



HELLENS  
MUSIC



4 to 10 May / Herefordshire, UK

# HELLENSMUSIC MASTERCLASSES 2026

Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello,  
Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Horn

[hellensmusic.com](http://hellensmusic.com)   / [hellensmusic.uk](https://www.instagram.com/hellensmusic)



## ABOUT

Hellensmusic is a **chamber music festival** taking place every May in and around Hellens Manor, Herefordshire. Each year, a group of **advanced students from conservatories across the world** are invited to become an integral part of the Hellensmusic Festival.

Led by a prestigious team of world-renowned musicians, the programme spans **seven intensive days of chamber music rehearsals, individual masterclasses and public performances**. Participants join their tutors in rehearsing and performing within the festival's main concerts, forming chamber ensembles that bring together professors and students on the same stage.

Hellensmusic gives the students **a unique and valuable experience at the beginning of their careers**, where learning takes place through music-making, exchange, and performance. Alongside their ensemble work, students receive personalised guidance in solo repertoire and have the opportunity to be featured as soloists in the festival programme.

Rehearsals, performances, and shared daily life create an informal and collaborative environment, giving students **direct insight into the artistic process**.



*"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."*

## **PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

Over seven days, students take part in chamber music rehearsals and individual masterclasses, working closely with their tutors in preparation for the festival's concerts.

### **CHAMBER MUSIC ENSEMBLES AND FESTIVAL CONCERTS**

At the heart of the course is the opportunity to perform in chamber ensembles alongside the resident artists. Students and professors rehearse together and share the stage in the festival's main evening concerts, gaining valuable professional experience in a supportive and inspiring setting. Repertoire is sent to participants in advance for preparation.

### **INDIVIDUAL MASTERCLASSES**

Each student receives two to three individual masterclasses during the week, focusing on solo repertoire and specific technical or musical aspects of their playing. They will also have the opportunity to perform selected solo pieces during the festival programme. Wind students will receive one-to-one performance masterclasses from both of our woodwind tutors.

### **IMPROVISATION SESSIONS**

Selected tutors will lead informal sessions exploring improvisation and collective music-making, encouraging listening, freedom and creativity within ensemble work.



"Amazing. The faculty were truly one of a kind and impeccable. I couldn't imagine a better week anywhere."

## **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:

### **Strings**

**Violin - Maya Iwabuchi and Charlotte Scott**

**Viola - Adrien Boisseau**

**Cello - Bruno Delepelaire**

### **Woodwinds**

**Clarinet - Matthew Hunt**

**Flute - Michael Cox**

### **Piano**

**Christian Blackshaw and Julien Quentin**

### **Collaborative piano**

**Xiaowen Shang**

## **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,*



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

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.

#### **Charlotte Scott, violin ([read full bio](#))**

A highly sought-after violinist, Charlotte Scott enjoys a distinguished career as soloist, director, and chamber musician. Her acclaimed recordings for LINN, Decca, Apple Music, and Champs Hill have been praised for their vitality and sensitivity. As a director and leader, Charlotte has performed with ensembles such as the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Musica Vitae, and Nederlands Chamber Orchestra, appearing in venues including Wigmore Hall, the Concertgebouw, and the BBC Proms. She is also a frequent guest at leading festivals such as Zermatt, North York Moors, and York Chamber Festival. Charlotte is first violinist and co-founder of the Oculi Ensemble, whose recording *Metamorphosen – Strauss Chamber Works* received five-star reviews in BBC Music and Gramophone. Formerly first violinist of the award-winning Piatti Quartet (2006–2013), Charlotte has performed internationally and recorded extensively for BBC Radio 3. She regularly gives performance classes and masterclasses at the Royal Academy of Music and Oxford University.

#### **Adrien Boisseau, viola ([read full bio](#))**

French violist Adrien Boisseau is internationally acclaimed for the beauty of his sound and the depth of his musical expression. A former student of the Paris Conservatoire, where he studied with Jean Sulem, he went on to further develop his artistry at the Kronberg Academy under András Schiff, Nobuko Imai, Steven Isserlis, Christoph Eschenbach and Ivry Gitlis. At seventeen, Adrien won First Prize and the Audience Award at the Max Rostal International Competition in Berlin, and in 2014 was named



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

*Young Artist of the Year at the International Classical Music Awards. He has since appeared as soloist with major orchestras and performed in prestigious venues including the Berlin Philharmonie, Wigmore Hall, Concertgebouw and Carnegie Hall. From 2015 to 2018, he was violist of the renowned Quatuor Ébène, collaborating with artists such as Mitsuko Uchida and Matthias Goerne. Adrien plays a viola made by Yair Hod Fainas in Paris.*

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

*Bruno Dellepelaire has been principal cellist of the Berliner Philharmoniker since 2013, praised by Der Tagesspiegel for bringing the cello repertoire to life “with clarity and fire” and described by the Berliner Morgenpost as “playing beautifully enough to make you cry.” He began studying cello at the age of five, and later trained under Philippe Muller at the Paris Conservatoire. In 2012, he moved to Berlin to study with Jens Peter Maintz at the University of the Arts and Ludwig Quandt at the Orchestra Academy of the Berliner Philharmoniker. Winner of the Karl Davidoff International Cello Competition (2012) and the Markneukirchen International Instrumental Competition (2013), Bruno has performed as soloist with orchestras across Europe, including the Berliner Philharmoniker, Münchner Rundfunkorchester, and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. An avid chamber musician, he performs with the Berlin Piano Quartet, Quatuor Cavatine, and the 12 Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic.*

## **WOODWIND**

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

*One of Europe’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 began his musical career as a chorister in Lichfield Cathedral, receiving invaluable training through hours of daily singing. Singing and singers have remained central to his inspiration – he often credits the recordings of Maria Callas as his best lessons in phrasing, colour, and drama. Since 2007, Matthew has been Solo Clarinetist of the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, and in 2020 he was*



*“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.”*

*appointed Professor of Chamber Music at the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen, Germany. He is also a member of the British ensemble Orsino and performs regularly at major festivals and concert halls worldwide. His recording of Mozart's Clarinet Quintet with the Elias Quartet was hailed by BBC Music Magazine as “the benchmark recording of this much-recorded work.*

**Michael Cox, flute ([read full bio](#))**

*Michael Cox is one of Britain’s foremost flute-players. Although born in England, he spent his childhood in Africa. He studied music at the Zimbabwe College of Music and then the Royal College of Music in London. Early competitive successes led directly to a solo career that has included concerts and recordings in all continents and performances with major orchestras and conductors. As a chamber musician he has performed with many well known British ensembles as well as being a member, at various times, of the Haffner and Albion wind ensembles, London Symphony Chamber Players and London Sinfonietta. A passionate and highly dedicated teacher, Michael Cox is professor of flute at the Royal Academy of Music in London and is sought after as a visiting consultant by institutions and by students worldwide.*

## **PIANO**

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

*British pianist Christian Blackshaw is celebrated for the emotional depth and refined musicianship of his performances. Born in Cheshire, he studied with Gordon Green at the Royal College of Music, Manchester, and the Royal Academy of Music, London, winning the Gold Medal at each. He later became the first British pianist to study at the Leningrad Conservatoire with Moisei Haffin and worked closely with Sir Clifford Curzon. He has appeared worldwide as recitalist and soloist with leading orchestras and conductors, including Sir Simon Rattle, Gianandrea Noseda, Herbert Blomstedt and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. He founded Hellensmusic Festival in 2013, where he continues to inspire new generations of musicians. His acclaimed Wigmore Hall*



“It was so inspiring and motivating to be around the other students and to work with the teachers, getting to play with such experienced professionals is priceless”

Mozart Sonata Cycle was described as “captivating” and “masterful”, with Volume 4 named one of The New York Times’ Best Classical Recordings. Christian Blackshaw was awarded an MBE for services to music in 2019.

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

*French pianist Julien Quentin is renowned for his versatility and refined musicianship, both as a soloist and chamber artist. He has performed extensively around the world in major venues such as the Concertgebouw, Wigmore Hall, and Carnegie Hall, collaborating with artists including Sarah Chang, Nicolas Altstaedt, Lisa Batiashvili, Gautier Capuçon, Sol Gabetta, and Kirill Troussov. Based in Berlin, Julien curates the innovative Musica Litoralalis concert series and explores the intersection of classical and contemporary music through collaborations with pianists Kelvin Sholar and Francesco Tristano. His artistic development was shaped by studies with György Sándor in Geneva and the United States. Julien’s broad musical background and experience as both a chamber pianist and soloist make him a valuable mentor at Hellensmusic. His creative approach, integrating improvisation within classical performance, offers students a distinctive and inspiring learning experience.*

### **COLLABORATIVE PIANO**

#### **Xiaowen Shang ([see website](#))**

*Nominated as one of BBC Music Magazine’s “Rising Stars” of classical music for 2024, prize-winning pianist Xiaowen Shang released her debut album Music of Silence on Linn Records, as part of the Royal Academy of Music Bicentenary Series. A versatile artist equally at home on piano and harpsichord, Xiaowen has performed at Wigmore Hall, the Royal Albert Hall, and the Royal Festival Hall, collaborating with leading musicians including Steven Isserlis, Brett Dean, Lawrence Power, Rachel Podger, and Dame Imogen Cooper. Recent highlights include appearances on BBC Radio 3’s In Tune, performances with her trio Temporal Harmonies Inc., and solo and chamber recitals across the UK and Europe. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Gold Medal from the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe and the Harriet Cohen Bach Prize.*



## **APPLICATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **DATES AND COSTS**

The course runs from **Monday 4 May to Sunday 10 May 2026**, concluding with the final concert at 6pm. Students are expected to arrive at Hellens by midday on Monday 4 May and to remain until after the final concert on Sunday 10 May.

The participation fee is £300, covering all tuition, accommodation, and meals during the course. Travel expenses are not included.

### **REGISTRATION**

Applications should be submitted through an online form, **including a CV and two recordings (preferably video)**.

The form can be accessed here: [Hellensmusic 2026 Application Form](#) or via our website: [www.hellensmusic.com/festival/masterclasses](http://www.hellensmusic.com/festival/masterclasses).

There are vacancies for **violin, viola, cello, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, horn, and piano students who are at an advanced conservatory level and seriously preparing for a professional career in music (ages 18–26)**.

**The deadline for submissions is 8 December 2025.**



## 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. Rehearsals and 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 in a central common room with a piano. Main meals will be shared with musicians and staff in the main house.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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