

## **SPRING NEWS**

## **Spring Concert Venue**



Happy New Year and New Term with DEA Music Academy! This term has started with lots of exciting news and ventures which we can't wait to share with you.

This week our school was featured in a big article in the Elephant Magazine (attached in the third page). On the 7th of February, we are having an open day to promote our venue in SE17, the Walworth Central Hall, Peabody Estate in Rodney Road. We welcome all those interested in another opportunity to perform or to have free trials on different instruments. Please tell your friends or interested parties to be present as it

## **Important Dates**

Wednesday, 7th of February Open House/ Walworth Central Hall, Rodney Road, SE17 1BJ

Sunday, 18th of March, End of Term Concert

would give everybody a chance to see how we work. The open house will run between 4-6pm and will feature a little concert as well as free trials on instruments violin, piano and guitar. All ages are welcome.

This term more than 10 of our students have been enrolled to pass grade exams in March. We are making good progress with everybody and keeping our promises to prepare our students for at least one grade per academy year. This will also depend on the work they do at home and your support is vital. The progress reports issued at the end of last term were an indication of the work covered and what needs to be done until the end of the academic year.

On Monday the 19th of February DEA will be starting new classes in the Mercato Metropolitano, 42 Newington Causeway, London SE1. Please see the flyer for information and let us know if you are interested as we are taking bookings in advance. The classes will be focusing around drumming and rhythmical skills as well as bringing musical awareness and test the musical abilities of children as young as 3 years old. The classes will run in groups not smaller than 6 students/class. There might be a division in classes according to the age groups. If these

classes are successful we shall expand into other instruments such as guitar and vocal training. An important aspect of all the classes will be the building of aural skills and testing and improving musical abilities. The first course of classes will include 5 classes and run until the 24th of March.

On Sunday the 18th of March we shall have our end of term Easter Concert in the wonderful new concert venue the Omeara Theatre in Flat iron Square. The venue is famous for hosting some of the most exciting bands and was founded by one of the band members of the Mumford and Sons Band. The concert will be free of charge. We shall have a rehearsal from 11am and the performance will start at 12pm. We pride ourselves at offering our students some exciting performing opportunities and we hope Omeara will be a highlight in our concert history.





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On Tuesday the 24th of April, at 7pm, our founder and music director Alda Dizdari will be performing a solo show in the same theatre and she is offering free tickets to all DEA students. She will be performing a Violin Recital from her coming tour and CD "In the Footsteps of Bach". It will be a great opportunity to see a world class violinist performing some of the greatest and most difficult repertoire ever written for any instrument and to get inspired by a teacher and individual so close to you.



A pioneering music academy on the Peabody estate is giving local children the chance to perform on stages across London.

A conservatoire tradition with a community feeling" is how concert violinist Alda Dizdati describes the unique DEA Music Academy, which she founded in 2013 with support from Southwark Council.

The Academy, based at Walworth Central Hall on Rodney Road, runs individual classes in piano, guitar and violin, as well as singing, for dozens of children from as young as three and a half, up to 14.

Alda, who lives locally, came up with the idea for the academy when she was forced to take time off from performing after she suffered whiplash in a car crash.

"I was used to practising and performing eight hours a day and when I couldn't, I was at a loss. It was my sister, a concert pianist who runs a number of music schools in the US, who suggested that I start something for my local community. The housing association, Peabody helped with premises and it's just gone from strength to strength - although it's always a struggle to find funding to subsidise tuition and buy instruments."

"Everyone is welcome and there's no need to audition," explains Alda, who started playing the violin in her native Albania when she was just three years old. "Many of our students come from families with no experience of classical music and some have learning difficultes. It's so wonderful to see how playing music can have such a positive impact on their lives," she adds. IT'S VERY HARD TO STAND UP IN FRONT OF STRANGERS AND PERFORM, BUT WE HELP OUR STUDENTS LEARN TO DO IT AND IT GIVES THEM HUGE CONFIDENCE.



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Just like Aida, all of DEA's music teachers are professional musicians who perform regularly. As well as focusing on music exams (they have an impressive 100 per cent pass rate) DEA puts on a regular programme of free concerts at a variety of venues across Southwark.

"DEA isn't just about musical skills, it's about life skills," says Alda. "It's very hard to stand up in front of strangers and perform, but we help our students learn to do it and it gives frem huge confidence. Parents are often totally stutmed by what their children can achieve."

Over the last four years, numerous local venues, including Ministry of Sound and Backyard Cinema at Mercato Metropolitano, have provided free space for DEA concerts.

Future plans include a concert on 17 March at Omeana, the new venue set up by Mumford and Sons' Ben lovett on Flat Iron Square, and a concert at Southwark Cathedral in the auturn as well as regular summer concerts in local parks.

"It's always so wonderful to see our students perform" says Alda. "Last summer we played outdoors in Canary Wharf to more than 600 people. The concert was celebrating diversity and we had children from so many different nationallines taking part. I was so proud of them al."