



OTAKAR KRAUS MUSIC TRUST

LIBRETTO

APRIL 2011

A PICTURE SPEAKS A THOUSAND WORDS – THE POWER OF MUSIC AS IT HAPPENS



The joy, the social interaction and the concentration that is brought about through the power of music is clear to see with two of OKMT's very special children. Luke and the very aptly named Melody have both experienced the self-confidence, the focus and the envelopment of happiness and pleasure that has helped with their development from a very early age through their music therapy sessions.

LIBRETTO would particularly like to thank photographer **Donna Mckeown** for capturing a true musical spirit in her photos seen in this edition of our newsletter.

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Photos of Luke and Melody with therapists Edison and Christina, the latter who is working with Raymond from the Powder Mill Care Home.

IT'S NOW MUCH EASIER TO GIVE... KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING AND THE FACES SMILING

In the 2011 Budget, Chancellor George Osborne made two concessions which are relevant to charities like **OKMT**. These are major tax changes which will encourage charitable giving.

Gift Aid, which boosts charitable donations by at least 20%, will be available to collections given to us of up to £5,000 without the need for form filling. Currently charities have to get donors to sign a slip declaring they pay taxes in the UK. The new policy will make it easier for smaller donations and other fundraising activities such as a bucket collection and individual sponsorships raised in connection with projects such as sporting events.

Inheritance tax will also be cut by 10 per cent for anyone giving up more than a tenth of their legacy.

OKMT is particularly delighted that we can claim Gift Aid without inconveniencing donors with any extra administrative details. It's never been easier to donate and we do hope that you will consider us in the future in the same generous way you have done in the past. As our many projects grow, we need all the support we can get.

SUMMER IS ON THE WAY...THERE'S MORE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE MONEY

As the start of April provided us with an unfamiliar yellow ball shining its warmth down on us, it gave us the annual hope that this will be a fine Summer. The opportunities for fundraising on behalf of the **OKMT** become even more appealing as we all become energised after the dreadful winter. There are several opportunities out there – sponsorship through a sporting event or BBQ's to name but two. Or how about a sponsored "slim" as an incentive to lose some of those winter pounds. Watch for news about an **OKMT** Summer Concert – being brought back by popular demand - and for other events in support of our work such as a Garden Festival at the end of May. We welcome any news of your events and would love to publish details in **LIBRETTO**.

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OPERA UNLIMITED SING AGAIN AT THE COACH HOUSE GARDENS

For the third year running some of Opera Unlimited's singers will be entertaining visitors in the beautiful gardens of OKMT creative and dedicated supporters, Peter and Sarah Filmer. As part of the annual National Garden Festival, their splendid gardens at The Coach House Fairmaile Lea Cobham KT11 1BG will be open for viewing on Bank Holiday Monday, 30 May 2011 from 2.00 pm. The gorgeous blooms can be seen together with the music and a glass of something refreshing. It is a wonderful afternoon out and something a little different to do on the Holiday. Details of the event will be forthcoming, but a diary note for 30 May 2011 should be entered now.



No "Singing in the Rain" for the three Opera Unlimited musicians, pianist Mark, soprano Julie-Dawn and Tenor Octavio. They are enjoying the sun in the Filmer's garden before going on stage (lawn) at the National Garden Festival last year.

VODAPHONE SPONSOR TWO ADMINISTRATORS FOR OKMT

As OKMT's music therapy work continues to grow, particularly in the area of special group work, so too does the need for additional help in the office. We always like to highlight our frontline activities, but tend to overlook the machinery that keeps the whole organisation whirling.

Following an application we made to Vodafone, we were delighted to receive grants which allowed us to take on two wonderful administrators. Sohayla Esfahani has been assisting the Trust's Director, Dr Margaret Lobo, in the co-ordination of some of our newer projects with Aiming High in Hounslow and the work in some of the local schools through the Quindrat project in Twickenham, St Margaret's and Teddington.

Cheryl Valland is working with the Trust's Marketing Director, Susan Hamilton, particularly in the area of funding application and publicity. Both Cheryl and Sohayla have been strongly motivated by seeing how music therapy helps so many children and adults alike in finding a better quality of life through the power of music.



Sohayla



Cheryl

PROFILING OUR SUPPORTERS

THAMES COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TRUST

Over the past few years, OKMT has been fortunate enough to benefit from donations from various organisations in the UK. It is true to say that our work would not have been able to continue without their on-going support. In future editions of LIBRETTO we would like to highlight some of these charities and Trusts in gratitude to them for all they have enabled us to do.

We have chosen the Thames Community Trust as first in this section of the newsletter. Over the last four years we have received four different donations from them, enabling us to start projects like Club OK and Music Club Twickenham. They work very closely with Richmond RCVS, who were the first to draw our attention to this organisation through their newsletter.



Thames Community Foundation is a registered charity operating in the London boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Hounslow, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth. It works to raise money from local individuals, companies and partnerships to meet local charitable needs.

It also seeks to reflect the needs and priorities of the people living in its area of operation, in particular small neighbourhood organisations. Its vision is to improve the quality of life for people living in the areas it serves by promoting local giving to meet local needs. Based in Teddington, it has already set up successful partnerships with a number of local companies and other organisations.

OKMT has just become a beneficiary through their Thames Community Foundation Trustees Fund in support of Music Club at Twickenham. On behalf of all of our special children Thames Community has supported now and in the past, we would like to thank them most heartily.

GIFTED CHILDREN KEEP musicOK PLAYING

The brainchild of **OKMT** therapist, Edison Carolino and with the support from the Marjory Kinnon School, a unique music therapy project began at the beginning of this year. We called it **musicOK**.

The aim of this group is to give naturally gifted children with special needs an opportunity to develop their talent while increasing their self-confidence, self-esteem and communication skills. It will not only give them these important tools, but will become a permanent friend that will remain with them throughout their lives.

Edison has told **LIBRETTO** that he is delighted with the response to **musicOK**. "The improvement in the development of all the children in the group has been most encouraging," he said. "They have been learning the xylophone, keyboard, drums, flute and singing. There are 12 students currently participating, but I have also put together a choir of 24 others to try to satisfy the demand that has now seen our waiting list increase to 35."

AIMING HIGH IN HOUNSLOW

OKMT was asked by Hounslow Council to begin a programme of music therapy for children with special needs in the area. This was the first time such a project had been initiated in this borough, and has been deemed such a success that all those who are involved are looking at ways to continue running the sessions, initially held at DaSpot in Hounslow.

The Trust always seeks and encourages feedback from any programme it runs, and Aiming High has been no exception. Looking at what has been said by parents shows why the growth in music therapy and commitment to the power of music is held in such store by those who have seen its beneficial results.

"Music therapy was very calming and soothing, especially when my son was angry and stressed."

"I felt very happy watching my child put his hands on different instruments. He now plays the guitar at home."

"As the day of the music sessions came, N started humming."

"My child has become more interested in other people."

EVERY CHILD, IRRESPECTIVE OF ITS CONDITION, IS ENTITLED TO THE BEST QUALITY OF LIFE ATTAINABLE. THROUGH THE POWER OF MUSIC, OKMT'S GOAL IS TO SET EACH CHILD ON A PATH TOWARDS THAT BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE.

PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN TO HELP US CONTINUE WITH OUR WORK.



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