economic downturn, SaMS continues to thrive. We have a constant stream of new students, as well as an inspiring and enthusiastic group of young people who have been coming for years - many since our first session back in November 2000.

end of term concert

The usual end of term concert will take place in the Ariel Centre at 1.00pm on Saturday 28th March after the usual morning sessions. If you are new to SaMS you will, I am sure, enjoy the mixture of musical styles presented by most of our ensembles. The concert should finish about 2.30.

old dance school at the ariel centre .. 30 april

Anyone who's heard Joe Broughton's fantastic *Conservatoire Folk Ensemble* will want to book for the **Old Dance School**, performing at here in April. Formed out of the Ensemble, they are one of the most exciting young bands on the folk scene, exploding out of Birmingham in all directions & acclaimed for their uplifting, grooving show. Fiddles, whistles, guitar, vocals, bass & percussion combine to show their folk, jazz, soul and world music influences - this lively group of young musicians have a great following. They offer an absorbing and imaginative take on traditional music, whilst also borrowing from various European traditions for their own accomplished compositions. The 6-piece band comes from across England; none of them over 25.

Thursday 30 April at 7.30pm. Tickets from KEVICC reception £9, £7 concessions, £5 KEVICC students 01803 869200

next term

Enjoy the Easter break. We start again for the summer term on Saturday April 25th.

Lewis Riley

agm

In January we held our first AGM since becoming a registered charity. A few parents and students attended, as well as the committee.

Jill Bird, our chair, gave a brief introduction on why SaMS was set up. Lewis continued to explain how this was done, giving a brief report on recent developments such as new groups and how the numbers seem now to have settled down to about 150 children coming every week. The most important factor regarding the running of SaMS is the £15,600 which comes from the KEVICC Arts Bid every year to keep it running, and ensures that the annual subscriptions are kept low, keeping attendance at SaMS as inclusive as possible.

David Blood, our treasurer, then gave a financial report, clarifying how we would benefit when the Gift Aid money was claimed back, which should happen fairly soon. Finally, the structure of the committee was explained and elections were held for the main posts.

Jill Bird, David Blood and secretary/publicity officer Sue Snell were all re-elected, and a parent helped to close the meeting on a positive note by saying how highly she regarded SaMS and thanked everyone for how it had helped her daughter.

fill this space!

From time to time we have space in the newsletter for anything you'd like to contribute ...

- instruments for sale
- news about concerts
- article about a SaMS group
- music exams you've taken (and what you think about them!)

Anything for the Summer newsletter needs to get to Lewis by the May half term please.

music for youth regional festival

On the afternoon of Sunday March 1st, the seven piece KEVICC Percussion Ensemble (six of whom are part of the SaMS percussion group), directed by Kath Northcott, performed at the Exeter Corn Exchange. This is one of over sixty centres throughout the UK used for regional performances for the Music For Youth Festival. There were five other ensembles from Devon including two small choirs, a much larger South Devon Percussion Group, a jazz quartet, and a large wind band from Plymouth.

The KEVICC group gave an exceptional performance of three pieces within the allotted 10 minutes, opening with *Mambo* from West Side Story, followed by the *Comedian's Gallop* from Kabalevsky, and finishing with Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

There were two 'judges' who gave mostly positive feedback to all the groups, both spoken and written, suggesting ways they might also improve. Their comments to the KEVICC group acknowledged the difficulty in the pieces played and were impressed with some of them changing instruments. Comments like 'excellent playing', 'a lovely sound', 'great dynamic contrasts', 'looked like you were enjoying it', 'wonderful spirited performance', 'good double stick work', 'excellent xylo playing', and 'a very high level of skill shown' demonstrated that they agreed with us biased parents!

Not only did they sound impressive, they looked good, dressed all in black with bright red bow ties or scarves, and Joe Richards, Molly's Dad and a theatre lecturer at Dartington College, gave some last minute coaching in moving around the stage and looking like they meant business - and they did.

Although not exactly a competition, the best groups will go on to 'finals' in Birmingham in July, and the very best will be heard at the Albert Hall, London in the Autumn, as part of the Music for Youth Schools Prom. We wish them the best of luck to go forward - they will hear in April.

