

A very warm welcome back to everyone after the summer break. We would like to give a special welcome to the new parents and children as they start out with Young European Strings. We hope that their time with the school will be an inspiring and fruitful one.



The past year was, as always, a very busy one for Young European Strings. We launched our third CD, "Third Edition", won the IAYO award for Best New Initiative, went on concert tour to Budapest, and were chosen to perform at the inauguration of President Michael D. Higgins in Dublin Castle. We are deeply honoured that President Higgins later agreed to become our Patron.

In addition to the above many of our students sat their practical and theory ABRSM exams and participated in the Feis Céoil and Newpark Music competitions, where they won many of the top prizes.

The year ahead will be no different as the Directors of the School and the Parents Advisory Committee strive to put an exciting and challenging programme in place for the students.

Up and coming events include performances for **Culture Night** in Temple Bar and the Feis Céoil **Prizewinners Concert** in the National Concert Hall. Other concerts already lined up are the **Harvest Concert** in Zion Church in October and a performance with the **Goethe Choir** in early December in the main auditorium of the National Concert Hall. But the highlight of this term will be the **Centenary Celebratory Concert** for the Rotunda where President Higgins is also the Patron. This celebration of wine and music is scheduled for December 18th and should prove to be a wonderful night. Please put the date in your diary. The calendar for the year is, as usual,

on our Web site, www.young-european-strings.com. Please check it regularly as it will be constantly updated.

Annual General Meeting

The School's AGM will take place on Tuesday, 25th September at 20.00 hours in Harold's Cross National School. Please do attend as it is a great way to find out what is happening in the School, to meet other parents, and to put forward ideas and suggestions. The Parents Advisory Committee is always delighted when new people come on board and get involved in any way they can.

Special Thanks and our new Video

In this issue of the newsletter we would like to thank a few individuals whose time and expertise has contributed to the smooth running of the School, and has brought this or that project to a successful completion!

Maria Mahon (mother of Ciara, junior violin class) for her incredible patience and most valuable help in rebuilding the upgraded **Facebook** page of Young European Strings School of Music, and her continued advice while restructuring the home page of our School on the Internet. The Facebook link is: www.facebook.com/young-european-strings.

Paolo Cordone and **Isobel Howard-Cordone** for their invaluable help when our Directors Maria and Ronald need their valuable advice – just about everything – concerning the use of IT.

Please visit our Youtube Channel www.youtube.com/yescoirland or the Facebook page in which we feature a new video clip telling the story of what our School is all about, with images accompanied by the Chamber Orchestra playing part of the Divertimento by Béla Bartók. It was professionally filmed and will serve as our "business card" when presenting ourselves to the world.

The 2012 Summer Camp

Our annual Summer Music Camp in August was – as always – a wonderful week of music making together. Seeing our participants, the members of the Intermediate Orchestra at their most relaxed and creative moments was a pure delight, both for their conductor, Maria Kelemen, and for the observing parents and

participating musicians. Special thanks to the stewards who helped out daily, during our morning practises, in Zion National School, Rathgar.

Also a very great thanks due to Isobel Howard-Cordone from YESCO who attended the workshops and helped most of the days as an active Intern. With her expert playing she inspired the young musicians to achieve, faster and most efficiently, the reading and playing of all four movements of the Gustav Holst **St. Paul's Suite** score within the ten hours allocated to this five days long Summer Music Camp.

It has always been part of our philosophy that younger and older students should interact regularly, so as to make the experience of music-making more complete.

International Cello Courses



One of our YESCO cellists, Patrick Moriarty, was involved in two International courses in recent months. The first one was the *Bryanston International Cello Course* in Blandford, Dorset during the Easter holidays. This was recommended by the cello faculty teacher Martin Johnson. Here Patrick had lessons/master classes with Sue Lowe, director of the Bryanston International Course, Matthew Lowe, Tim Lowe, (principal cellist with the English Chamber Orchestra), William Bruce, Elizabeth Wilson (past student of Rostropovich), and Pierre Doumenge, who is an international cellist and a professor at Guildhall.

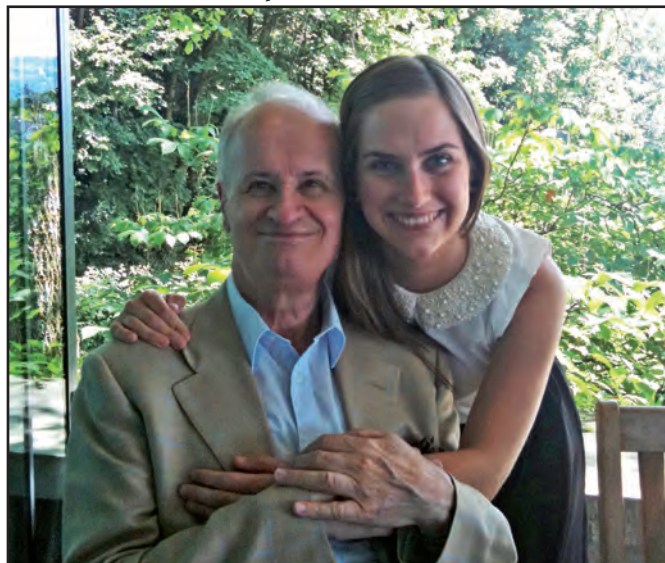
In July Patrick travelled to Siôn near Geneva for a week at the recommendation of our Music Director Ronald Masin, to have master classes with the renowned German soloists and teacher Marcio Carneiro (seen in the photo with Patrick), who studied under André Navarra and who today is in great demand among young students. Patrick found his experience with Marcio fascinating, not least the fact that he knows every piece of music ever written for cello off by heart!

Patrick's cello studies have benefited greatly from all these master classes and he is very grateful to both Martin Johnson and Ronald Masin for their continued support and encouragement.

A Special Birthday Reunion



The Artistic Director and violin/viola tutor, Ronald Masin celebrated his birthday (August) in Bern, Switzerland in the company of his wife, Maria, his children Patrick and Gwendolyn together with our resident violin maker Ivano Conti and his wife Catherine, and amongst the invited guests our very dear alumni Gina McGuinness and her partner.



What are our students up to?

Here is a short round-up on the activities of some of our more advanced students:

Isobel Howard-Cordone will spend her transition year in Italy, refreshing the language, enjoying the food and the lovely people, as well as starting her BMus studies. This is a great opportunity for Isobel to get a head-start in music education at third level and we wish her all the success. Despite studying abroad, Isobel will be back in Dublin regularly during the year to attend her violin lessons, workshops, and YESCO concerts.

David Tobin crowned the work he started last year by giving a most accomplished recital with his chamber music partner, pianist Máire Carroll, in the John Field Room in August. He received a well deserved standing ovation from his enthusiastic public, after playing a very eclectic programme, which displayed his versatility and confidence. Congratulations David, we are proud of you.

We would like to congratulate our three Leaving Certificate students James Doherty, Oisín Friel and Ciara O'Neill for their high academic achievements, crowning their years of secondary school studies. We are wishing them lots of fun and wonderful results with their third-level studies in UCD and Trinity Colleges.

It goes without saying that all three of the laureates are continuing their musical studies in Young European Strings School of Music and as treasured members of YESCO.

We also welcome Oisín to the advisory committee of the School, where he will represent the students of Young European Strings, and hence bring their voices directly to the body that carries out the organisation of events and projects. We look forward to his first meeting next month!

On Mission to Africa

A REPORT FROM OISÍN FRIEL

This Summer, following the completion of my Leaving Cert, myself and four friends from school, instead of embarking on the usual sixth year holiday, decided to go out to Zambia for three weeks doing volunteer work with a Christian Brother by the name of Dominique Sykes. An Irish brother, he has been living in *Kasama*, Zambia for over forty years, and has been heavily involved in the development of the towns schools and education facilities. From November through until the end of June, we held a number of fundraisers for the charity in question so that by departure date on the 5th of July, we had raised a grand total of 12,500 euro. While in *Kasama*, we worked in three separate schools, playing with and speaking to children and teenagers from extremely poor backgrounds, while at the same time aiding them in their academic studies. It was extremely rewarding work, albeit difficult at times, on a mental rather than physical level. Some of the poverty we witnessed while there was heart-wrenching, and our daily trips to *Cheleshe Chipela*, a school for children and adolescents with special needs, provided a real eye-opener into how difficult someone's life can truly be. All that being said and done, the people themselves were some



of the kindest, most genuine individuals I've ever met, and were always willing to stop, talk, listen to, and assist us *mzungus* (as they called us), whenever the opportunity arose. Following our work in *Kasama*, the five of us went down to *Livingstone* for three days before heading home. There, we saw the stunning *Victoria Falls* or *Mosi-oo-Tunya* as the locals call it. We also had the unique chance to go on a game drive through *Chobe National Park* in Botswana, where we saw elephants, crocodiles, giraffes, hippos, and antelopes, to name just a few. To close things off, I decided to challenge myself by undertaking the famous *Zambezi Gorge Swing*, an 80 metre freefall-cum-swing over the side of the *Zambezi gorge*, just in front of the Falls. Although terrifying, it was well worth it and I'd recommend it to anyone! Overall, my trip to Africa was a truly incredible experience, one which I hope won't be a 'once-in-a-lifetime' event.

Visiting Guests Masterclasses

On November 16th, 17th, and 18th Young European Strings School of Music has the privilege of hosting a very special series of public master class series with distinguished guest teachers.

Professor *Susan Varga* of the Violin Faculty at the Music Conservatory of *Lausanne* and Professor *Marcio Carneiro*, of the Cello and Chamber Music Faculties at the Music Conservatory of *Siôn* will offer their invaluable musical insights to any interested students of our School. The number of lessons will be limited to two lessons per individual and two lessons for chamber music groups during the duration of the course.

The cost of each individual lesson is €65, for each chamber music class is €120. The master classes will be held in the Methodist Church, Brighton Road. Applicants will be accepted on first come first served basis.