

newsletter Spring 2010

Welcome to the SaMS newsletter in what is now our **tenth year!** In November 2010 we celebrate that anniversary and hope to put on something special to celebrate.

dates

After Easter there will be just nine SaMS Saturdays before the Summer break.

We return for the new term on April 24th, and don't stop for the first May Bank holiday (May 1st) continuing on May 8th, 15th and 22nd.

After the half term there are just four SaMS on June 12th, 19th and 26th, finishing on July 3rd with the Summer Concert.

end of term concert saturday 27 march 1pm

Our usual end of term concert will be held at 1pm on **Saturday March 27th** in the Ariel Theatre. The retiring collection will be for SaMS funds and most groups will be showing the term's work.

jazz concert thursday 27 may

I am also planning a **Jazz Concert** jointly with KEVICC and SaMS on **Thursday May 27th**, again in the Ariel Theatre. This will feature both SaMS jazz groups, KEVICC Big Band and some small groups of KEVICC, SaMS and ex-SaMS students, many of whom are in their last year at school before moving on to College or University.

We will be raising money for *ShelterBox*, the Cornwall based charity that has done so much to help the victims of disasters such as the Haiti earthquake. Check out their website www.shelterbox.org for more information. More details of this concert to follow, but put it in your diaries now – this is a busy time of year for many of us.



ensemble and tutor news

Steve Verge is back! After his car accident back in October, he is now running the Electric Guitar Group again and hopes to take over the Acoustic Group as he feels stronger.

Catherine Quinlan is slowly building up her individual teaching but still has spaces for flute, sax and recorder lessons. Just catch her on a Saturday morning or contact Lewis if you are interested.

The brass group only has a handful of members, and we would encourage anyone having brass lessons and thinking of joining this group to come along - see next page for more details..

Many of the other groups are now full and have, in some cases, quite extensive waiting lists. We are sorry that there just isn't space at the moment for some JaM sessions, Junk Band and Tuned Percussion. There may not be spaces now until the autumn but do keep checking at the desk.

agm

We had our second AGM as a registered Charity on January 30th, and assume from the short meeting, and low attendance, that students and parents are happy with the organisation.

There are always relatively minor details to discuss and sort out but, on the whole, we must be doing something right as there is still a steady flow of new students – hardly a week goes by without some new faces appearing, eager to take part in our activities.

treasurer

David Blood, our long serving and invaluable treasurer, has expressed a wish for this year to be his last. As well as being an accountant by profession, he also has a good knowledge of how charities work and will be a hard act to follow. If anyone feels that they have the skills and expertise to take this on we would be grateful to hear from them – sooner rather than later, so that there can be a period of overlap.

One of the things David has been able to do is to secure a Gift Aid payment from the forms that most of you have been able to complete. Once this money has been reclaimed, some of it might go towards financing a SaMS Roadshow in the Summer, to go round some of the Primary schools with SaMS groups. These occasions are always a pleasure to put on, and strengthen our links with the local Primary schools.

More information as it becomes available.

Lewis Riley

brass group

If you're a brass player, come and join the SaMS Brass Group! We still have a number of places available for brass players of all ages and abilities. We rehearse during the second SaMS session (10:35 - 11:25) every Saturday during term time, aiming to cover a varied repertoire from a wide range of musical genres throughout the year.

We are a welcoming and friendly group, and the arrangements are specially written to suit.

If you would like more information please contact Sam, Lewis or Rachel on the desk, or come along on a Saturday morning to see for yourself.

concert review

I was thrilled when I heard that Dame Evelyn Glennie, world famous percussionist, was coming to Plymouth! As well as being a deaf musician, Evelyn is the first person in musical history to create and sustain a career as a solo percussionist. The concert was held in the Guildhall in Plymouth and it featured the Ten Tors Orchestra, conducted by Simon Ible.

In the first half we heard a beautiful and deep string piece called *Palladio* by Karl Jenkins. Then there were some amazing contemporary solo pieces from Evelyn.

The second half consisted of the world premiere of a work by James Barrett. The piece, *Toilers of the Elements*, is written for Percussion and Strings. I found the piece by James Barrett very interesting and intriguing. I became totally lost in the music and all the amazing acoustics that were surrounding me. He incorporated different percussion instruments such as the HAPI drum, which added a floating, and strange, dynamic layer. It was strange seeing the percussion at the front of the orchestra, when it usually looms at the back; it really brought the stage to life.

I thought that Evelyn was fantastic. Her whole body and soul were involved in the music, and the way she played was just as much a part of the performance. I liked the way she introduced the instruments, and talked about them before she played. There was an insane snare drum piece that really showed off her incredible skills, and her technical skills were perfect.

I was so inspired by her playing and determination and I hope I get to see her again in the future.

Jess Clarke

DARTINGTON SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME



Summer festival of creative courses

1st – 13th August

Dartington Summer Youth Programme is a summer festival of creative courses in music and the arts especially designed for young people. A series of week-long workshops are led by experienced professional artists and performers from the UK. We have moved to The University of Exeter and for the FIRST TIME will be able to offer chaperoned accommodation.

Courses and workshops are offered at all levels and provide participants with the opportunity to work closely with a range of truly inspirational artists and ensembles, make new friends and create and perform exciting new work.

Courses to include 6PAC Jazz, Folkworld, Music Theatre, Composition, Documentary Photography, Songwriting, Stage Management and Prop Making, Gospel Choir and Exploring your Voice, and many more...

To register an expression of interest please email dsyp@dartington.org

If you would like any information about non-residential courses for a younger age group at KEVICC in the summer, please email or phone Polly Morrow, Community Arts Officer, KEVICC.

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