

Canterbury Musical Parenting Association Inc.

Newsletter August 2010



NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday 18th August in the Trinity Room at the Christchurch School of Music. Barbadoes St. Next to the Catholic Cathedral.

7.30 - 9.00pm Ukulele Play and Singalong session

Plus follow up to last month's 'Using & sharing 'Classical' Music with young children' sharing session – share any ideas you've worked on or tried out.

Free for members, \$2 non-members. Please email me on grsclarinet@hotmail.com if you'd like us to bring along a ukulele for you to use on the night.

From Julie Wylie

MUSICAL ORIGINS. PRESENTATION BY DR. SHEILA WOODWARD AT THE CHAMPION CENTRE, Thursday July 22nd, at 3.p.m.

Sheila Woodward introduced us to the fascinating hearing world of the unborn. Infant ears are fully developed at twenty weeks after conception. There is increasing research indicating that there is memory of sounds and music heard prenatally. Through recordings of womb sounds made as part of her research into the origins of musicality, we heard a wide range of external sounds that were transmitted into the human uterus, including the mother's voice, the father's voice, classical music, a sung nursery rhyme, ascending pitches. It was interesting to note that although the music was muffled, it retained its essential tonal, textural and rhythmic character. The consonants of the words of the nursery rhyme sung to the mother and her unborn child were not clear, yet the vowel sounds and melody of "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep" were clearly recognizable. Although muffled we could hear the instruments and recognise the classical music that was played. The mother's voice was very clear. It is the musical qualities of the mother's voice, the tone, rhythm, tempo, dynamics that acquire meaning for the fetus. The acquisition of music and language skills requires the same cognitive auditory processes that are essential for speech development. Sheila explained that both functions concern the perception, auditory discrimination, analysis, categorisation, memory, and learning of sound components such as the timbre or sound quality, frequency, intensity, melodic contour, and duration.

As part of the womb sounds played we heard the sound of the mother's heartbeat, the sounds of her digestive system, external sounds, the sounds and movement of the mother's body. These sounds and rhythms are also transmitted in the form of vibrations from the mother's body via the fluid in the amniotic sac. Sound is clearly a total bodily experience for the unborn fetus.

We were inspired by the concept of prenatal auditory stimulation. My daughter Sarah sang a special lullaby to Toby every day from early in her pregnancy and she had no doubt that in the moment of singing to him when he was minutes old, there was a profound musical connection. He gazed wide-eyed into her eyes, became very still. "He clearly recognised and knew his song". Research has indicated that there is memory of sounds and music heard prenatally. The newborn recognises and seeks the mother's voice, knows the mother by the tone and musical inflections of her voice and has an inbuilt instinct for auditory tracking. The newborn can respond immediately to the melodic resonance and rhythm, to track it, identify, interpret it and to react to it.

Sheila's research is exciting. Maybe we need to consider classes for pregnant mothers to promote, well-being, relaxation and prenatal auditory stimulation. After all as Sheila pointed out, the concept of music for the unborn is not new. The 19th century Chinese document the book of the great society (Ta Tiung) paints a picture of pregnant mothers attending institutions in beautiful gardens. Here they would wear jewellery with little bells which would ring as they moved, they would listen to exercise and enjoy making music. Such auditory stimulation could influence the development of both neural and behavioural patterns and open up the wonderful world of music to their unborn and help develop a strong loving relationship between parent and child.

Dates to note:

"Tiny Tapping Toes" Under 5's Series at the Christchurch Music Centre

Mondays once a month at 10.00am: \$4 per child – carers/parents free

To book call Trish Rainey 377 5000 or e-mail concerts@musiccentre.org.nz

6th September: Entertainment & education for preschoolers with music and fun by groups from Chisnallwood Intermediate

4th October: Julie Gaudin Making Music Fun

1st November: Pandemonium – percussion

6th December: Julie Wylie – Christmas Theme

Taonga Puoro Wananga Ki Otautahi 2010 with Richard Nunns, Brian Flintoff and Horomono Horo. Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd August

Cost: free (but RSVP needed for the workshops)

Kaupapa: To learn how to build and/or play traditional Maori instruments and also the Tikanga and oral histories of these treasures.

Friday 20th 7.30 - 9.30pm - a celebration of Taonga Puoro presented by Richard Nunns and Brian Flintoff.

A Po Whakangahau evening during which Richard and Brian will be showcasing their treasures. This is a free evening open to all to enjoy.

Sat 21st/Sun 22nd Workshops - building /making or playing / composing, composition evening

For more information email grsclarinet@hotmail.com and I can forward it on

Recorders and Ukuleles Unite! – a fun filled, practical workshop for primary and intermediate teachers. Run by Celia Stewart and Maria Winder, with lots of great ideas to help you introduce or enhance ukulele and recorder teaching in your classrooms.

Tuesday 31st August, 9am-3pm, Music Suite, College of Education, Dovedale Ave, Christchurch

Cost: \$130 (includes refreshments, lunch, workshop notes)

\$10 discount for MENZA members or extra teachers from the same school

You can enrol by following this link: www.tuneintomusic.co.nz/booking-form

Once you have enrolled you will receive information about what to bring and options for payment. More details: Celia Stewart 027 529 9000

New Zealand RIE Infant/Toddler Conference for parents & professionals

Saturday 16th October, Christchurch Town Hall for the Performing Arts

This event will celebrate Magda Gerber's Educaring Approach with workshops by some of the RIE Organisation's leading speakers, as well as some of New Zealand's key proponents of the philosophy. The keynote speaker is Janis Keyser, author of 'Becoming The Parent You Want To Be' & 'Parents As Partners'.

Discounted admission for places booked by July 1st

Registration/further information - email: rieseminar@thelearningcentre.co.nz

More details: <http://wp.thelearningcentre.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/RIE-Conference-Oct10-tlcver.pdf>

*If you have any information you'd like to go in the next newsletter, please email me at grsclarinet@hotmail.com or ring 03 337 5404/0212 565046.
Thanks, Georgina*