



February 2014

CENTRE FOR MUSICAL ARTS

NEWSLETTER

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.

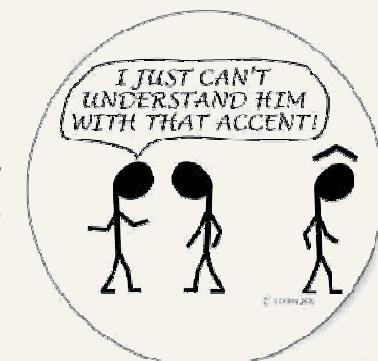
The course promises to be an exciting week of challenging music making, and is a great opportunity for more advanced players to meet and perform as part of a full orchestra. Many of the staff here at CMA look back at their own time in Youth Orchestras with great fondness and can highly recommend attending 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 the 4th to the 10th of April 2013. Visit www.dubaicollege.org for location map. The fee is AED1,500. 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.

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

The new term is well underway and we have several exciting new initiatives and plans to share with you. It's a very busy 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 Music Explorers, an exciting new club for students aged 6 to 8, which meets on Saturday mornings at Dubai College as a part of our on going Saturday Sessions program. Come join the fun and learn about music through practical games, activities, singing, and movement.

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. We are holding a fundraising concert for Green Gecko on Friday 7th February and it would be great to see you there. The CMA Sinfonietta Orchestra along with 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.

We at CMA hope you are having a wonderful new year thus far and we want to do anything we can to help you and your children develop their skills and love for music. As always, we welcome all questions you may have regarding practicing, learning, performing, and experiencing music.

Have a fantastic month,

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 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. 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.

Centre For Musical Arts presents:

CONCERT FOR CAMBODIA

A fundraising concert in aid of [The Green Gecko Project](#), Siem Reap

 Friday 7th February 2pm Kings Dubai

Join us for an afternoon of great music and inspiring children

 **All welcome – entry by donation** 

Featuring students from CMA and our associated schools.

All proceeds towards new musical equipment and items from the Gecko Wish List –
view online at www.greengeckoproject.org

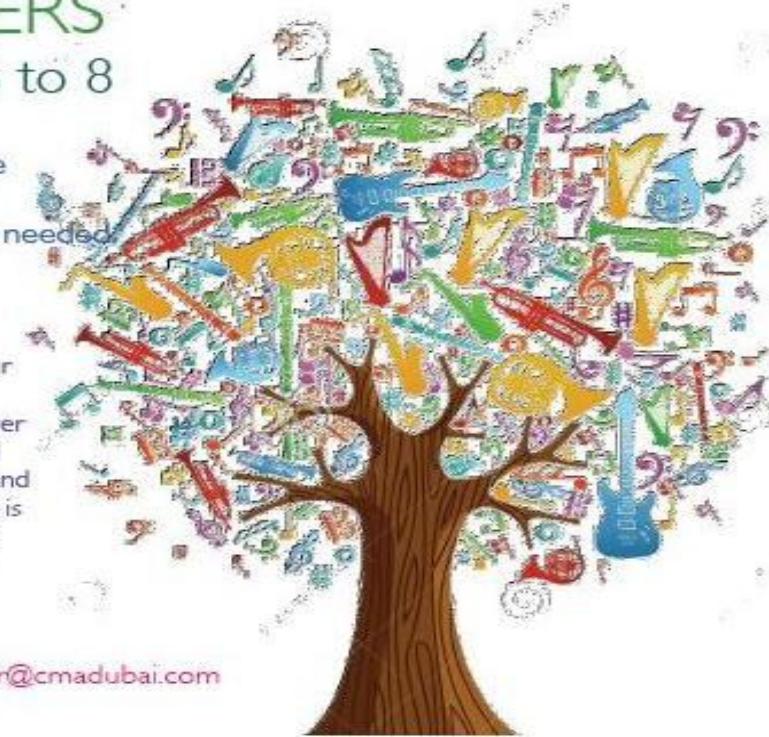


CMA Saturday Sessions presents:
MUSIC EXPLORERS
A music club for ages 6 to 8

Saturday 10am – 11am, Dubai College
10 Weeks AED450

Open to all – no previous experience needed
Classes start Saturday 18th January

Come and join us to explore and enhance your musical skills through practical games and activities, music, singing and movement. Discover a whole new world of musical instruments and possibilities, learn about the great composers and have a go at making your own music. The club is aimed at complete beginners and those in the very early stages of their instrumental lessons.



For more information please email jennifer@cmadubai.com

CMA Ensembles

Please do not forget that attending your instrumental lesson every week is only a very 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.