



## KODÁLY MUSIC TEACHER WINS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AWARDS SCHEME

The results of the "What's On 4 Little Ones" Awards 2008 have just been announced, and Nikhil Dally's Stepping Notes Music School (part of the Kodály Music school of Runnymede - with branches in Egham and Windsor) has been named as the winner in the Best Local Activity category.

The award programme, which is sponsored by children's food company Organix, aims to celebrate the best pre-school activities across the UK, as voted for by parents.

Stepping Notes is a music school for children aged 2 to 8. Devised and taught by Nikhil Dally, and inspired by the philosophies and methods of Kodály, Jaques-Dalcroze and Géza Szilvay, Stepping Notes helps children to develop a sensitive inner ear, discover and develop their singing voice, and acquire the musicianship skills necessary to start to read music and learn an instrument. In Stepping Notes, children are invited into a stimulating environment defined by the symbolic use of colour, full of characters and exciting props, in which they become active participants through singing and developmental movement.

Alison Berry, whose three children attend Stepping Notes classes, says: "The classes are nothing short of brilliant - the active and original teaching methods Nikhil uses are truly inspirational, and seeing the children responding and developing is testament to their enjoyment of the classes."

And Una Brown, whose two children attend Stepping Notes, says: "I do believe that inspirational teachers should be championed: I honestly find it difficult to put into words how fortunate we are to have stumbled across Stepping Notes. Through [Nikhil's classes] we have entered into a fantastic and creative musical adventure that has greatly enhanced all our lives."

Nikhil Dally, Principal of Stepping Notes, says: "I am delighted to receive this award. It is heartening that the parents who voted for me clearly recognise the importance of proper musical training and sound pedagogy when choosing what sort of musical education to give their young children. This award also shows that music education concepts such as those of Kodály and Dalcroze, far from being esoteric and boring, are sufficiently flexible and broad-reaching that in the right hands they can have popular appeal. I hope that more parents will recognise that giving their children an expert musical education can be entirely consonant with them having a lot of fun!"

TO FIND OUT MORE, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.DALLY.ORG.UK/STEPPINGNOTES](http://WWW.DALLY.ORG.UK/STEPPINGNOTES), OR CONTACT NIKHIL DALLY ON 01932 241196 OR AT [NIKHIL@DALLY.ORG.UK](mailto:NIKHIL@DALLY.ORG.UK).