



HELLENSMUSIC

12 to 17 May
Herefordshire, UK

HELLENSMUSIC MASTERCLASS COURSE 2020

Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello & Clarinet





Class of 2019

ABOUT

Hellensmusic is a music festival that takes place every May in and around Hellens Manor, Herefordshire. Its aims are threefold: to create opportunities for world-class musicians to collaborate outside the concert circuit and explore new ideas; to provide a platform for talented music students from all over the UK and beyond to learn from leading experts; and to bring great music to this corner of England, inspiring local audiences.

Hellensmusic Masterclass Programme consists of six days of intense learning, with individual masterclasses, chamber music classes and music improvisation sessions taught by the Festival's resident artists. The course culminates in two final concerts where students will have the opportunity to perform some of the pieces they worked on during the week and play alongside their tutors in chamber music ensembles.

Our aim is to create a rich and inspiring musical week that can fast-track meaningful learning. We create a welcoming environment where everyone is warmly encouraged to explore, be curious and enjoy music to the fullest. Beyond the masterclasses, students have the chance to engage with their tutors at meals and breaks and can see them in action at rehearsals and performances. This provides a unique opportunity for informal learning, which sets Hellensmusic apart from other short courses.



"An invaluable experience. I feel I gained so much knowledge from the tutors and learnt so much in such a short time. It has been a wonderful, encouraging environment in which to learn"

THE TEAM

We are proud to have a team of resident artists who are not only acclaimed performers but also committed and passionate teachers.

Máté Szücs, viola

Joint Artistic Director of Hellensmusic, former Principal Viola of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, professor at the The Geneva Haute école de musique.

Maya Iwabuchi, violin

Joint Artistic Director of Hellensmusic, Leader of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, former Leader of the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Joseph Špaček, violin

Solo violinist and Concertmaster of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra.

Guy Johnston, cello

Winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year award in 2000. Internationally renowned soloist and chamber musician, currently serving as an Associate Professor of Cello at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester New York.

Matthew Hunt, clarinet

Solo Clarinetist of Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Member of Ensemble 360.

Christian Blackshaw, piano

Julien Quentin, piano

Olga Sitkovetsky, accompanist



"The fact that the Festival isn't too big was great, as it helped us to get to know each other better and cooperate more successfully. I loved the moments when we met over the excellent food to have inspiring conversation."

COURSE STRUCTURE

Over six days students will take part in a series of individual masterclasses, chamber music classes and improvisation sessions. They will also have time to practice and rehearse together. There are four pianos at Hellens and various spaces that are available for rehearsal at all times.

INDIVIDUAL MASTERCLASSES

Students will have two to three individual masterclasses during the week.

CHAMBER MUSIC MASTERCLASSES

A wonderful chance to play side by side with the tutors. There will be four mixed ensembles with students and teachers, with three classes per group before the public performances on Sunday 17 May. Repertoire to be sent in advance.

IMPROVISATION SESSIONS

Máté Szücs and Julien Quentin will encourage students to loosen up and explore music improvisation.

SUNDAY CONCERTS

To finish off the course, students will take the stage on Sunday 17 May for two concerts where they will perform the solo and chamber repertoire they worked on during the week.



“Meeting the musicians was incredible, one of the musical highlights of my life. I learnt an enormous amount and was more inspired than ever.”

APPLICATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION

DATES AND COSTS

The course **starts at 9am on Tuesday 12 May and finishes on Sunday 17 May 7pm, after the final concert.** Students are expected to arrive at Hellens on Monday 11 May afternoon and are welcome to remain until Monday 18 after breakfast.

We charge £100 per head as confirmation of attendance. This is to ensure that worthy students are not left out inappropriately, as we have had some students who having committed to the course then failed to appear. We cover all costs related to masterclass fees, and provide accommodation and meals during the course. Transportation costs are not covered by Hellensmusic.

REGISTRATION

In order to apply students need to fill in an online application form where they are required to include their **CV and TWO recordings of their playing in MP3 format.**

The form can be accessed here: <https://form.jotformeu.com/92792221064354> or through our website <http://hellensmusic.com/festival/masterclasses/>

Places are limited, so we strongly encourage you to register your interest with us as soon as possible. **The deadline for applications is 18 December 2019.**



VENUE & ACCOMMODATION

VENUE

Hellensmusic takes place in Hellens, a much loved and lived-in 12th century Manor house located in Herefordshire. It is no great stately house, but an ancient place where the watch-tower, monastery, fortified manor and farmhouses, Tythe Barns and Georgian stable have served their purposes in turn through the millennium. The knot and cloister gardens, a yew labyrinth, a short woodland and pond walk all contribute to a magical environment that entrances every coming visitor.

Hellens provides an ideal setting for the Masterclass Programme. The beautiful house and the stunning surroundings contribute to create a great atmosphere of space, freedom and conviviality during the course.

The Festival's heart is the fine 16th century Tythe Barn (also known as the Great Barn), with its Steinway D concert grand. Masterclasses will take place there as well as in the music room and the living room of the main house.

ACCOMMODATION

Students will stay in the beautifully restored Georgian Stables. The stables are equipped with bath/shower-rooms, a communal kitchen for breakfast and tea and a central common room with a grand piano. Main meals will be shared with musicians and staff in the main house.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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  /HELLENSMUSIC



"Amazing! One of the best experiences of my life. Solo masterclasses were absolutely fantastic. I have learnt so much! I'm so excited to process and practice everything that I've learnt here."

BIOGRAPHIES

MAYA IWABUCHI, violin

Maya Iwabuchi began violin lessons at the age of two, her main influences being Professors Alice Schoenfeld and Rodney Friend. Since her first concert at age five, Maya has enjoyed an international career as a solo violinist, chamber musician and orchestral leader.

Her performances have taken her to major concert halls world-wide such as the Royal Festival Hall and Wigmore Hall in London, the Philharmonie in Berlin, Musikverein in Vienna, Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Lincoln Centre and Carnegie Hall in New York City, and Suntory Hall in Tokyo.

Highlights for Maya as soloist include appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and at the Leipzig Gewandhaus. She has appeared in numerous renowned music festivals such as the BBC Proms, Aldeburgh, Bath and Chichester, and the International Musicians Seminar in Prussia Cove. The Strad has hailed her playing as 'simply brilliant' and the Times 'gorgeous'.

A committed chamber musician, Maya has been a member of Mobius Ensemble since 2004, and she has collaborated with artists such as the Vellinger Quartet, Steven Isserlis and Gil Shaham. She has been regularly invited to lead orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony, BBC Symphony and the John Wilson Orchestra.

Maya served 18 distinguished years as Leader of the Philharmonia Orchestra from 1994 to 2012, having led for major conductors such as Sir Andrew Davis, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Gustavo Dudamel, Lorin Maazel, Riccardo Muti, Andris Nelsons, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Kurt Sanderling.

Maya moved to beautiful Scotland in 2010 where she was appointed as Leader of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in 2011, and is currently a faculty member of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Maya plays on a violin by Fabriano.

JOSEF ŠPAČEK, violin

Josef Špaček is one of the most accomplished violinists of his generation. He studied with Itzhak Perlman at The Juilliard School in New York, Ida Kavafian and Jaime Laredo at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, and with Jaroslav Foltýn at the Prague Conservatory. He was laureate of the International Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels, and won top prizes at several competitions, such as the Carl Nielsen International Violin Competition (Denmark) and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions (New York).

Highlights during the 2017/18/19 seasons include a return visit to the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra and Marc Albrecht, as well as debuts with the Orchestre Philharmonique du Capitole de Toulouse and Thomas Søndergård, the Bamberger Symphoniker and Manfred Honeck, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Maxim Emelyanchev and the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra and Michael Sanderling. He continues to appear as soloist of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra for concerts, conducted by Semyon Bychkov, Jakub Hrůša and Thomas Adès.

Previous highlights include concerts with the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI Torino and James Conlon, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and Jiří Bělohlávek, the Konzerthausorchester Berlin and Thomas Sanderling, his Amsterdam Concertgebouw debut with the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra and Thomas Søndergård, his Tokyo debut with the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and Jakub Hrůša.

Other conductors he works with include Semyon Bychkov, James Conlon, Christoph Eschenbach, Asher Fisch, Valery Gergiev, Roy Goodman, Jakub Hrůša, Manfred Honeck, Eliahu Inbal, Jun Märkl, Rossen Milanov, Tomáš Netopil, Thomas Sanderling and Thomas Søndergård.

Josef Špaček gives recitals and takes part in chamber music festivals in Europe (among others at the Rudolfinum in Prague, Konzerthaus in Vienna, Evian Festival, Kaposfest and Schloß Elmau), Asia and the USA (among others at Kennedy Center, Washington D.C., La Jolla, San Diego, ChamberFest Cleveland and Nevada Chamber Music Festival).

Supraphon released highly praised recordings of the violin concertos of Dvořák and Janáček, and of the Fantasy of Suk, with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Jiří Bělohlávek, as well as a recital disc with works for violin and piano by Smetana, Janáček and Prokofiev with pianist Miroslav Sekera. In 2010 he recorded works by H.W. Ernst for Naxos. His first CD, which was released in 2006, includes a complete recording of the Sonatas for Solo Violin by Eugène Ysaÿe.

He serves as concertmaster of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, the youngest in its history. The orchestra has named him "Associate Artist" as of January 2016.

MÁTÉ SZÜCS, viola

Máté Szücs was born into a musical family in Debrecen in Hungary in 1978, where he started his violin studies with Zs. Szesztay. At the age of eleven he won the Special Prize of the Hungarian Violin Competition for Young Artists. Not much later he won the First Prize of the Violin Competition of Szeged and the First Prize for the Best Sonata Duo of the Hungarian chamber music Competition.

He was seventeen when he changed from the violin to the viola and graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, and the Royal Conservatory of Flanders, with the highest distinction. Thereafter he undertook a session at the Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth in Waterloo, where he obtained his diploma with the Chapelle's highest distinction. He later graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp again, with the Conservatory's highest distinction.

He is a member of various chamber music groups and ensembles of which the most prestigious are Sebastian Strings chamber orchestra, Con Spirito piano quartet, Mendelssohn ensemble, Oxalys ensemble, Trio Dor, Enigma Ensemble and Fragments ensemble. He has been a Solo viola player at various prestigious orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Flanders, the Bamberger Symphoniker, the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden, the Frankfurt Radio Orchestra and the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen.

Between 2007-2009 he taught at the University of Music in Saarbrücken; and since the summer of 2006 he is professor in residence at the Thy Chamber Music Festival in Denmark.

Since September 2011 he is Principal Viola at the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, where he has also been teaching viola since September 2013 at the orchestra academy.

GUY JOHNSTON, cello

Guy is one of the most exciting and versatile British cellists of his generation. Born into a musical family, Guy joined his brothers in the world-renowned choir of King's College, Cambridge, where he recorded the famous carol *Once in Royal David's City*, under Stephen Cleobury. He went on to achieve important early successes through the BBC Young Musician of the Year title, the Guilhermina Suggia Gift, the Shell London Symphony Orchestra Gerald MacDonald Award and receiving a Classical Brit Award at the Royal Albert Hall. His mentors have included Steven Doane, Ralph Kirshbaum, Bernard Greenhouse, Steven Isserlis and David Waterman.

He has made many important debuts including at the First Night of the BBC Proms playing the Elgar Cello Concerto with the BBC Symphony Orchestra/Slatkin, the Brahms Double Concerto in the Philharmonie with the DSO Berlin/Valchua, Tchaikovsky Rocooco Variations with the St. Petersburg State Capella Orchestra/Dmitriev in St. Petersburg, Elgar Cello Concerto with the Osaka Philharmonic/Otaka in Tokyo, and the Schumann Concerto in the Barbican Centre with the English Chamber Orchestra/Tilbrook. Other collaborations in the UK have included Don Quixote with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain/Tortelier, the Walton Cello Concerto with the BBC Philharmonic/Tortelier, Dvorak Concerto with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra/Seal, Britten's Cello Symphony with the Northern Sinfonia/Ticiatti, and Shostakovich Cello Concerto No. 2 with the RTE National Orchestra/Altschuler in Dublin.

In recent seasons Guy has worked on an education project with the Wigmore Hall, where he performs regularly. He was Principal Guest Cello of the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Guest Principal Cello of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam. Concerto performances have included the Elgar Cello Concerto with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra/Michael Seal, Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations with the Royal Northern Sinfonia at the Sage, Gateshead, the Elgar Cello Concerto with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra/Alexander Shelley at Cadogan Hall and in the St Magnus Festival with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra/Sian Edwards, and works by Tavener, among others. More recently he has performed the Elgar Concerto with Sir Roger Norrington, Shostakovich's 1st Cello Concerto with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra/Rumon Gamba, the Walton Cello Concerto with the BBC Philharmonic and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestras, both conducted by John Wilson.

A founding member of the Aronowitz Ensemble, Guy is an enthusiastic chamber musician and has enjoyed appearances abroad at the Delft, Moritzburg, Spoleto, Gaia and Bad Kissingen Festivals as well as Cheltenham, Bath, and City of London Festivals at home with numerous musicians including Alison Balsom, Janine Janssen, Lawrence Power, Anthony Marwood, and with the Belcea, Endellion and Navarra String Quartets. Guy is also the founding Artistic Director of the Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival.

In addition to a busy and versatile career as an international soloist, chamber musician and guest principal, Guy is an inspiring leader of young musicians. Guy is a patron of several charities which promote music education with schoolchildren and young people including Music First, and he also works in collaboration with the Musician's Benevolent Fund. He is a Professor of Cello at the Royal Academy of Music.

Guy's debut recital CD on Orchid Classics was released to widespread critical acclaim. The disc includes works by Bridge, Britten, and a new work by Mark Anthony Turnage. The New York Times review of this disc refers to 'Mr. Johnston's burnished and varied sound...'. Other recordings include concertos by David Matthews and Edward Gregson for Chandos with the BBC Philharmonic/Gamba and BBC Concert Orchestra/Tovey. Gramophone described Guy as 'an impeccable soloist' and BBC Music Magazine observed: 'Guy Johnston's playing is searchingly beautiful and accurate.'

Guy plays a 1714 David Tecchler cello.

MATTHEW HUNT, clarinet

One of Britain's leading clarinetists, Matthew Hunt is a distinctive musician, renowned for the vocal quality of his playing and his ability to communicate with audiences. He holds the position of solo clarinetist with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, and is a member of the Sheffield based chamber group Ensemble 360. A very keen chamber musician, he appears regularly with Meta4, the Chiurascuro and Elias quartets, Thomas Adès, Pekka Kuusisto, Emily Beynon, Nicholas Altstaedt, Alina Ibragimova, and La Bande de La Loingtaine. He has also appeared as a guest of the Berlin Philharmonic as a soloist in their series at the Berlin Philharmonie Kammermusik Saal.

Matthew's plans for this season include appearances at festivals including Lockenhaus (Austria), Kaposvar (Hungary), Kuhmo (Finland) and Charlottesville (United States), and concerto appearances with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie and Paavo Jarvi, and with the Georgian Chamber Orchestra, Ingolstadt. As an orchestral musician, Matt a regular guest principal with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields and has appeared as a guest principal with the Concertgebouw and BBC Symphony Orchestras and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

Matthew's recording for ASV of Mozart's Clarinet Quintet with the Elias quartet was met with critical acclaim, with the BBC Music Magazine hailing it with five stars as "the Benchmark recording of this much recorded work".

CHRISTIAN BLACKSHAW, piano

A deeply passionate and sensitive performer, Christian Blackshaw is celebrated for the incomparable musicianship of his performances. His playing combines tremendous emotional depth with great understanding and, in the words of one London critic, "sheer musicality and humanity".

Following studies with Gordon Green at the Royal College Manchester and Royal Academy, London and winning the gold medals at each, he was the first British pianist to study at the Leningrad Conservatoire with Moisei Halpin. He later worked closely with Sir Clifford Curzon in London. Christian Blackshaw has performed with many leading orchestras including London Philharmonic, Hallé, City of Birmingham Symphony, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Royal Scottish National, BBC Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, Academy of St Martin in the Fields, St Petersburg Philharmonic, Moscow Philharmonic, Mariinsky Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Israel Philharmonic, Dresden Staatskapelle, Rotterdam Philharmonic and RAI Torino. Conductors with whom he has collaborated include Sir Simon Rattle, Valery Gergiev, Gianandrea Noseda, Yuri Temirkanov and Sir Neville Marriner.

Recent notable debuts include Berliner Philharmoniker, Tokyo and the Aldeburgh Festival. Valery Gergiev invited him back to the White Nights Festival to perform the Mozart sonata cycle and he returned to the South Bank International Piano Series. His hugely acclaimed Wigmore Hall Mozart sonata series concluded in early 2013 and subsequently Wigmore Hall Live have issued Volumes One and Two of this four double CD cycle. Critics have been unanimous in their praise, describing the "landmark" recording as "captivating" and "magical".

JULIEN QUENTIN, piano

French pianist Julien Quentin has established himself as a versatile and sensitive musician, exhibiting great maturity and poise. His remarkable depth of musicianship and distinct clarity of sound coupled with flawless technique, make him an artist in demand as both soloist and chamber musician.

He has made successful recital debuts in Paris (Salle Cortot), Geneva Conservatoire Hall and Bargemusic in New York. He has appeared as soloist with the Wroclaw, Qatar and Córdoba Philharmonic Orchestras under such conductors as Tommaso Placidi, Paul Biss, and Han-Na Chang. Regularly invited to numerous international Festivals, Quentin's appearances in Europe include Verbier, Lucerne, Gstaad, Montreux, Zermatt, Dresden, Braunschweig, Schwetzingen, Ludwigsburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Beethovenfest Bonn, Radio France Montpellier and Saint Denis. A regular performer in North America, he has appeared at the Ravinia, La Jolla and Mostly Mozart Festivals in the United States. He has broadcast in Canada, United States, Japan and in countries across Europe.

Julien Quentin is a keen chamber musician and has collaborated with artists such as Nicolas Altstaedt, Emanuel Ax, Lisa Batiashvili, Gautier Capuçon, Corey Cerovsek, Martin Fröst, Sol Gabetta, David Garrett, Nelson Goerner, Ilya Gringolts, Gary Hoffman, Angelika Kirchschrager, Lawrence Power, Dmitry Sitkovetsky, Sayaka Shoji, Kirill Troussov, and István Várdai.

Touring internationally in America, Australia, Japan, the Middle East and throughout Europe, he has appeared at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Wigmore Hall in London, the Louvre in Paris, the Baden-Baden Festspielhaus, the Berlin Philharmonie, the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, the Konzerthaus in Vienna, in Avery Fisher, Alice Tully and Carnegie Halls in New York. He has recorded for EMI, Channel Classics and Sony RCA.

He also performed on the harpsichord, appearing in concert with Sarah Chang and the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra, as well as with Thomas Quasthoff and under the baton of Leonidas Kavakos.

Born in Paris, Julien Quentin started his studies at the Geneva Conservatory with Alexis Golovine. In 2002, he completed his Artist Diploma under the tutelage of Emile Naoumoff at Indiana University, where he held a one-year teaching position as Assistant Instructor and was a recipient of the Presser Award. In 2003, he received his Graduate Diploma from the Juilliard School, where he studied with György Sándor. He has also worked with Paul Badura-Skoda, Nikita Magaloff, György Sebök and Earl Wild.

Julien Quentin now lives in Berlin. With 'Musica Litoralis' at Piano Salon Christophori, he has managed to create an increasingly successful concert series reminiscent of the salons of the Roaring Twenties. With visual artists, he explores new artistic visions bringing various art forms together. He also pursues his interest in other genres of music through his collaboration with pianists Kelvin Sholar and Francesco Tristano, or producers Guti, dOP and Cesar Merveille in projects ranging from improvisation to producing electronic music

OLGA SITKOVETSKY, accompanist

Born in Moscow, Olga Sitkovetsky studied piano and concertmaster skills at the College of Music affiliated with the Moscow Conservatory, and later at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. Sitkovetsky has performed as an accompanist in numerous international violin competitions and has received numerous awards for her accompaniment.

She has also participated in the International Musical Academies in Tours (France), Kent (England) and in summer courses in Italy and France. In 1991, Lord Menuhin invited her as an accompanist to the Yehudi Menuhin School of Music in Surrey, England. Her work at the School from 1991-2000 has helped a number of students to win top prizes at major international competitions. Sitkovetsky now enjoys accompanying these former students, now accomplished musicians, in their tours all over the world. She participated in a recording celebrating Lord Menuhin's 80th birthday.

In July 1998, Sitkovetsky made her official American debut at the renowned Newport Music Festival in Rhode Island. Sitkovetsky has toured extensively in Italy, Belgium, Gibraltar, Japan, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. She has performed in some of the most prestigious concert venues in the world including Carnegie Hall, the Concertgebouw, the Salzburg 'Mozarteum' and the Vienna Konzerthaus. She has also recorded with various artists for Angel Records/EMI Classics, Dynamic, Naxos and ASV.