

Colourstrings is a curriculum for string instruction developed by Hungarian pedagogues Géza and Csaba Szilvay at the East Helsinki Music School in Finland. Founded on the musicianship principles of Zoltan Kodály, the success of Colourstrings in Finland has resulted in more than 300 past students of the program now holding professional positions around the globe. Past students include Jakko and Pekka Kuusisto and Réka Szilvay.



An inspirational product of Colourstrings is the Helsinki Strings - a string orchestra of young players, conducted by Géza and Csaba Szilvay. The orchestra has recorded more than 30 CDs and has won many honours and awards, including the Scandinavian Record of the Year.

Géza Szilvay is virtually a household name in Finland, where he created a TV series for young children - *Minifiddlers in Musicland*. The series of more than 80 episodes introduced many Finnish children to music, and caused music shops to virtually sell out of violins when it first appeared.

For his services to music Géza has received, among many other awards, the Knight Order of the Finnish Lion, and the Hungarian State Award for Cultural Activity.

"Elsewhere, stock exchanges stagger and currencies crumble, politicians of all persuasions rant and roar, but in Finland two Hungarian brothers Csaba and Géza Szilvay, adapting Kodaly's choral method of music education to the strings, maintain an uninterrupted flow of superbly disciplined players - young fiddlers on the roof of the world - whose corporate warmth of tone would melt the heart of the Snow Queen."

The Scotsman



TOUR SCHEDULE

Colourstrings materials will be available for perusal and purchase at each event

SEPT 4-13 BRISBANE
TOOWOOMBA

Colourstrings Australia - open lessons
AUSTA QLD Workshop (Part 1), 12 Sept

SEPT 14-15 SYDNEY
Sydney Conservatorium
Sydney Church of England Girls Grammar School

SEPT 15-20 NEWCASTLE
Newcastle String Academy - open lessons.
Children's Orchestra Workshop, Sat, Sept 18.
Concert with Christ Church Camerata, 3pm, Sun, Sept 19

SEPT 22-24 CANBERRA
Australian National University School of Music

SEPT 26-29 MELBOURNE
Keynote speaker - Kodály Music Education Institute of
Australia National Conference (*Music Matters*)

OCT 1-3 BRISBANE
AUSTA QLD Workshop (Part 2)

OCT 4-8 SYDNEY

**COLOURSTRINGS
TEACHER TRAINING COURSE
(5 DAYS)
BARKER COLLEGE, SYDNEY**

OCT 14-17 PERTH
AUSTA WA, UWA, WAPPA
Teaching and orchestral workshops

GÉZA SZILVAY

in Australia



Sept - Oct 2010

AUSTRALIAN
STRING
TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION



Renowned Hungarian string pedagogue **Géza Szilvay** will tour Australia in Sept-Oct 2010. Creator of the **Colourstrings** curriculum, Géza has amassed an extraordinary list of achievements over 40 years as a teacher, conductor, author and TV presenter. For his services to music Géza has received many honours, including the equivalent of a knighthood in both Hungary and Finland.

Colourstrings is now taught in many countries outside Finland, where the Colourstrings program has been developed at the East Helsinki Music Institute. There are now many young Colourstrings students in Australia, and a growing number of Colourstrings teachers.

Highlights of Géza's tour will include:

- 5-day Colourstrings Teacher Training Course (Oct 4-8, Barker College, Sydney)
- Keynote Speaker at *Music Matters - Conference of the Kodály Music Education Institute of Australia* (Sept 26-29, Melbourne)
- Public teaching demonstrations
- Workshops for teachers and students
- Concert with Newcastle's *Christ Church Camerata* (Sept 19, Newcastle)



Colourstrings Teacher Training Course

Monday - Friday, 4-8 October, 2010
McCaskill Music Centre, Barker College
Hornsby, New South Wales
(entry via The Avenue, off Unwin Rd)

Ideal for current Colourstrings teachers as well as those new to the curriculum, the course will include live teaching demonstrations with Australian Colourstrings students as well as video footage of Finnish students, as Géza Szilvay systematically guides participants through the Colourstrings material.

The course will include a daily Kodály musicianship class, and participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance.

Schedule: 8.30-4.30 each day
(NB Registration takes place at 8am on Mon, Oct 4)

The Colourstrings Teacher Training Course is offered under the auspices of KMEIA, with the assistance of AUSTA.

A registration form is included in this brochure. *Concessions* are available for full-time students and KMEIA members, and an *early bird price* is available for registration before Friday, August 20.

Information:

David Banney: 4952 2330, 0448 522 335

Contact details

5-day teacher training course	David Banney	02 4952 2330 0448 522 335
KMEIA National Conference	Kodály Victoria	03 9535 7035
Brisbane / Toowoomba	Yuri Djachenko	07 3371 6394 0437 535 705
Newcastle / Sydney	David Banney	02 4952 2330 0448 522 335
Canberra	Tor Fromyhr	02 6125 5700 0412 787 730
Perth	Ibolya Mikajlo	0418 423 536

Colourstrings Teacher Training Course

4-8 October
Barker College, Hornsby, New South Wales
Register now and save \$\$\$...

Name:

Address:

State:

Postcode:

Email:

Telephone:

Payment method: Cheque Direct deposit

Enrolment type: (please circle)

	KMEIA Members	Non-members***
Adult	\$635.00	\$700.00
Early bird price*	\$535.00	\$600.00
Concession**	\$335.00	\$365.00

*Registration is required before 5pm, Aug 20 to be eligible for Early Bird Fee

**Concession available for full-time students and pensioners.

***Includes compulsory KMEIA membership - \$65.00 (adults), or \$30.00 (concession)

Credit card payments not accepted for this event
Cheques payable to KMEIA, NSW

Details for direct deposit:

BSB: 112879 Account No: 153921273

Account name: Kodály Music Education Institute of Australia, NSW Inc

Reference: "SurnameColourstrings"

Please complete and detach this page, then send (with cheque if applicable) to:
Rose Bloom, Treasurer, PO Box 603,
Five Dock, NSW, 2046



COLOUR STRINGS

**Colourstrings
Teachers Training Course**

with

GÉZA SZILVAY

Monday - Friday, 4-8 October, 2010

Barker College, Hornsby (Sydney)

Further information:

David Banney - (02) 4952 2330 or 0448 522 335

Earlybird rates apply until Aug 20



KODÁLY FOR STRINGS

The story of Colourstrings

Géza Szilvay, creator of the Kodály-based Colourstrings curriculum, will tour Australia in September and October, 2010. Over 300 of his students have gone on to careers as professional string players, and his work has inspired teachers throughout the world. But, fascinatingly, Colourstrings was initially the product of an international miscommunication...

Imagine yourself as a young teacher offered a job in a country whose language you do not speak. You have been told that you will have a studio of 17-year-old students. You arrive in the new country to discover that the 17-year-olds are in fact 7-year-olds, and that there are 70 of them (68 to be precise)!

Such was the predicament of Hungarian-born Géza Szilvay when he arrived in Helsinki to take up a teaching position. His own teachers had been exceptional, and he had studied string pedagogy in Budapest – alongside a degree and a PhD in Political Science, and a passion for skiing (he was part of the Hungarian Olympic ski team in 1968).

Seeking a solution that would at once surmount the language barrier and facilitate the development of musical literacy, Szilvay found a unique solution, linking sol-fa with a radically new approach to reading music, as well as many novel ideas for the technical curriculum. One aspect of his solution was to represent each string of the violin with a character (birdie, mummy, daddy and bear), and with a colour (gold, blue, red, green), hence the name *Colourstrings*. (The colours are strategically gradually abandoned as the students progress through the curriculum.)

The aim of his approach was not to dumb down the process of learning the violin, but to slow down and enrich the acquisition of musical literacy. By slowing things down, students have the time to develop important early skills, and anyone who hears his students is struck by their security of intonation and beauty of sound. Before long his students demonstrated the value of his approach – recognised not just for their technical proficiency, but also for their superb musicianship and their flexible and creative approach to making music.

Szilvay became something of a household name in Finland with the launch of his TV series *Adventures in Musicland*. Ably assisted in these programs by his young students, it is said that when the first episode was aired on Finnish television, music shops in Finland virtually sold out of violins overnight.

Géza's brother Csaba joined him in Helsinki, making an equally profound impact as a cello teacher. Their students soon became the *Helsinki Junior Strings*, later named the *Helsinki Strings*. The orchestra has toured throughout the world, and made over 30 CD's, as well as numerous TV programs and documentaries, and has won the Scandinavian Record of the Year Award for its recording of Scandinavian String Serenades.

Realising that a teaching curriculum was incomplete without suitable performance material, Géza commissioned a compatriot Hungarian composer, Laszlo Rossa, to write an extensive and systematic collection of music for the curriculum. Thus, besides the many volumes of technical and musical literature in *Colourstrings*, there are more than 20 volumes of performance material, including chamber music, violin and piano music, duos, and string orchestra music.

In Szilvay's own words, *Colourstrings* is a 'child-centred' approach to violin teaching, in which musical, technical, emotional and spiritual development should progress simultaneously. The published material begins with stories and songbooks, intended for use long before a child first touches an instrument, and ends only when every rhythm, every key, every finger pattern and every bowstroke has been systematically learnt. Just as it is child-centred, so it is designed to be modified for each setting in which it is taught. To this end, blank pages appear frequently in the books for teachers to insert local melodies. Every teacher thus becomes a 'co-author' in the *Colourstrings* approach.

And what became of the 68 seven-year-olds forced to endure a teacher who didn't speak their language? 59 of them became professional violinists – several have forged major careers as concert violinists (I wonder what happened to the other 9...?). Most teachers would be delighted if such a percentage of their students still owned an instrument as an adult, let alone played professionally!

Whether you are an instrumental teacher or not, I would strongly recommend that you take the opportunity to hear and see Géza Szilvay during his tour, either at the KMEIA National Conference (Melbourne, Sept 26-29) or at the *Colourstrings* Teacher Training Course (Barker College, Hornsby, Oct 4-8).

Further information: David Banney 02 4952 2330, or www.colourstrings.com.au

"Elsewhere, stock exchanges stagger and currencies crumble, politicians of all persuasions rant and roar, but in Finland two Hungarian brothers Csaba and Géza Szilvay, adapting Kodaly's choral method of music education to the strings, maintain an uninterrupted flow of superbly disciplined players - young fiddlers on the roof of the world - whose corporate warmth of tone would melt the heart of the Snow Queen."

The Scotsman

From: davidbanney@optusnet.com.au
Subject: Géza Szilvay in Australia
Date: 9 August 2010 11:22:56 AM
To: bkardos@bigpond.net.au

Dear Béla,

I am writing to inform you of the forthcoming Australian tour of the eminent Hungarian musician Géza Szilvay.

Born in Hungary, Géza has worked in Helsinki for over thirty years as a string teacher, conductor, author and television host. I have attached information about Géza, his tour, and his unique violin teaching methodology.

Géza's list of achievements is extraordinary, and extends well beyond music - he was a member of the 1968 Hungarian Olympic ski team and holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Budapest.

Recognition for his worked work has included awards in both Hungary and Finland:

- Hungarian State Award for Cultural Activity (1990);
- International Kodály Prize (2007);
- Scandinavian Record of the Year
- Knight Order of the Finnish Lion (1981);
- Culture Prize of Finland (1983) and
- the Culture Prize of Helsinki in (1995).

I am sure that Géza's Australian tour may be of interest to many of your members. Please pass on this information to anyone that you think may be interested.

Further, if there is any way that the Hungarian Council would like to be involved in his tour, please let me know. Géza will be in Sydney from Oct 4-8, and in Newcastle from Sept 13-20. His tour will include seminars, teaching demonstrations, and concerts. Géza will be a keynote speaker at the Australian National Kodály Conference (26-29 Sept) in Melbourne, during which time he will accept the position of the first ever Patron of the Kodály Music Teachers Association of Australia.

Géza's tour is being coordinated by me and a colleague from Queensland, Yuri Djachenko, to whom I have copied this email.

If you would like more information, please contact me – David Banney, 02 4952 2330 or 0448 522 335.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Many thanks
David Banney