



HELLENSMUSIC

9 to 15 May 2022  
Herefordshire, UK

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# HELLENSMUSIC MASTERCLASS COURSE 2022

Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello & Clarinet

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Class of 2019

## **ABOUT**

Hellensmusic is a 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 encouraged to explore music, and develop curiosity to the fullest. Besides the masterclasses, students have the opportunity to engage with their tutors at meals and breaks, and to see them in action at rehearsals and performances. This provides a unique opportunity for informal learning, which sets Hellensmusic apart from other 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.

### **Agnes Langer, violin**

Solo violinist and leading member of the Mainzer Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra.

### **Alice Neary, cello**

Principal Cello of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales; former member of the Gould Piano Trio; Regularly invited to the International Musicians Seminar at Prussia Cove and the Marlboro Music Festival.

### **Matthew Hunt, clarinet**

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

### **Christian Blackshaw, piano - Festival Founder**

Soloist; has performed with Valery Gergiev, Simon Rattle, Neville Marriner; his recent triumphant debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Yannick Nézet-Séguin in 2019.

### **Julien Quentin, piano**

Soloist; has appeared at the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), The Wigmore Hall, the Gewandhaus, the Berliner Philharmonie, Carnegie Hall, and the Verbier Festival Orchestra.

### **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 15 May. Repertoire to be sent in advance.

### **IMPROVISATION SESSIONS**

Máté Szücs, Matthew Hunt 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 15 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 2pm on Monday 9 May and finishes on Sunday 15 May 7pm, after the final concert. Students are expected to arrive at Hellens on Monday 9 May midday and are welcome to remain until Monday 16 after breakfast.

The fee for the course is £200. This includes all costs related to masterclass fees, 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.jotform.com/212833724624354> 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 17 December 2021.



## **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 visitors.

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 with its Steinway D concert grand. Masterclasses will take place there as well as in the music room and other rooms in 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 piano. Main meals will be shared with musicians and staff in the main house.



## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Aixa Figini

General Manager

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*“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 was a member of the acclaimed Mobius Ensemble from 2004 to 2017, 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 Fabrizio Senta from Turin, circa 1680.

## **AGNES LANGER, violin**

Agnes Langer is a Hungarian violinist born in Budapest. She moved to Germany at quite a young age to study with Anne Shih at the Hochschule für Musik, Mainz, where she finished her Master's degree in 2020. Being a participant at masterclasses like IMS Prussia Cove and Casalmaggiore International Festival, she has been inspired by teachers like Gerhard Schulz, Boris Belkin, Taras Gabora and Nai-Yuan Hu.

Agnes is a prizewinner of several international competitions, such as the Bartok World Competition, the Spivakov International Competition and the Yankelevich International Competition. She has performed all over the world with orchestras like the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia, the Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Liszt Chamber Orchestra and the Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn. Her Moscow debut with the first Shostakovich Concerto at the Svetlanov Hall was in 2017 with the NPR under Mihhail Gerts. She has performed in Taiwan, in Canada, at the „Spivakov Invites” Festival in Russia, where she performed the Brahms violin concerto with the NPR under Vladimir Spivakov and was a guest artist at festivals like the Colmar Festival in France, the Kaposfest and the Festival Academy in Budapest. Her chamber music partners include Istvan Vardai, Kristof Barati, Jose Gallardo, Maxim Rysanov, Barnabas Kelemen and Maximilian Hornung.

Agnes plays on a fine instrument loaned to her by the Peter Eckes Kulturstiftung, made by Nicola Gagliano in 1782.

## **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.

## **ALICE NEARY, cello**

Alice enjoys a varied performing career as a chamber musician and principal cellist of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Familiar to listeners of BBC Radio 3, she has performed at major festivals including BBC Proms chamber series, Malboro (USA), Bath International, Santa Fe (USA) and Lofoten and played concertos with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Orchestra of Welsh National Opera, Liverpool Philharmonic and Israel Symphony. Her discography includes the Mendelssohn cello sonatas and concertos by Howells, Patterson and Tovey.

Alice was a member of the Gould Piano Trio from 2001 to 2018 - career highlights include the complete piano trios of Beethoven, Schubert and Dvorak at the Wigmore Hall, the commissioning of new works from Sir James MacMillan and Mark Simpson, regular tours and over 25 CD releases.

Alice collaborates with pianists Viv McLean, Benjamin Frith, Robin Green and Daniel Tong and has appeared as guest cellist with the Nash Ensemble, Ensemble 360 and the Endellion quartet. Regular visits to International Musicians Seminar at Prussia Cove provide ongoing inspiration.

Alice studied with Ralph Kirshbaum at the Royal Northern College of Music and, as a Fulbright scholar, with Timothy Eddy at Stonybrook, USA. As winner of the 1998 Pierre Fournier Award, Alice made her début at the Wigmore Hall in 1999.

Alice has been a tutor in cello at the Royal Northern College of Music and the Royal College of Music and is now based in her home town of Cardiff at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama where she was awarded a Fellowship in 2015. She and her husband, David Adams founded the Penarth Chamber Music Festival in 2014. Alice plays a cello by Alessandro Gagliano of 1710.

## **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 Wrocław, 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.