



EYS September Newsletter

"Aiming for a greater understanding and enjoyment of music"

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome back after the break! There are lots of events this term, so please check dates and put them in your diary NOW! You can also check on the website under "EYS Events".

New Website

As I hope most of you are now aware we have a wonderful new website which you can visit at www.exeteryoungstrings.org. This site has all kinds of features such as a blog where you can post messages and take part in discussions. Under members there are "congratulations" and instruments for sale. Please visit and make good use of this lovely site.

New staff and staff promotions

We are delighted to be joined by four new members of staff this years. Firstly, a big thanks to **Tony Skerret** who is joining us as our new voluntary administrator. Tony is also a keen viola player and will be joining our teaching staff to form a staff chamber group which will rehearse regularly and perform at concerts.

In addition we have three new teachers joining the team -

Chris Richards, although studying English, is an Exeter University Music Scholar and has led the Scholars Orchestra in concerts at the University Great Hall and Exeter Cathedral. He is also a founding member of a quartet which has been hired for university events and also externally. He will be helping with some of the chamber groups and may be giving individual lessons in the near future.

Emma Clapham graduated from Southampton with a degree in Music and has been teaching languages. She now combining her music and teaching skills and joining our team giving individual violin lessons from 5+ (following on from Mini Music Makers).

Carina Vince who will be taking on slightly older pupils as beginners and more advanced players. Carina has just moved to Exeter from London. She graduated from The Royal Academy of Music in 1996 and since then has been teaching for Herts Music Service, at St.Albans School and privately, as well as playing free lance, mainly chamber.

These new teaching additions means we have a teacher to suite all players!

In addition to these new faces we have an internal promotion. **Rebecca Willson** is now our Senior Chamber Coach. This is a lovely situation as Rebecca first became involved with Exeter Young Strings as a member of our senior chamber group when she was 14! Rebecca then went to do her degree at Dartington where she obtained a 1st class and then returned to us as an instrumental teacher and chamber coach. Rebecca is therefore ideally suited to this position as she has seen all sides to the organisation. Her main project this year will be to prepare "The Accent Octet" our senior group to take part in the 2009 Edinburgh Arts Festival.

Concerts and events

We have lots happening this term, not all of it finalised yet so please keep a look out - Saturday 11th October **Coffee Morning** 9 - 12.30 in St Stephens Church and our **Gala Concert** on Sunday 2nd of November at 3.30 as part of the Exeter Arts Festival. This is an important annual event and a stimulating, enjoyable experience. Come and relax in the interval with a soft drink or glass

of wine!

All our ensembles have a chance to play at the Gala concert and we intersperse their performances with solos of all instruments.

"Fantastic!" "Such a high standard!" "The children were all really enjoying themselves!" - these are just some of the many comments we receive about these concerts.

As ever, we only get better by constantly reviewing what we do and how we do it, so your feedback, whether positive or negative, is always welcomed.

New Links with South West Camerata

Within this next year we will be making our links with South West Camerata stronger. We will be offering two free weekend workshops for members of both organisations from grade 3/4 - 8 with opportunities to experience a string orchestra and chamber music. The workshops will take place in October or November. More information will be coming your way shortly.

With best wishes for the new term from Kirsty and E.Y.S