

Ceol – A New Approach to Teaching Music

by Damien White



Of all the subjects covered by PCSP in their In-service Training Programme, Music arguably had the greatest effect. For teachers with years of experience, it offered them a chance to look at the key components of the subject – listening and responding, performing and composition – with fresh enthusiasm, fuelled by new approaches, ideas and material.

For many reluctant teachers of what until now had been seen as a 'specialist' subject, it gave them a new confidence to approach the subject again, knowing that they would successfully manage at least some strands. For those with a passion for music, it gave them a framework upon which to build exciting new programmes. For Carmel Dunne, it oiled the wheels of her exciting and award winning project – Ceol.

Carmel's vision was to reawaken the dormant musical heritage of her home area in West Dublin. Following research and piloting in 2006

and 2007, Ceol began to offer Music Education to primary schools from Junior Infants, bringing on board a team of experts to create new and innovative methods for teaching. The innovations gave rise to the Giusti approach to Music Education which focused on the development of musical fluency, teaching children to listen, speak, read and write the language of music.

Today Ceol Ireland is working with over 160 teachers across the 4 provinces helping teachers to teach music integrated with maths, languages and science.

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland challenged Ceol to roll their model out across the Country. The pilot programme was highly successful and teachers,

many of whom were fearful of the subject, are delighted with the Ceol lesson plans and materials and regular professional development sessions. Ceol recently won the Ulster Bank Business Achievers Award for Leinster. Today Ceol Ireland is working with over 160 teachers across the 4 provinces helping teachers to teach music integrated with maths, languages and science. 'Ceol has enabled the teachers to take the music curriculum books and transform them into a dynamic, used curriculum' is the view of Ena Morley, St Ultans, Cherry Orchard, Dublin.

More information on the Ceol Support Programme can be gained by calling the support team on (01) 6207179/(087) 9036139, emailing carmel@ceolireland.ie, or logging onto the website www.ceolireland.ie. Ceol Ireland can see your school reach new heights of musical achievement and excellence for €15 per child per annum.

