

2012 courses at Benslow Music, Hitchin, Hertfordshire. SG4 9RB.

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Fri 6 – Sun 8 Jan - Michael Axtell's Wind Chamber Music

Our friendly and attentive tutors Michael Axtell and John White help wind players improve their chamber music skills on this popular course for individuals and ready-made groups. Be prepared to be flexible! Music is provided, but you can also bring works you are especially fond of or simply interested to explore. As well as individual applicants we also welcome pre-formed groups as long as they are prepared to play with other course members.

Resident £225 Non resident £175

Sunday 15 January - One Day Wonder Workshop: Oboe, with Adrian Rowlands

Renowned oboist Adrian Rowlands offers a chance for oboists of intermediate and advanced standards to experience a day working in an informal and friendly class format. He'll address technical and interpretative issues and will also devote some time to sharing his expertise in the elusive art of reed making. Please bring pre-prepared repertoire of your choice. Lunch is included, and we begin at 9.30 am and end before 5.30 pm. Fee £85

Mon 30 Jan – Wed 1 Feb – Wind Ensembles with The London Myriads

This popular course is specifically designed for pre-formed groups. The dynamic London Myriad Ensemble offers participants boundless enthusiasm as well as expertise and insight in abundance. We'll welcome any configuration of wind or wind and piano ensemble within reason, from trio formations up to dectets. Please bring along your prepared repertoire. Resident £225 Non resident £175

We welcome The London Myriads back on an identical course from Tue 8 – Thu 10 May

Fri 9 – Sun 11 Mar - The Camden Wind Ensemble Course, with Simon de Souza and others

The Camden Wind Ensemble course, so named in honour of bassoonist Kerry Camden who led it for many years, is now spearheaded by Simon de Souza. He will lead a team of the nation's finest coaches of flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn. Participants are welcome to bring their own choice of works, but a range of mainstream and more unusual repertoire will be available. You should be an experienced sight-reader. Please note that this course is designed for individual applicants so members of pre-formed groups must be willing to mix and match as required by the tutors. Resident £225 Non resident £175

We welcome The Camden Wind Ensemble course back from Fri 15 – Sun 17 Jun

Fri 20 – Sun 22 Apr – Janet Myatt's Introduction to Wind Chamber Music

Janet Myatt introduces players, who might come as individuals or as newly established ensembles, to one-to-a-part playing in groups of similar abilities. She's an expert at finding music to suit different combinations of instruments too. Minimum standard expected is roughly Associated Board Grade 3, and Janet likes you to be a reasonable sight reader. Perhaps you are rejuvenating old skills, perhaps you have only just taken up an instrument, or perhaps you are already a competent player but lack experience in ensemble playing. Whatever the case, this is the course for you.

Resident £225 Non resident £175

Fri 18 – Sun 20 May – Janet Myatt's New Winds

This friendly course is for beginners of up to Associated Board Grade 3 standard with little or no experience of playing in ensembles - but (unless you already play another instrument) at least one year's experience of the instrument you're bringing to the course. Boost your confidence by playing in small conducted groups, and learn how to listen to those around you and how to fit into an ensemble. The accent is on informality and mutual supportiveness, and there will be ample opportunity to discuss the challenges involved in playing together as well as sorting out those technical problems. Perhaps you've taken up an instrument later in life, or perhaps you're wanting to rejuvenate old skills. Whatever the case, here's the course for you. Resident £225 Non resident £175

Fri 25 – Sun 27 May - Oboe Extravaganza with Andrew Knights and Ian Clarke on piano

Andrew Knights, author of The Oboist's Practice Companion, helps participants with everything from reeds to practice routines and warm ups to new ideas for help with articulation. There will be ensemble sessions and opportunities to work with pianist Ian Clarke on preparing solo repertoire as well as helpful discussion sessions. Players of oboe d'amore and cor anglais are just as welcome. Some repertoire may be specified in advance, but we'll inform you in good time. Resident £225 Non resident £175