



TAKE NOTE

The newsletter brought to you by the Centre for Musical Arts
'Bringing Music to Everyone'



مركز الفنون الموسيقية
CENTRE FOR MUSICAL ARTS

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TALA BADRI

Dear parents and students,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you back to CMA albeit in a very different fashion to what we have been used to.

It has been a tremendously challenging few months for us, with a huge learning curve in adapting to online lessons.

I am immensely proud of all of my staff who have risen to the challenge.

Understandably, many students will want to continue to have their lessons online and we are pleased to confirm that this will remain an option for every student regardless of what instrument they are learning.

The CMA team has been working hard

to ensure that the premises is ready, safe and sanitized as per government regulations for in person lessons on selected instruments (Piano, Violin/Viola, Guitar, Ukulele and Drums).

Moving forward, we will continue to follow the advice and guidelines of the government and KHDA.

We hope that in the near future, we will be able to offer our full range of instruments face to face.

As always, I would like to thank you for your continued faith and support in CMA. Along with our staff, our parents and students are the lifeblood of our organization and remain fully committed to your health and safety as well as a first class music education.



GETTING BACK INTO THE SCHOOL ROUTINE

BY THIVANTHI PERERA
UPPER STRINGS AND PIANO SPECIALIST

What a couple of months it has been. Who would have thought that we would have to stop going to school in March and adapt to what we call the “new normal”; with homeschooling and online distance learning increasing “screen-time”. It feels almost unsettling to go back to school with all the safety protocols in place. Here are few points parents and teachers should keep in mind:

Children are resilient.

Despite the anxiety and stress we might feel as parents and teachers about the safety of the children, it is important to remember that children are inherently much more resilient than adults. They adapt to change much better than we do and in our own insecurities and anxiousness we tend to forget this fact.

Patience

Parents and teachers need to keep reminding themselves to be patient.

Some children experience stress at different levels. Sudden changes can be overwhelming to some. If you pay close attention, if not verbally, through nonverbal cues children tend to express exactly what they feel.

Communication

We find ourselves in new territory. Communication is paramount to ensure the child receives the best possible experience; emotionally as well as musically. Ideally face to face communication is optimum. However considering the current situation, emailing back and forth and perhaps an occasional phone call helps build the rapport. At the end of the day, it is the child's best interest that should be at the heart of focus.

Positive thinking

Things are going to be different going back to school. However instead of focusing on things that cannot be controlled or things that the kids cannot do any more, focus on things that they can do; like meet and play with friends again (to some extent) and engage in in-class activities. Keeping it positive will definitely help keep the children's spirits high. In this era of practicing mindfulness, now is a great time to practice positive thinking.

Digital sheet music.

We are so lucky to live in an advancing digital world. Children in Dubai are especially fortunate to have access to the latest digital tech. Adapting to digital sheet music helps in paperless contact. We are saving the trees as well as reducing the risk of transference of bacteria!

School performances and recitals

With social distancing in place, concerts and recitals will be affected. However events can be offered on an online platform with Zoom music concerts and video mashup projects. Teachers need to find creative ways to keep children engaged.

Be flexible

Online lessons can be offered exclusively or as a combination of both experiences. At the end of the day in these unprecedented times all parties involved should be understanding and be able to adapt to changes to ensure that the child receives the best education.

LAUNCH OF THE TAKE NOTE PODCAST

BY ANDREW MCCOY
BRASS SPECIALIST AND SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

It's been quite the six months and we're looking forward to getting stuck back into the new school year!

There are a number of exciting projects coming up this term and what better way to keep informed of the developments than by a weekly podcast!

Sharing its name with this newsletter and the CMA bookshop, the Take Note Podcast will be published every Saturday.

Available on Apple and Google Podcasts as well as Soundcloud, links will be shared on our social media channels, so you can never miss an episode!

The podcast will consist of interviews and features with guests from within the UAE as well as from further afield.

The first Podcast, published today is entitled 'What is CMA?' and features the founder and executive director, Tala Badri.

Next week, I will be talking to conductor, educator and musician Peter Stark, current professor of conducting at the Royal College of Music, London, rehearsal director of the European Union Youth Orchestra and former conductor of the Arabian Youth Orchestra, about what a conductor actually does! Don't forget to tune in!



YOUR SAFETY AT CMA

The safety of our teachers and students is of vital importance, and as such, we are observing the following guidelines for face-to-face lessons at our centre.



Wear masks at all times



Sanitize hands before the lesson



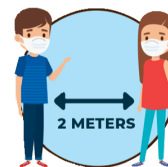
Enter studio alone. Parents and siblings will not be allowed inside



Bring lesson-related items only



Get temperature screened before entering the premises



Maintain 2m social distancing



Instruments will be sanitized after each use



Don't bring food or drink on premises

WHO IS CMA?

Like our students, the staff at CMA are a melting pot of cultures and backgrounds with their own story to tell. We decided that we wanted to tell these stories and open up the CMA family for everyone to see. Over the coming weeks and months we will be showcasing the CMA family; Staff, Students, Parents and more, in a new feature we are calling 'Humans of CMA'.

Every Friday be sure to check out our Instagram account @cmadubai to see that week's featured person. For now though, we leave you with the smiley faces of the whole CMA team.

