



The Irish Music Teacher

Newsletter of the Post Primary Music Teachers' Association

Autumn 2007

Annual National Conference 2007 A Celebration of Music in Education

A Celebration of Music in Education is the theme the National Executive Committee has chosen for this year's annual conference.

Our programme offers a wide variety of workshops to suit all disciplines, ranging from:

Teaching Strategies for the Music Teacher to IT for the Music Teacher

Jazz & Improvisation to Irish & Brazilian Rhythms

Creativity in Young Musicians to meeting and engaging in a live interview with an Irish composer

A review of both the Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations 2007

Bringing our new teachers on board with an informative and supportive forum

Providing a resource-rich environment through trade stands and inter-colleague contact.

It is hoped that this year's conference will acknowledge and celebrate Music Education: composing, listening and performing. All of these workshops bear relevance to both the Junior and Leaving Certificate examination programmes. However, we hope the conference will prove valuable to all post-primary music students.

Music Education in Ireland is shaped by individual music teachers every day. Have your voice heard at a national level through your annual professional conference.

Kindest regards, Ethel

Letter from the Chair



Dear Members,

Welcome back to what has proven to be an action-packed start to this academic year.

Our Teachers Leaving Certificate Workshop was a great success with just over 200 members attending. Many thanks to our applicants in Sligo for moving venue, it resulted in the event running smoother and this organizer certainly appreciated that!

This course was initially intended for new teachers and teachers returning to the subject after a period away. However, it seems to have proven a valuable refresher for many other teachers.

On behalf of all who participated I would like to say a huge word of thanks: to our writers for their expertise and time in creating the notes, to our presenters for their professionalism and comprehensive delivery of these notes, to our venue

coordinators in Athlone and Cork, Patricia and Alison, for ensuring the smooth running of what was an extremely intensive day and finally to Jim and Paul, for the number of long and arduous hours editing what is a widely-acclaimed Leaving Certificate resource.

From the large number of emails and messages I have received I would like to thank you, the participants, for your positive and engaging response to the course. It was both affirming and reassuring to have shared this day with you. Well done!

It is fantastic to hear the various reports back from our branches. Many of you have had your first meeting (see page 4) and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you an energetic, fruitful and enjoyable year. If you are not already affiliated to a branch, check for the branch closest to you. Remember, regard-

less of what branch you are associated with, you are welcome to attend any of the meetings/workshops of other branches.

A huge word of appreciation to our outgoing Branch Representatives, Jean Downey (Cork), Maureen Murray (Mayo) and John Francis Murphy (Kildare) for their time and work given to the PPMTA—Many thanks! A word of welcome to our new representatives, Jennifer Hiney in Mayo and Noreen O'Sullivan in Cork. We would like to wish them every success and enjoyment in their posts. If you are interested in becoming a representative or setting up a meeting to elect a branch rep please let me know. The branches still awaiting representation are: Kildare, Galway and Waterford/Wexford/Kilkenny.

All PPMTA resource materials, including the Teachers Workshop Book, have been reprinted and will be available at our resource stand in Cork.

Moladh an Cheoil 2007

Congratulations to Patricia Magee and all the students of Athlone Community College who were the deserving winners of Moladh and Cheoil 2007 Award.





WASBE 2007 Killarney Ireland



The World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles held its biennial conference in July and I had the pleasure of attending. Participants came from every corner of the world, Switzerland, Ireland, USA, UK, Australia, Singapore, Norway, Austria, Brazil, China and even MULLINGAR! In her message to delegates, Patron to WASBE, President Mary McAleese said "Music speaks directly to the spirit and crosses all boundaries; it accompanies us from our childhood and punctuates our most important rites of passage"

Over 2000 musicians- over 30 of the finest wind bands in the world and from the four corners of Ireland- 13 gala concerts-21 fringe recitals. Gala concerts took place in the afternoon and evening in the INEC at the Gleneagle Hotel.

I attended a concert by the Royal Symphonic Band Voorit, Harelbeke. They were awarded the title of World Champion after obtaining the best score in the concert division at the 15th World Music Contest Kerkrade in July 2005. The conductor was Geert Verchaeve. They performed the following works:

- Prelude from "Tombelene" by Godfried Devreese (1893-1972)
- Concerto for English Horn and Orchestra by Peteris Vasks (b. 1946)
- Divertimento for Clarinet and Band by Roland Coryn (b. 1938)
- Cantica de Sancto Benedicto (World Premiere) by Jacob de Haan

Jacob de Haan himself attended this concert.

On the Saturday I had the pleasure of listening to the WASBE International Youth Wind Orchestra. This is an ensemble of approximately 50

outstanding young musicians ages 18 to 25 from throughout the world. The ensemble performs the finest compositions composed for the wind medium and is conducted by internationally renowned conductors. Today's conductor was Dr. Glenn D. Price, Director of Wind Ensembles and Professor of Conducting and Percussion at the University of Calgary.



The programme included:

- Frenergy by John Estacio (b. 1966)
- Percussion Concerto by Joseph Schwantner (b 1943)
- Resonance by Christopher Marshall (b. 1956)
- Miranda, Ariel, Umbriel by Ian Wilson (b. 1964) This was a World Premiere and Ian Wilson attended.
- Morning Music by Richard Rodney Bennett (b.1936)

Later on Saturday evening The Swiss Army Symphonic Wind Band performed under the baton of Major Philipp Wagner and Jan Cober, Guest

conductor. The Orchestras of the Swiss Army Band are the representatives of Swiss Military Music and the country's top cultural ambassadors. They played:

- Marsh Inf Rgt 33 by Paul Huber (1918-2001)
- March Winds by Derek Bourgeois (b.1941)
- Big Jig (An Irish Radio Fantasy) by Thierry Besancon (b1970)
- Dionysiaques, op.62 by Florent Schmitt (1870-1958)
- Temples by Oliver Waespi (b.1971)
- Remembering Serge Lancen, Armando Blanquer and Henk van Lijnschooten arr. Jan Cober.

Prior to all of the concerts, the composers Jacob de Haan, Ian Wilson and Thierry Besancon spoke about their new works.

As part of the WASBE Conference a "Fringe Festival" also took place in Killarney Town Centre and at Muckcross House. This came a little closer to home featuring some of our very own bands such as Ballincollig Concert Band, Dublin Concert Band, Gleneagle Concert Band, East Galway Music School, Mullingar Town Band, Tralee Concert Band and Fermoy Concert Band.

By the time I managed to view the Trade Show many of the stands had packed up. This was disappointing. The Trade Show included Sibelius Software, Sheet Music, Music Schools, Instrument Stands and Travel Stands.

It was a pleasure attending this conference on behalf of the PPMTA. The next conference is in Cincinnati, 2009. Any takers?

Patricia Magee, Athlone Community College.

A Celebration of Music in Education

PLEASE NOTE: A Technology Demonstration Room is available throughout the weekend for one-to-one workshops. Please register for these at the PPMTA Desk. If you are not taking the tour, the prime timeslot to do a workshop is Sunday 11.30-1.00	Friday 19th October	
	4.00	Registration / Tea / Coffee / Trades Exhibition
	5.00	Official Keynote Opening of Conference 2007 - <i>Geoffrey Spratt</i>
	5.15	Junior Certificate Exam Review - <i>Anna Heffernan</i>
	6.15	New Teachers Forum - <i>Jonathan Browner</i> Music Teaching Strategies - <i>Group of Teachers</i>
	7.00	Improvisation and Jazz in the Classroom - <i>Ronan Guilfoyle</i>
	7.45	Live Jazz Performance (end c8.30pm)
	Saturday 20th October	
	9.30	A Live Interview with the Composer <i>Raymond Deane</i> Music Teaching Strategies - <i>Group of Teachers</i>
	10.30	Tea / Coffee / Trades Exhibition
	11.00	Junior Certificate Music Exam Review - <i>Anna Heffernan</i> Beatbox: Irish & Brazilian Rhythms - <i>Klaus Vormehr</i>
	12.00	Creativity in Young Musicians - <i>Dr Mary Stakelum</i> IT for the Music Teacher - <i>Annamarie Higgins and Majella Higgins</i>
	1.00	Lunch / Trades Exhibition
	2.00	Annual General Meeting and Elections Launch of New PPMTA Website
	3.00	Branch Meetings and Elections
	3.30	Tea / Coffee / Trades Exhibition Creativity in Young Musicians - <i>Dr Mary Stakelum</i>
	3.45	IT for the Music Teacher - <i>Annamarie Higgins and Majella Higgins</i>
	4.45	A Live Interview with the Composer <i>Raymond Deane</i> Beatbox: Irish & Brazilian Rhythms - <i>Klaus Vormehr</i>
	7.00	Wine Reception - Sponsored by <i>EDCO</i> Meet the Authors: Junior Certificate Book - <i>M. McFadden & K. Kearns</i> Lyric FM: Launch of <i>Moladh an Cheoil</i> - <i>Evelyn Grant</i> Meet the Authors: New Leaving Certificate Book - <i>A. Higgins & M. Higgins</i>
	8.00	Evening Meal: Individual tickets will be supplied
	Sunday 21st October	
9.30	Leaving Certificate Exam Review - <i>Jean Downey</i>	
10.30	Open Forum	
11.00	Tea / Coffee / Trades Exhibition	
11.30	Tours of New Cork School of Music: Tickets will be supplied. Buses will drop off and pick up!	
1.30	Conference Closes / Departure.	

Mozart Trip 2007

I understand that **Gerry Murphy** first proposed this tour at the PPTMA conference in 'October-coloured weather', to quote the muse of Inniskeen. Those who did not take him up on the suggestion may now regret it for no other reason than this: *middle Europe in high June 2007 could still imitate summer* – clear light showing off marvellous baroque and renaissance architecture and balmy evenings inviting us to open-air meals with plenty of beer and wine. Well, most of the time.

Gerry's agenda was to chart a course through the principal locations relating to Mozart's life: **Salzburg**, the town of his birth, from which he was later so ignominiously ejected; **Vienna**, where court patronage accelerated a glittering career; and his beloved **Prague** whose citizens, he felt, knew how to appreciate him. Our itinerary took us from birth-house to (approximate) graveside, at every turn enriched by Gerry's anecdotal commentary – sensitive, humorous and deeply knowledgeable.

Salzburg is a gem (Mozart was right to insist that he was a 'Salzburger'). A university town given over to the bicycle (Gormley and Ryan take note), its principal squares retain the flavour of Mozart's time. **The cathedral**, where his father married and was *Kapellmeister*, is extraordinary for its four organs. **The Archbishop's Palace** stands as a memorial both to the culture of faith and patronage which was an inescapable part of Mozart's life and art – and to the cost of offending that culture! The Alps provide a dramatic backdrop.

Of the two **Mozart properties**, the *geburtshaus* and the well-appointed apartments to which Leopold moved the

family as his son's success brought increased prosperity, the latter is by far the richer. They have an excellent audio-guide which details the family's active lives, introduces a range of contemporary instruments (there is a recording of a modern performance on Mozart's own pianoforte, preserved elsewhere), and introduces the many facsimile documents on display. To anyone barely familiar with Mozart's life, filtered perhaps through the imaginations of Shaffer and Forman, the letters are a revelation of the interaction of the family members and of contemporary intellectual activity. Amadeus' relationship to his sister Nannerl is touchingly etched in, and there is a copy of a heartbroken letter he wrote at the time of his mother's death, protecting his father from grief.

Visits in **Vienna** to sites associated with **Brahms, Schubert, Beethoven** (notably the latter's house on the city walls) and **Bruckner** reminded us of the extraordinary place the city has in the history of music. At **'Composers' Corner'** in the Central Cemetery Gerry recalled Bruckner's delight at discovering he had left his spectacles in the coffin of the exhumed Beethoven.

Mozart is to a degree swallowed in the bustle of modern Vienna, but the **'Figaro House'** (where he composed the opera and begged his friends for loans to pay his gambling debts) and its environs remain much as they did in the late 18th century. The emphasis in this property is on the family living conditions of Wolfgang, Constanza and their first baby son: an exciting chaos of instruments, visiting pupils, guests, a crying infant and a yapping dog. Preserved here is a young pupil's manuscript copy from Mozart's brief stay in London. Next

to some corrected homework is a note in the composer's hand, in a charmingly faulty English, apologizing for missing the lesson and asking the boy to come back later!

We stood solemnly at the corner where his body received a cursory blessing before being hastily conveyed to St Marx cemetery and given the burial decreed for supposed victims of the plague.

We also attended a remarkable staging by the Wiener Volksoper of **Weber's *Der Freischutz***, curiously Tolkien-referenced!

Thence to **Prague**. The **highlights** of our three days here must include High Mass in the Strahov Monastery; the Villa Bertramka, home of Mozart's friends the Duëeks and a *bijou* property for anyone seeking to invest abroad; and finally a cruise with buffet lunch along the Vltava, Smetana ringing in our ears. This writer missed the performance in the National Theatre of 'A Worthwhile Walk', a jazz-opera from the 1950s directed by Miloš Forman. Those who were there incline to praise of production rather than of the music.

Those who know Gerry will not have been surprised at his meticulous organization and his unflagging enthusiasm over seven days. Our disparate group of musicians, teachers and friends hugely enjoyed our experience – and each other's company – thanks to his energy and instruction and his nose for the very best places to end a day with good food and drink. Warm thanks to him, and best wishes for any such tours he plans for the future.

Michael Bevan

Marie O'Reilly - Freelance Singer and Pianist

Marie O'Reilly is a freelance singer and pianist, at present working in Ireland and England. She is a graduate of Music and French from University College, Dublin. She subsequently studied Singing at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

She has performed at and presented Irish Music and Culture for many years at International and Multi-cultural festivals in the Southeast of England, predominantly in London and Kent. She has produced arrangements

for schools and adult music groups; all of the music has been tried and tested, and many public performances of her work have taken place.

Booklets of the following material will be available for perusal and sale at the PPMTA Conference in Cork in October, 2007:

- 13 original Songs in Irish and English, Traditional and Original Hymns in Irish, English and Bilingual for SATB

- 3 Mass settings (Irish, Children's, English)
- 12 Traditional and Original Songs and Dances for Schools Instrumental groups

Much of this material can be heard on CDs which will also be available for sale.

Assessment for Learning (AfL) for Music Teachers

Offering supportive feedback

Assessment is an important part of a teacher's everyday life. It is about judging and measuring what a student has achieved and it involves providing the student with some kind of feedback. The question is what the student learns from this.

The more traditional Assessment **of** Learning, intended as a measure of achievement and associated with examinations, marks and grades, is a valid form of assessment and it is not being challenged. However, it is remote from the classroom, where most of the learning takes place.

Assessment **for** Learning, on the other hand, is about using assessment **in the classroom** as a tool to improve students' learning by involving them more fully in the assessment of their own learning. Its key principles are:

- sharing the learning intention with the students (giving them clear direction on what they are going to learn)
- sharing the criteria for success (giving them clear direction on how they will know they have succeeded)
- providing feedback based on the criteria for success (giving them clear direction on how they can judge their progress and make decisions on what they can do to progress further).

With regard to the teacher's feedback, in order to be supportive it must

- highlight and praise the aspects of the student's work that have been successful
- highlight the aspects that might need to be worked upon
- provide constructive advice on how the student can go about making improvements

The NCCA AfL Initiative began about five years ago. It has developed by working closely with small groups of teachers from schools throughout the country, covering all subjects in post-primary junior cycle. The purpose of the Initiative is to generate examples of students' work for inclusion in the NCCA website, with a view to assisting teachers in judging the standard of their students' work and in providing constructive feedback to their students, helping them to reflect on the next steps they can take in their learning and to become more effective and autonomous learners. The samples were gathered by the teachers involved, who provided a commentary for each sample, covering a range of student output. They will be available on the NCCA website in the near future.

For further information on AfL and on the NCCA Initiative

- log on to the NCCA website at www.ncca.ie and click on the link to the Assessment for Learning pages
- also on the NCCA website, click on the link to info@ncca, the NCCA newsletter. In particular, the issues featuring AfL so far are no. 1, 4, 5 and 6.

Cork Pops Orchestra

We are delighted to announce the details of the Cork Pops Orchestra's November 2007 Concert for Schools series, devised and presented by Evelyn Grant.

"The Cork Pops Orchestra hits High Doh!" City Hall, Cork

For

Post Primary Schools

Friday 16th November 2007 at 10 am and 12 noon

The concert is designed to encourage young peoples' interest in music and embraces developments in new music technologies.

To book: contact Gerry Kelly 021-4316088 / 087-2462636

www.corkpops.ie

Bach Trip 2008

Bach Trip 2008 will happen 17th-24th June. Full details at PPMTA Annual Conference.

Contact: Gerry Murphy at 6murphys@gofree.indigo.ie



News from the Branches...

**Louth / Meath /
Cavan / Monaghan****Calling all Music teachers in the Northeast!**

The first meeting of the new (school) year was held in St. Louis Secondary School, Dundalk on Wednesday September 19 at eight o'clock.

At the next meeting Paula Lyne will give a review of the 2007 Listening Paper. Orla Drumgoole

Múinteoirí Cheoil

Tionólfar crinniú den chraobh seo i rith na Comhdhála Bliantúla.

Socrófar dátaí and láthair do dhá chruinniú eile.

**Longford / Leitrim /
Roscommon**

Just a note to let you know that the first meeting of the Roscommon branch was held on Friday, September 21st, at 8pm in the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon.

Miriam Hunt

Miriam is our new rep for Longford, Leitrim, Roscommon branch. She can be contacted at:

miriamhunt@eircom.net

Sliabh Luachra

Sliabh Luachra branch held its opening meeting for the year on Monday 8th October in St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow.

Tipperary

The first Tipperary PPMTA Meeting for the coming year was held on Monday 17th September in Cashel Community School at 7.30 pm.

Contact John at

murraycol@eircom.net

Westmeath

A provisional date of Wednesday 21st November has been arranged for a music workshop with the Army Band in Athlone Education Centre. It will last approximately 2 hours. A concert, instrument demonstration and notes will be provided.

All members are welcome to attend.

For further information, contact Patricia at windband@iol.ie

Mayo

The first meeting of the Mayo branch was held on Wednesday October 10th.

Jennifer Hiney

**National Executive
Committee****Chairperson:**

Ethel Glancy
ethel.glancy@gmail.com

Vice Chair:

Ben Murray
ben_p_murray@hotmail.com

Secretary:

Paul Brennan
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Membership Secretary:

Dee Coyle
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Treasurer:

Bill Hearne
billhearnet@tinet.ie

NEW PUBLICATION

ROGHA - Geraldine Cotter's Choice

This unique book / CD package 'ROGHA' is aimed at both the tune player and accompanist. It is a development of Geraldine's two tutors - the **tin whistle tutor** published in 1983, which is still a best seller and '**Seinn an Piano**', the first tutor for Irish traditional music on the piano.

This new collection contains 50 simply arranged versions of dance tunes of various types that can be played on most melody instruments. Because of her Clare roots and in particular her connection with West Clare it is no surprise that most of the tunes have been learned by her from Clare musicians or musicians with Clare ties.

She not only suggests chord symbols for accompaniment on guitar, piano etc., but has also arranged sample chord voicings for the piano, making it particularly suitable for piano players who wish to develop their style.

Since there is a growing interest in information related to repertoire, she also includes background information that relates to the tunes.

On the CD she plays the tunes on tin whistle with piano accompaniment. A major feature of the play-a-long CD is the stereo separation. By adjusting the balance it is possible to listen to either instrument separately. This is a particularly useful tool for those making the transition from beginner to session musician.

From Ennis, Co. Clare, Geraldine Cotter is a well-known tin whistle and piano player and teacher. She has studied music both at University College Cork and at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, where she now teaches and is doing doctoral research in Irish Traditional Music.

She taught music at secondary level for 25 years and for many years examined Junior and Leaving Cert music students. As a teacher of traditional music she has taught at the Willie Clancy Summer School, Blas Summer School, Gaelic Roots at Boston College, Aonach Paddy O'Brien. She has recorded widely both on whistle and piano, most recently on her first album 'Piano+' with her brother Eamon on flute and Peadar O'Loughlin and Maeve Donnelly on fiddles. She is a member of the group Shaskeen.

'ROGHA' can be purchased from www.custysmusic.com

Further information from

www.geraldinecotter.com

Email: geraldinecotter.ennis@eircom.net

News from National Executive Meeting September 2007

Year Plan

- **Sept 1st 07** National Executive Meeting, Portlaoise
- **Sept 8th 07** Preparation Meeting for *Teachers' Workshops*. Dublin
- **Oct 6th 07** National Executive Meeting, Cork
- **Oct 8th 07** Deadline for *Conference Applications*
- **Oct 19th– 21st 07** Conference Jury's Cork
- **Nov 5th 07** Deadline for ALL writers of *Students' Revision Course*
- **Nov 17th 07** National Executive Meeting, TBC. *Review of Conference '07, Planning of Conference '08*
- **Dec 03rd 07** *Revision Course Applications* deadline
- **Jan 12th 08** Prep Meeting for presenters + writers of *Students' Revision Course*

- **Jan 19th 08** *LC Students' Revision Course*
- **Feb 2nd 08** Prep Meeting for presenters + writers of *Students' Revision Course*
- **Feb 23rd 08** *LC Students' Revision Course*
- **March 7th 08** 'Showcase' Concert (TBC)
- **Apr 4th 08** National Executive Meeting, *Compos-ite Proposal for 2008-2009*
- **May 17th 08** National Executive Meeting, *Compos-ite Proposal for 2008-2009*

PPMTA Website

Our new website will be launched at the Conference on Saturday 20th Oct. Ben Murray is webmaster.

TPNS

Claims from the PPMTA for last year have to be submitted by Sept 30th. Branches will be

forwarded a form (TPN3) on which to outline what was done at branch level last year, and what was paid to presenters.

There was a discussion regarding the rates of payment. These were considered quite low, particularly when tax was deducted. The Association makes up the difference between the TPNS rates and what would be considered a fair rate.

It is now not necessary for each branch to have a bank account.

It was agreed that Branch Reps were to organize a meeting as soon as possible. A proposal for 2/3 workshops was to be submitted to the committee.

Each branch will receive a memo on all these matters. TPNS meetings are open to all music teachers. Teachers may claim travelling ex-

penses. Our TPN Reps are Ben Murray and Kathryn Fitzgerald.

L.C. Workshops for Teachers

It was agreed that the books printed for the Teachers workshops will be available at the Conference in Cork. Cost €20.00

Funding for Translation

Ethel Glancy is working on getting finance to translate materials such as the teachers' workbook just printed.

Concert Proposal

The committee decided to investigate further the concert proposal showcasing the LC Practicals. It was agreed that the project would have to be delegated outside of the committee.

Conference 2007

It was agreed that a *dry run* of the conference will be held in Jury's Hotel, Western Rd., Cork on Oct 08th 2007.



NATIONWIDE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Do you love to sing, dance or act? Do you fancy starring in a piece of musical theatre live on television?

This is a nationwide call for young musical theatre performers between the ages of 11 and 15.

If you want to attend our weeklong JAM school, be mentored by the finest professionals in the business and perform a piece of musical theatre live on RTE television...

GO TO:

www.rte.ie/jam

Don't delay closing date for applications is Friday 28th September 2007!

If you have any queries please email jam@rte.ie

ISME European Regional Conference 2007

Recently I attended the ISME European Regional Conference which was held in Lulea University of Technology in Pitea in the far north of Sweden. Even in May Northern Sweden is cold but very beautiful. The University is in its final phases of completion and is recognised as a World Class Research and Education facility with currently over 1300 students.

The theme of this year's conference was Media and New Technology in Music Education. This is an area that is of great interest to me in my capacity as a director of Songschool.

The 3 day programme was packed with information and many different areas were addressed with speakers from a wide spectrum of the European community. I have included several useful and interesting websites to help give more of an insight to the conference and its content.

The aim of the conference is to discuss issues of music education in a society characterized by media, IT and new technology. It set out to address how we approach music education in a world where concepts such as meeting places, border crossing, networking, file-sharing and student responsibility have become everyday expressions.

I thought I would share with you the three presentations that really impressed me. It is hard to describe them without referring to their own academic based synopsis but I will try.

Firstly, Marina Gall from the University of Bristol, spoke of Computers in the Classroom and she has been involved in InterActive Education: teaching and learning in the information age. This is the largest Information and Communications Technology (ICT) education research project undertaken so far in the UK.

The aim of the project was to find out more about how ICT can be used most effectively to enhance teaching and learning across all curriculums.

The research found that teachers continue to be centrally important in designing and supporting learning with ICT across the curriculum and telling that the potential of new technologies was still not being fully realised. This is despite the UK government's commitment to increase the use of information technology in schools, few teachers made full use of computers and other technologies in the classroom. The research also found that the use of ICT in schools was 'sporadic' and 'disappointing' in the UK and

internationally.

Secondly, from the Koninklijk Conservatorium, The Hague, project coordinator Karst de Jong, spoke about *MusicWeb*. This is a collaborative European project which offers some great on line resources and multimedia tools for music education. The MusicWeb website is fantastic and I would recommend you have a look. You may need a recent version of Quicktime to display it properly. Of particular interest to me, being from Australia, was the potential usage for distance learning.

Finally, "Drawing With Light" by Viennese musician Thade Buchborn. This was a fascinating and brilliant concept delivered in a very informal and engaging way. His presentation focused on a project he had collaborated on with 17-18 year old students from Hameln, Germany.

The project incorporated dance, movement, light, time lapse photography and Mahler's 9th Symphony! The participants studied the arrangement, structure and dynamics of the music. They were given a coloured light stick, taken to a field on a summers evening and told to express their impressions without words. Different colours represented different groups of instruments. They were then captured with time lapse photography and the resulting light traces show the development of the piece of music. The performance was presented as a very striking solitary image. There is a downloadable pdf file of Thade's actual presentation to the conference available (details below) which I would highly recommend.

It was a long journey but well worth the effort. I have only spoken about a few of the presentations here but there were many more of note and I met a lot of interesting and dedicated people passionate about music education.

If any one has specific questions please feel free to contact me at the PPMTA Conference or email me chris@songschool.ie

Chris Teusner

References:

Marina Gall: www.interactiveeducation.ac.uk

MusicWeb: www.musicweb.koncon.nl

Drawing with light:

<http://www.mdw.ac.at/imp/html/lichtm/DrawingWithLight.pdf>

