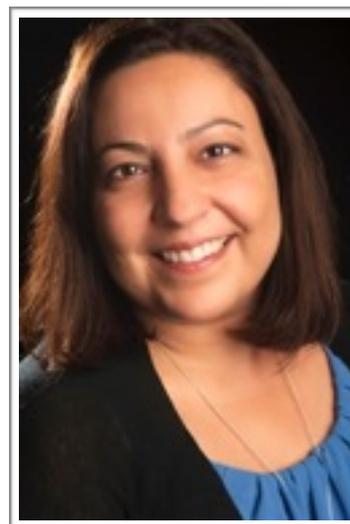




It's All About Green Gecko....



Tala Badri
Executive Director & Owner
of CMA

Green Gecko was the highlight of this month for CMA. Through the 'Practice-a-thon', Let's Go Green Concert, donations and second hand book sales we raised **20,364 Dirhams** for Green Gecko, which is astonishing! My sincere thanks to all of you for supporting for this fantastic charity in Cambodia. In this month's newsletter you will also read about the 2 week project which CMA staff led in Siem Reap.

CMA are also proud to host the Thursday Night Classics Concerts which features our staff and community groups. We had a full house for the first concert in February which featured Asaad Hamzy and Luke Mayer on guitar. The series continues on the 12th March.

March is an extremely busy month please diarise and follow our Facebook page for events and news!

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|---|---|
| Thursday 5th March, 6.30pm <i>Performance Centre, Building 7, GDP</i> | ABRSM High Scorers Concert |
| Thursday 12th March, 7.30pm <i>Performance Centre Building 7, GDP</i> | CMA Thursday Night Classics Violin, Piano, Flute, Guitar Concert |
| Saturday 21st March, 1.15pm <i>Performance Centre, Building 7, GDP</i> | CMA Junior Ensembles Concert |
| Sunday 22nd March, 7.30pm <i>Performance Centre, Building 7, GDP</i> | CMA Senior Ensembles Concert |
| Tuesday 24th March, 7pm <i>Performance Centre, Building 7, GDP</i> | Dubai Wind Band Concert |
| Wednesday 25th March, 8pm <i>Performance Centre, Building 7, GDP</i> | Dubai Chamber Orchestra Concert |
| Thursday 26th March, 7.30pm <i>Performance Centre, Building 7, GDP</i> | CMA Thursday Night Classics Trio Concert |



Thursday Night Classics - 5th February



The first concert series featured a fantastic guitar recital by Asaad Hamzy and Luke Mayer. Their technical display was dazzling and a wide range of repertoire was presented including one of Asaad's own pieces: "Speech of Child". We were also entertained with music by Silvius Weiss, Enrique Granados and Fernando Sor. The hall was packed with a very appreciate audience - a great start to the series!

Upcoming Concerts:

12th March: Crosby Barrett (violin), Madison DaSilva (piano) featuring Tala Badri (flute) & Luke Mayer (guitar) perform Beethoven, Giuliani & Cui

19th March: Magdalena Wajdzik (piano), Jing Chen (viola) perform Shostakovich & other contemporary works

26th March: Simona Cmrecnjak (violin) Mariola Sokolowska (piano) and Clara Asuaje (cello) perform Mendelssohn, Mozart & Rachmaninov.

Tickets are 50 Dirhams for Adults and 30 Dirhams for under 18's.

Congratulations!

PRACTICE-A-THON WINNERS

Most time practiced:

Zara Backar (21 hours)

Most money raised: Siddhartha

Dey (3,315 Dirhams)

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Read our latest blog post by CMA violin tutor, Crosby DeLaney

Barrett: <https://cmadubai.wordpress.com/2015/02/25/the-mystery-of-motivation-by-crosby-barrett/>



Funky Fingers 2 - Friday 27th February



The second Funky Fingers piano workshop was a huge success - both classes were fully booked weeks before hand. CMA students took part in musical games and rehearsals with Lola, Gerry, Magdalena, Jen and Madison. Students performed a fantastic arrangement of The Pink Panther and Peter's students Anna and Xiaolin inspired everyone with their performances of 'Concertino' & 'Military March' Bravo to Magdalena and Jen for organising this fabulous event. Look out for Funky Fingers 3 in Term 3!



'Let's Go Green' Concert - Friday 6th February



Our annual fundraising concert for Green Gecko was a roaring success with a huge variety of CMA performances- from wind band to brass groups, the Camerata, CMA singers & Youth Choir. The concert also featured Sottoum, Green Gecko's own, with his debut trumpet performance. Audience members seemed thoroughly entertained and donated generously. Thank you very much for all of your support. There are still plenty of second hand books for sale at Take Note Bookshop, Building 7.





CMA staff Jen, Jamie, Lynne and Neil recently visited the Green Gecko Project, Siem Reap, Cambodia.

CMA staff visit the project for 2 weeks every year to run music workshops with the 80 children that Green Gecko look after.

This year focused on singing and instrumental skills. All the classes learned a variety of songs from around the world – including French, Ghanaian and Mexican. Each class had a go at the ukulele, keyboard, samba drums and the recorder, writing and performing music of their own composition in a variety of different styles. They had everything from ballads to the blues!

The trip was extra special this year as Sottoum, a Green Gecko Kid who is working at CMA on a year's internship, went back and shared all his new experiences with his Gecko Family. Everyone was so happy to see him, and he was able to show off his new trumpet skills with a performance at the daily assembly. He was also a great help with the younger classes and put his



teaching skills to the test by leading a band rehearsal. After two weeks of hard work, dedication, selfies, lots of fun and laughs, there was a special mass performance of Stand By Me, by Ben E. King featuring all the Gecko kids singing and playing together. There wasn't a dry eye in the house afterwards!

You can check out lots of pictures and video clips online at our Facebook page www.facebook.com/CMADubai



As always, the trip was a great pleasure and fantastic experience– the Geckos are always welcoming, enthusiastic and ready to give new things their best shot. They were full of questions about Dubai and the students of CMA, and were so happy to hear about all our fundraising efforts in the weeks leading up to our trip. All monies raised is being put towards a fund for sourcing a permanent local music teacher, someone who can work with the Gecko kids every week throughout the year on a mix of traditional khmer and western music.

As they say in Khmer, awkoon tom tom (thank you big big) to all those who have participated in some way, your valuable contribution has helped further enrich the life of these children through the discovery and enjoyment of music.

