

December 2011 **Christmas Edition**

## FEARNE AND PUDSEY COME CALLING

**OKMT** has been extremely fortunate over the past few years that our **Music Club** project has been sponsored by BBC Children in Need. (They really do help so many children all over the UK with hard work and dedication). So when they called to ask if television and radio presenter Fearne Cotton could visit us to look at our work, we were all delighted to see her.

The visit turned out to be a real joy. Four of the children who regularly attend **Music Club** participated in the day with great enthusiasm. A small concert was then given by Adam, who sang beautifully, Christopher who played a masterful tango on the flute – enough to make any Argentinean take to the floor – and Luke, who played a specially arranged rendition of his own composition, *The Flight of the Magical Enchanted Way*. Luke was accompanied by therapist Edison and volunteer violinist, Sarah.

All the performances were very moving, quite humbling yet most enchanting. Fearne Cotton has been the first to admit she shed tears as the children's endeavours reached all the attending adults' emotions. Apart from developing a closer relationship with BBC Children in Need, Fearne spoke at length about her visit and the work of the Trust on her BBC Radio 1 morning programme on each of the following few days.

Above all, the atmosphere and spirit all the children created in the music therapy studio developed a sense of warmth, joy and total connection through the power of music.

## LIBRETTO



**Fearne and Pudsey come calling**



**OK, let's get this party started**



**My turn to jam**



**That was worth a standing ovation**

We love these photos so much we thought you would like to see some more. We feel they show the essence of what **OKMT** is all about:



**Christopher, Pudsey, Fearne, Adam and Luke**



**Look, you bears, this is how it's played**



**A boy and his bear are never parted**



**I showed the bears how, and now it's your turn,  
Edison**



**The stars of our show**



**Castanets or bear?**

On behalf of all of us at **OKMT**, we would like to thank BBC Children in Need for all they do for us. Above all, a big thanks to Fearne and of course Pudsey for coming to call.



**OTAKAR KRAUS MUSIC TRUST**

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## **OKMT WELCOMES ITS NEW CHAIRMAN**

We were all sorry to see Charles Kraus retire as Chairman of the Board of Trustees in the Autumn, but are now delighted to welcome John Grosse who replaces him in this role. Of Course, John is no stranger to many of our supporters as he has been an active Trustee since 2002, always ready to lend a hand. Few can forget him and his larger than life personality, especially when he has presented one of our special events donned in his toast master's beautiful red jacket.



John has led a life that has been dedicated to serving others and the community at large. Originally hailing from the New Forest, he 'retired' from the Metropolitan Police in 1990 after 30 years' service. Reaching the rank of Chief Inspector John worked operationally all over West London as well as a training instructor in community relations. He then began a second career as a charity fundraiser for The British Police Fellowship for 7 years and as a professional toastmaster and master of ceremonies.

In 2011 he stepped down from the voluntary management of a Fulham youth club after 32 years as its fundraiser and erstwhile, Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. In 2011 John was presented with the Gold Award of the

Clubs for Young People for more than 30 years voluntary service to young people.

A founder member of Ealing Kathmandu Friendship Association in 2007, he became its Chairman in 2009. Through EKFA and The Music Therapy Trust, a Nepalese musician has been trained in India and has now introduced music therapy in Nepal.

Married for 47 years to Sara, a former UCH nurse, they have a grown up family of 2 sons and 1 daughter, who is the proud mother of their two grandsons.

All of us look forward to working with you John for many years to come.

## **OKMT NEW WEBSITE GOES LIVE**

Another arrival at Otakar Kraus is our new website – [www.okmtrust.co.uk](http://www.okmtrust.co.uk)

Such are the wonders of modern technology, the whole design was created by Guillermo Beradone and his team who are based in Buenos Aires, Argentina. OKMT Director of Marketing, Susan Hamilton and Administrator, Cheryl Valland worked with Guillermo across the oceans via the internet.

We think he did a wonderful job for us, making the site current, informative with a contemporary edge.

We would encourage you to log on and see the end result for yourselves and would like to thank Guillermo and his team for all the time, dedication and enthusiasm he showed in creating the website.



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**RICHMOND BUSINESS AWARDS 2011  
SHORT LISTS OKMT AS ONE OF THE  
BEST CHARITIES**

We were all thrilled to learn that **OKMT** had been shortlisted as one of the top seven charities in the Borough. This particular category was sponsored by Richmond Council

for Voluntary Services (RCVS), who reported the amount of entrants had been overwhelming. However, although the winning charity was R.U.I.L.S. (Richmond Users Independent Living Scheme), the judges reported that all the finalists were chosen because they stood out way and above any of the other charities in terms of dedication, service and overall approach to their cause.

We are of course very proud of this acknowledgement, but to us all at **OKMT** an absolute reward is with us on a daily basis. We see our very special children respond to the power of music. Irrespective of their condition they are able to make a connection, sometimes in a small way, sometimes quite dramatically so.

Watching a child making a journey towards a better quality of life and helping them to develop better communication skills, an ability to socially interact, to improve their focus, self-confidence and self esteem is a reward that stands up on its own merit.

Christmas is very much a time for children. Their smiles, their excitement, their joy and interacting with other members of the family is what to many is the highlight of the holiday season. **OKMT** works to ensure that – to parody a well-known phrase – a smile is not just for Christmas.

*“During a session of music club, it was the first time I had ever seen my 4 year old son smile.”*

**With your help, we can keep those smiles alive through the power of music. We need any gift you can give this Christmas. You can donate on line, by text or through the post. Go onto to our donation page at [www.okmtrust.co.uk](http://www.okmtrust.co.uk) and follow the links from there.**

**All of us at OKMT and the children we support wish you and yours a happy, healthy and peaceful holiday season and 2012. We leave you with a few more smiles, which say it all.**



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