



HELLENSMUSIC

13 to 19 May / Herefordshire, UK

# HELLENSMUSIC MASTERCLASS COURSE 2024

Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello  
and Woodwind Ensemble  
(Oboe, Bassoon, Horn)

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Class of 2023

## **ABOUT**

Hellensmusic is a festival and masterclass course 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 the UK and beyond to learn from leading experts; and to bring great music to this corner of England, inspiring local audiences.

The Hellensmusic Masterclass Programme spans seven intensive days, featuring individual masterclasses, chamber music instruction, and music improvisation sessions conducted by the festival's resident artists. During the course students have the opportunity to play alongside their tutors in the festival's main concerts, and are invited to perform some of the solo repertoire from the week's masterclasses on the final day.

Our objective is to craft an immersive and enriching musical week that accelerates substantial learning. Students not only engage in coursework with their mentors but also interact with them during meals and breaks, and see them in action at rehearsals and performances. This distinctive approach to rigorous yet informal learning sets Hellensmusic apart, offering an exceptional educational experience.





*"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 and chamber musicians, but also committed and passionate teachers:

**VIOLIN - Maya Iwabuchi and Josef Špaček**

**VIOLA - Máté Szücs**

**CELLO - Bruno Delepelaire**

**WOODWIND ENSEMBLE - Matthew Hunt**

**PIANO - Christian Blackshaw and Julien Quentin**

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## STRINGS

### **Maya Iwabuchi, violin ([read full bio](#))**

Maya Iwabuchi is an accomplished violinist with extensive experience as both an orchestra and chamber musician. Since her debut concert at age five, Maya has established an impressive international career. She has performed in prestigious concert halls worldwide, including London's Royal Festival and Wigmore Halls, Vienna's Musikverein, and New York City's Lincoln Centre and Carnegie Hall. Her solo highlights include appearances at renowned orchestras and music festivals such as the BBC Proms, Aldeburgh, Bath, Chichester, and Edinburgh festivals. Maya's role as Leader of the Philharmonia Orchestra and her involvement with major UK orchestras highlight her exceptional orchestral leadership. Currently residing in Scotland, she serves as Leader of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and is a faculty member at Glasgow's Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

### **Josef Špaček, violin ([read full bio](#))**

Praised for his remarkable range of colours, his confident and concentrated stage presence, his virtuosity and technical poise as well as the beauty of his tone, Josef



*"I've never in my life experienced such a life changing and inspiring week of sharing and making music."*

Špaček has gradually emerged as one of the leading violinists of his generation. He has collaborated with renowned orchestras such as the Orchestre de Paris, Bamberger Symphoniker, and the Berlin Philharmoniker. His partnerships with eminent conductors include Valery Gergiev and Thomas Adès. Not only a soloist but also a devoted chamber musician, Špaček's chamber music partners encompass acclaimed artists like Gil Shaham and Yuja Wang. He is equally at home in recitals and chamber music settings, appearing at prestigious venues and festivals throughout Europe, Asia, and the USA. Špaček's recordings, including works by Dvořák and Janáček, have received critical acclaim. Serving as Concertmaster of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra until 2020, he has been recognised as the orchestra's "Associate Artist" and now focuses on his solo career.

### **Máté Szücs, viola ([read full bio](#))**

Máté is a distinguished musician celebrated for his career as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player. He served as the Principal Viola of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and achieved international acclaim for his solo performances. Máté has collaborated with renowned artists such as Janine Jansen, Frank-Peter Zimmermann, and Christian Tetzlaff, and has worked with esteemed conductors including Valery Gergiev and Thomas Adès. He is also a respected educator, his teaching experience spans various prestigious institutions and masterclass courses around the world. Since 2018, he has held the position of Professor of Viola at the Geneva University of Music and earned his Ph.D. in Arts in 2020.





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

### **Bruno Delepelaire, cello ([read full bio](#))**

Bruno began learning the instrument at the age of five. His cello education commenced with Erwan Fauré, and he later studied under Philippe Muller at the Paris Conservatoire. In 2012, he moved to Berlin, where he continued his training with Jens Peter Maintz at the University of the Arts and studied under Ludwig Quandt at the Orchestra Academy of the Berliner Philharmoniker, ultimately earning the position of First Solo Cellist with the Berliner Philharmoniker in 2013. He excelled as a soloist, collaborating with renowned conductors like Semyon Bychkov, Reinhard Goebel, and Matthias Pintscher. He has won numerous awards, including first prize at the "Karl Davidoff International Cello Competition" in 2012 and a victory at the Markneukirchen International Instrumental Competition in 2013.

### **WOODWIND ENSEMBLE (oboe, bassoon, horn)**

#### **Matthew Hunt, clarinet ([read full bio](#))**

Matthew Hunt stands as a leading European clarinetist, renowned for his emotive and distinctive playing style that resonates deeply with audiences. He currently holds the position of Solo Clarinetist with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie, Bremen, and enjoys a thriving international career as both a soloist and chamber musician. As one of the most sought-after chamber musicians in Europe, his rich portfolio includes collaborations with renowned quartets and instrumentalists such as Meta4, Chiarascuro, and Pavel Haas, and eminent artists including Pekka Kuusisto, Alina Ibragimova, and Thomas Adès. He holds a position as Chamber Music Professor at the University of Künste, contributing to the development of the next generation of musicians. His CD recording of Mozart's Clarinet Quintet has earned widespread acclaim, establishing it as a definitive interpretation of this frequently recorded piece.

Matthew Hunt will be leading the woodwind chamber music section of Hellensmusic and will be the tutor for all woodwind players participating in the programme.



*"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."*

## **PIANO**

### **Christian Blackshaw, piano ([read full bio](#))**

Christian Blackshaw, a profoundly sensitive and passionate pianist, is lauded for his remarkable musicianship and emotional depth in performance. Having trained with Gordon Green at the Royal College Manchester and the Royal Academy London, he was the first British pianist to study with Moisei Halfin at the Leningrad Conservatoire. He later worked closely with Sir Clifford Curzon in London.

As a globally sought-after recitalist and soloist, he has performed with esteemed conductors like Valery Gergiev, Sir Simon Rattle, Gianandrea Noseda, Yury Temirkanov, and Sir Neville Marriner. Blackshaw is also the Founder Director of the Hellensmusic Festival, established in 2013.

His highly praised Wigmore Hall complete Mozart Piano Sonatas series, released across four volumes, has received critical acclaim, described as "captivating," "magical," and "masterful." Recognized as one of the Best Classical Recordings of 2015 in the New York Times and among Gramophone Magazine's Top 50 Greatest Mozart Recordings.

Recent notable performances include the Mozart cycle in Tokyo, Shanghai and Beijing, a return to the Stars of the White Nights Festival in St Petersburg and debuts at the Schwetzingen and Edinburgh International Festivals. His 2019–20 season included taking the Mozart cycle to Montreal and debuting with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Yannick Nezet-Seguin. In 2019, he was honored with the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his contributions to music.





*“I have learned so much more than I would in a normal summer course. It is so refreshing to have the opportunity to speak and play with working professionals.”*

**Julien Quentin, piano ([read full bio](#)).**

French pianist Julien Quentin is celebrated for his versatility and exceptional musicianship, both as a sought-after soloist and chamber artist. His extensive career spans acclaimed performances worldwide, including renowned venues such as Concertgebouw, Wigmore Hall, and Carnegie Hall. He has collaborated with esteemed musicians including Sarah Chang, Nicolas Altstaedt, Lisa Batiashvili, Gautier Capuçon, Sol Gabetta, and Kirill Troussov, among others. In addition to his classical pursuits, he curates the innovative 'Musica Litoralis' concert series in Berlin and explores diverse musical genres alongside pianists Kelvin Sholar and Francesco Tristano. Julien's exceptional artistry was cultivated through his studies with mentors like György Sándor in Geneva and the United States. Currently he is based in Berlin, where he continues to expand his musical horizons and artistic expressions.

Julien Quentin's extensive musical background makes him a valuable addition to our chamber music masterclass course. With his experience as both a chamber pianist and soloist, students can look forward to insightful guidance in refining their chamber music performances. In addition, his incorporation of improvisation techniques into classical music provides a unique learning opportunity.



*"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 seven days students will take part in a series of individual masterclasses, chamber music classes and improvisation sessions. They will also rehearse and perform together with their tutors. 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 ENSEMBLES AND CONCERTS**

Students will have a unique opportunity to perform alongside their tutors in the main evening concerts, engaging in diverse chamber music ensembles formed both by teachers and students. Additionally, on the festival's closure day, students will be invited to present their solo repertoire in dedicated performances. All selected repertoire will be provided in advance for students' preparation.

### **IMPROVISATION SESSIONS**

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





## **APPLICATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **DATES AND COSTS**

The course starts at 2pm on Monday 13 May and finishes on Sunday 19 May 7pm, after the final concert. Students are expected to arrive at Hellens at midday on Monday 13 May and are welcome to remain until Monday 20 after breakfast.

The fee for the course is £250. 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/233023456228350> or through our website [www.hellensmusic.com/festival/masterclasses/](http://www.hellensmusic.com/festival/masterclasses/)

There are vacancies open for violin, viola, cello, oboe, bassoon, horn and piano students who are at advanced conservatory level and seriously preparing for a performing career in music, ages 18-26.

**Places are limited, so we encourage you to register your interest with us as soon as possible. The deadline for applications is 29 January 2024.**



## **VENUE & ACCOMMODATION**

### **VENUE**

Hellensmusic takes place in Hellens, a much loved and lived-in 12th century Manor house and home 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 houses, 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, in the music room and other rooms in the main house, as well as at St Bartholomew's Church at the bottom of the drive.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

Students will stay in our 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


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