



EYS July Newsletter

"Aiming for a greater understanding and enjoyment of music"



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Here, at last, is the **June/July** newsletter. Change is afoot again with fond farewells and joyous welcomes as well as a final (hopefully) change of venue for the **Wednesday** groups! This newsletter is also hoped to be a gentle encouragement, over the barren weeks of summer, to keep up the practising so that everyone can return refreshed and raring to go in the autumn term.

Another New Venue!

The powers that be at **Stoke Hill Middle School** have had to increase the charges to **EYS** for using the school premises out of school hours. Unfortunately these extra charges are beyond our budget. However, all is not lost! **The Maria Montessori School** in **St Leonards** has stepped in, at our hour of need, and offered us a venue. The benefits are that the school is in a more central location and we are also going to be the only organisation using it, giving us much more freedom. The group times are to be confirmed closer to the starting date.

Congratulations

Congratulations go to **Elsa Frangleton** who passed her **grade 1 violin**

Staff Changes

Loss

Sadly we are losing **Carina Vince** who is off on foreign adventures. For those of us who have had the pleasure of watching her teach our children and seeing their progress over the last year, it will be a sad farewell. **Carina** has, for this writer's daughter, been an inspirational teacher – both patient and understanding as well as instilling a love for the violin in a child who had had a fairly disastrous start previously! We wish her much fun and enjoyment on her travels.

Gain

We are pleased to be gaining the services of **Alison Jones**. **Alison** began playing the violin at junior school and played in the **Merseyside Youth Orchestra**. She gained her degree in music at **Nottingham University** and also did a year long music workshop training course at **Musicworks** in **Stockwell**. **Alison** has a wealth of experience in all aspects of music teaching. She not only has private students but has run music workshops in a variety of settings including schools, centres for adults with learning difficulties, youth clubs and nurseries.

Alison enjoys playing a variety of musical styles and has toured the world for six years with **The Barely Works**, a folk band that loves mixing up the genres at every opportunity. She now plays and writes music for **Spin2**, a band that performs regular gigs around **Devon**.

Alison says "I feel that playing music should be fun and that playing with others can be enjoyed at every level – from the complete beginners onwards. I like to include an element of improvisation from the earliest stage of learning in order to build on children's natural creativity. I generally feel that I have as much to learn as anyone else in the room!"

Staff Career Developments

Jackie has just finished putting the finishing touches to her new album "**Hyperboreans**", which is to be released

in **September**. The album has been recorded and produced by **Jim Moray** and is launched on the “**One Little Indian**” label. The album features **James Dumbleton, Belinda O’Hooley** and **Jim Moray** as well as **Saul Rose, Sille Ilves, Nick Scott, Bethany Porter** and special guest **Alasdair Roberts**. The album consists of traditional songs as well as a new song written and performed with **Alasdair**, and the odd contemporary cover! **Jackie** will also be appearing at a number of festivals with her new band line up. This will be preceded by a tour of villages around the **Worcester** area and a lengthy **UK** tour with the band, in conjunction with the new album.

Jackie has also been commissioned by **Lush** to write and record some music for people to be massaged to. She will also be taking **Rebecca** to record the string parts with her! Pop in on your next shopping trip and relax to the soothing strains while having a stress-busting massage!

Concerts and Events

Accent members **Ayesha, Hannah** and **Dominik** are currently fundraising for **Summer School** places at **Dartington Summer Youth Programme** and **National Camerata Residential**. They have almost reached their target. They have had very generous support from **Tracy Baird** from the **Royal Oak, Nadderwater** and are playing at her summer fete on **18th July** from **2pm**. **Accent** also played at a **Midsummer ball** in **Exminster** and there are photos on their **Facebook** group: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Exeter-Young-Strings/21308522764?ref=ts>. You may well spot them **busking** on **Exeter High Street** to reach their target.

Thank you to everyone who played or helped with the **coffee morning**. It was a fun, relaxing event with a wonderful variety of performances by our members. The atmosphere was also greatly enhanced by the exhibition of some of **Hannah’s** paintings.



Other news

We are very grateful to **Kate Coldrick** for coming forward to take over the maintenance of our **website**. **Kate** will be keeping the **website** up-to-date as well as making regular **blog** entries, so please keep an eye out!

Practise tips for the holidays:

If possible keep up some daily practise (although you will be forgiven for not risking your instrument in hot weather, on a beach, smeared in ice cream, sun cream and other unmentionable substances!). It can be quite disheartening to come back in September and find that you can no longer play things you could play easily before the holidays. It is very obvious, in **September**, to those poor, long-suffering teachers who has and hasn't practised!

Practise template

1. Finger warm ups
2. Bow exercises
3. Finger exercises
4. Check posture, bow hold and tuning
5. Improvisation
6. Scales and studies
7. Choose a piece you know well, when warming up. to keep your confidence levels high.
8. Work on the hard bits of the piece/s that you are learning or choose new pieces well within your ability
9. Pick something you really, really like to finish with

Not all of these elements need to be included in every practice and some are not relevant to our younger members but we hope you will find the template useful.

The Lighter Side of EYS

All this talk of practising and the holidays haven't even started! Here's a musical joke to liven up proceedings!

Q: What type of music are balloons scared of?

A: Pop music!

If you are a budding comedian as well as a budding musician, your contributions to the **EYS** musical joke section in the next newsletter will be gratefully received.

Please find attached some musical **Sudoku** - good luck! (some of us get stuck on the "easy" ones just with numbers!)



Friends of Exeter Young Strings for 2009

Become a friend and support our young musicians.

For just £15 you will receive a monthly newsletter, tickets at members prices and priority booking for events for all of 2009. Please phone **01392 460444** or email exeteryoungstrings@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested.

You will be helping to keep our members fees as low as possible meaning more of Exeter's children and teenagers will be able to take part.



Devon Strings
Workshop

1 Bartholomew Street West, Exeter,
Devon, EX4 3AJ Tel.(01392) 433748
www.devonstrings.co.uk

Saturday the
15th November
~ Open Day ~
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From Kirsty and Staff

Cost of printing this newsletter was paid for by Devon Strings