



## Half Term Holiday

A quick reminder that CMA will be closed from Thursday 14th to Friday 22nd of February for our half term break. Lessons will resume from Saturday 23rd February. We hope you have a lovely time whatever you get up to on your holiday!

## Arabian Youth Orchestra

Dubai College's Arabian Youth Orchestra is a week long course which aims to bring together the finest young musicians from around the region to practice and perform together in an orchestral setting. A professional conductor from the UK will work alongside a team of experienced instrumental tutors, including several CMA staff, to prepare an eclectic programme of orchestral music. The course culminates in two gala concerts, one in Abu Dhabi and one in Dubai.

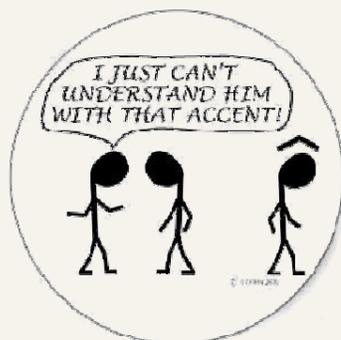
The course promises to be an exciting week of challenging music making, and is a great opportunity for more advanced players to meet and perform as part of a full orchestra. Many of the staff here at CMA look back at their own time in Youth Orchestras with great fondness and can highly recommend attending courses such as this.

The course is open to all orchestral musicians Grade 5 and above (note that the minimum grade for each instrument varies, please check with your teacher first) and takes place at Dubai College campus from 29th March to 5th April 2013. Visit [www.dubaicollege.org](http://www.dubaicollege.org) for location map. The fee is AED1,000. If you would like to apply for AYO please ask your teacher for an application form and return it, alongside a scanned copy of any ABRSM / Trinity exam certificates to [m.zambonini@dubaicollege.org](mailto:m.zambonini@dubaicollege.org).

## ABRSM Theory Exam Success

In advance of the ABRSM theory exams next month, here are some helpful hints from the ABRSM examiners themselves for success at your next theory exam. They offered some advice at the recent ABRSM conference in London, which several of our staff attended.

1. Prepare and do your homework. Work through as many past papers as you can in the lead up to the exam and make sure you listen to your teacher's advice!
2. Read the questions carefully and be sure you know exactly what you are being asked to do - you can highlight or underline the important phrases and words in each question to help you focus.
3. Carelessness costs marks! Always make sure your notation is correct and neatly spaced, and writing should be neat and tidy. Avoid silly mistakes by taking your time rather than rushing through.
4. Don't leave the exam early, if you have finished the paper, spend the rest of the time checking over your work. You never know what you might have missed!



**Tala Badri - Executive Director**

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Now that our term is well underway, we have several exciting new initiatives and plans to share with you. It's a busy old month here at CMA and we hope you'll enjoy all the extra activities we have to offer.

First of all take a look at the inside pages for some information about the ensembles and workshops we offer here at CMA. New for this term is the Camerata, an ensemble for our senior string players, and our Jazz Workshop, open to anyone interested in Jazz and grade 4 and above (or grade 6 and above if you are a pianist). Playing as part of a group is the best way to enhance your musical abilities in many areas - sight reading and aural skills are enhanced and listening, patience, teamwork and concentration are improved. But mostly, it's fun too! So if you're not playing with an ensemble already, either in CMA or in school you should be! Perhaps we have something that interests you, why not pop along to one of our rehearsals and find out?

All of our ensembles are currently hard at work preparing for their forthcoming performances as part of the CMA Spring Fair, taking place in March. Last year's event was a great success and we hope to see you all outside in the Piazza again this year, keep an eye out on the notice boards for more info. As well as performances from CMA ensembles, groups from our associated schools will also perform, and there will be food, drinks, prizes, games and much more!

Later in the month myself and 5 staff will travel to Cambodia to do some volunteer work with The Green Gecko Project, a centre for former street children in Siem Reap. You can read more about this excellent charity in the inside pages or by visiting [www.greengeckoproject.org](http://www.greengeckoproject.org). We are holding a fundraising concert for Green Gecko on Friday 8th February and it would be great to see you there. Students of teachers that are going to Cambodia will perform a selection of music and there will be refreshments and more. All proceeds raised on the day will go towards resources for the project. Specifically musical equipment and essential basics from the wish list published on their website.

Lastly, half term is already fast approaching! CMA will be closed from Thursday 14th to Friday 22nd February. I wish you all an enjoyable holiday!

Tala Badri

Executive Director.

## the green gecko project

former street kids | siem reap | cambodia



Later in the month, 6 of our staff are going to volunteer with the Green Gecko Project in Cambodia, an initiative which supports 70 children who previously lived and begged on the streets of Siem Reap. Green Gecko provides education, security, love and opportunities for these children through their formative years and into their adult lives, empowering to them to achieve their full potential. The project also helps the children's families and the wider community through long term health, education and training initiatives. CMA staff will be visiting the project to share our musical skills with the children and long term volunteers through a series of workshops and activities.



If you would like to help or learn more about this wonderful project please visit their website - [www.greengeckoproject.org](http://www.greengeckoproject.org). Alternatively, you can make a donation at the front desk. All funds raised will go towards some musical resources for the children as well as essentials from their "wish list," which you can view online.

## Concert for Cambodia

*Kids Helping Kids*

Join CMA students for an afternoon of music in aid of the Green Gecko Project

Friday 8th February

2pm

Kings' Dubai, Umm Suqeim 3

Entry by donation

All proceeds towards Green Gecko - visit [www.greengeckoproject.org](http://www.greengeckoproject.org)

Visit <http://www.kingsdubai.com/content/view/61/81> for Kings location map



## Jazz Workshops

A series of workshops for all instruments Grade 4 and above (Grade 6+ for piano)

Have a go at some improvisation and play as part of a Jazz band. Test your skills and learn about jazz history.

Friday 8th March 10am to 5pm and Friday 15th March 10am to 1pm

performance on the afternoon of Friday 15th March from as part of the CMA Spring Fair.

AED 500

Payment and registration can be made at the front desk, any time before Sunday 3rd March



## CMA Ensembles

Don't forget that attending your instrumental lesson every week is only a really small part of your musical education. Playing as part of a group is one of the most important things you can do as a musician - it greatly helps improve your technique, encourages independent learning and musical thinking as well as improving aural and sight reading skills. Plus, it's a fun way to meet new people and show off your talents on your instrument. Here at CMA we offer several ensembles and workshops throughout the year which may interest you.

**Saturday Sessions** covers all your musical needs in one morning session. Classes cover musicianship, performance practice, music appreciation and theory of music. Our ensembles include junior and senior wind ensemble, string ensemble, orchestra, piano ensemble and choir. There really is something for everyone and all ages and abilities are welcome.

**Jazz Workshops** cater for our budding Jazz musicians. Learn how to improvise, and explore music by some of the greatest Jazz composers over the course of 2 Fridays. All instruments ABRSM Grade 4 and above are welcome. (Grade 6+ for piano).

**Camerata** is a weekly ensemble for our senior string players, working through more advanced repertoire. Anyone at a level of ABRSM Grade 5 or above can join.

**Instrumental Days** are also dotted throughout the year. CMA brings you a full day of music, master classes and activities focused on specific instrumental families. This year we are holding the 2nd annual Brass Bonanza for all our brass players, and the 2nd annual Simply Strings for all of our string students.