

LA MARIETTE STRING MASTERCLASSES

The course

Each participant will have at least 5 individual one-hour lessons with their tutor. There are personal practice areas available in bedrooms or outbuildings. It is envisaged that participants would want to spend upwards of 3 hours per day on personal practice, in addition to their lesson, but this is entirely for each pupil to decide.

We have an accompanist for rehearsals and concerts, and there are opportunities for those who wish to play chamber music. We also organise outings to Chinon, other local châteaux, and markets, so that there is always plenty to see and do. Concerts are held in the nearby 12th century church and in the barn.

The accommodation

La Mariette is a *maison de maître*, a large house with outbuildings and garden areas on the outskirts of a small village, Parçay-sur-Vienne, about half an hour from Tours, a bit more from Angers. It is a few minutes from the larger village of L'Ile Bouchard and 15 minutes from the town of Chinon. The area is famous for its châteaux, vineyards and local cheese.

We have bicycles, table tennis, table football and internet access, and there are local tennis courts and a swimming pool. And the weather ought to be very good! Bed linen is provided but students are asked to bring their own towels.

The aims

The aim of all La Mariette courses is for every participant to have fun, to work as hard as he or she wants to, and to leave with a feeling of having made real personal progress, with new repertoire or old.



The church at Parçay-sur-Vienne

The participants

Students can be of any age or standard, but ideally sufficiently advanced to benefit from the level of teaching and the extensive time available for personal practice. Young students may wish to be accompanied by their parents. There are plenty of *chambres d'hôtes* in the area where parents might like to stay. Parents are welcome to join us for coffee each day, and to watch masterclasses. Alternatively they can just buzz off on the wine route!

The cost

The cost is £575 per participant per course. This includes lessons, all food and accommodation and transfers from airports (Tours/Angers) or train stations.

Travel

We can send details, if you require, of how to reach us: there are flights, Eurostar/TGV, or you might like to come by car. There is ample parking at La Mariette.

And finally...

We can take a maximum of 10 students for each week. If you are interested in joining us please complete the enclosed application form, or for further information contact Megan Tress, the course administrator at megantress@gmail.com or on +44 (0) 208 941 8532.

LA MARIETTE STRING MASTERCLASSES

BOOKING FORM

- 23 – 30 July 2010 (Pal Banda, Erik Houston)
- 10 – 17 August 2010 (Susie Mészáros, Naomi Butterworth)
- 19 – 26 August 2010 (Susie Mészáros, James Barralet)

Name _____ Age: _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Music: (please list any music you want to bring, and please bring the piano parts etc.) _____

Dietary requirements: (please specify any special requirements):

I enclose a cheque payable to St Ia Classics for the sum of:

- £150 (deposit)
- £575 (full payment)

Please note that deposits are non-refundable and that full payment should be made by the start of the course. If you wish to make a bank transfer please contact the Course Administrator.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please send this form with your payment to:

St Ia Classics - 138 Walton Rd - East Molesey - Surrey, KT8 0HP

Email: megantress@googlemail.com Tel: +44 (0) 208 941 8532

La Mariette String Masterclasses reserve the right to alter arrangements as necessary and cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to course participants' property or personal effects.

THE TUTORS

Susie Mészáros (violin/viola)

Susie began her musical education at the Yehudi Menuhin School. She went on to study in Salzburg with Sandor Vegh, with whom she was a regular chamber music partner. She was then appointed principal viola in his Camerata Academica. She made her Wigmore Hall debut in 1977 with Yehudi Menuhin, won Gold Medal in the Royal Overseas League competition and was a finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year. She has performed duos with Artur Grumiaux and Vladimir Spivakov and has led the Kent Opera Orchestra, the Fitzwilliam Quartet and the Prometheus ensemble. She has played concertos with orchestras in Britain and abroad, and toured extensively in Europe.

Susie has made numerous broadcasts on Radio 3, including a 2006 performance of the Tippett Triple Concerto with Levon Chilingirian, Philip de Groote and the BBC Welsh Orchestra. She has taught at the RNCM, the Purcell School and the Yehudi Menuhin School, and is a professor of violin, viola and chamber music at the RCM. She is also involved in an ongoing project in Venezuela, giving recitals and masterclasses, and is a member of the Chilingirian Quartet.

Naomi Butterworth (cello)

Naomi was a scholar at the RAM where she won all the chamber music and cello prizes including the Suggia Award, which enabled her to continue her studies with Paul Tortelier at the Paris Conservatoire and afterwards with William Pleeth at Guildhall. Subsequently she played principal cello for Richard Hickox, did continuo work for John Eliot Gardiner, worked with the ECO and CBSO and then joined the Academy-of-St-Martin-in-the-Fields with whom she played for twenty years, often as principal cello. Her solo career has embraced numerous recitals, and concerto appearances all over Europe. In chamber music she has performed and recorded extensively for the BBC and for Chandos with the Ambache Ensemble, Granville Ensemble, Wibaut Trio and the Dartington Trio. Among her TV appearances was an early involvement with the Tortelier masterclasses.

An experienced teacher, she has worked extensively with the NYO, Oxford and Cambridge music faculties, the Birmingham Conservatoire, RCM and now principally Trinity College of Music. She has also conducted and coached chamber music, most recently in the Far East. Currently she is a member of The Dartington Ensemble involving a series of concerts in the Middle East.

On a lighter note she has played piano and double bass for the Cambridge Footlights, touring with John Cleese, Graham Chapman and the rest. She is a prolific painter with various commissions and exhibitions to her credit. She is married to composer and organist Antony le Fleming.

Pal Banda (cello)

Pal Banda was born into a musical family in Budapest. He began to learn cello aged 9. At the Franz Liszt Academy of Music he studied with his father Ede Banda, as well as György Kurtág and Ferenc Rados. A British Council Scholarship took him to Prussia Cove where he pursued further studies with Ralph Kirshbaum.

In 1982 Pal received a commendation at the Moscow International Tchaikovsky Competition and the following year won 1st prize in the Popper Competition at the Liszt Academy, Budapest. In 1983 Pal was invited by Sandor Vegh to become Principal Cello in the Camerata Academica. He later became a member of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. As a soloist he has performed in his native Hungary (for radio and TV) as well as France, Holland, Denmark, Austria and Singapore, and was

a member of several ensembles including the Fitzwilliam Quartet and the Katin Piano Trio, and he was the cellist of the Allegrì Quartet for 10 years. Pal teaches at the Purcell School and has given masterclasses in the USA, Greece, Singapore, Hungary and England and was a director of the Paxos International Festival from 1999-2004. He is regularly invited as an adjudicator and is a regular participant of the International Musicians Seminar at Prussia Cove. His cello is by T&L Carcassi, 1752.

Erik Houston (violin)

Erik won a scholarship to study with Eszter Boda Katona at the RCM, aged 10. He later studied at the RAM and then continued his studies in Lubeck with Zakhar Bron. He returned to London with a Countess of Munster Award to study with Itzhak Rashkovsky. Erik has played as a soloist and chamber musician throughout Europe, in the US, Japan and Russia. Recommended by Yehudi Menuhin, he toured as soloist with the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra. This included concerts at the Vilnius Opera House and at the Lucerne International Festival. Erik has also appeared as soloist at St John's Smith Square, and the Rachmaninov Hall in Moscow. He has played chamber music at the Purcell Room, at the Schleswig Holstein Festival, and in Japan with the Menuhin Ensemble. A tour of France included recitals at Amboise, Tours and the Avignon Festival. Erik featured as concerto soloist and chamber musician at the Menuhin Festival in Gstaad for a number of years. He has given further performances in Switzerland, many of which were broadcast on radio. He has played as soloist on BBC Radio 2, and broadcast live on Lithuanian National Television.

As well as performing, Erik teaches at the Purcell School and RCM Junior Department. His pupils have played as soloists and chamber musicians in the US, Canada, Russia, Europe and the Far East and at the Royal Festival Hall, Wigmore Hall and the Purcell Room.

James Barralet (cello)

Current winner of the Landor Records competition, James is a top cellist of his generation. His recording of solo cello works by Kodaly, Britten and Roxburgh was released in 2009, the first in an ongoing partnership with Landor, and has received excellent reviews in the Strad and Classical Music magazines. He has given concerts in Europe, India, Korea and the US, and performed as soloist at UK venues including the Purcell Room, Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall and Bridgewater Hall, and at many international festivals. James's cello and tabla duo, with tabla master Sankar Prosad Chowdhury, has performed at major festivals in the UK; he has performed as soloist with the London Sitar Ensemble at the Purcell Room, and with tabla master Kousic Sen.

Awards include the 2003 RPS Julius Isserlis scholarship and the Muriel Taylor Cello Scholarship, also from the English Speaking Union, the Swiss Government, Myra Hess Trust, Tillett Trust, Denne Gilkes Trust, Bromsgrove International Competition, Countess of Munster Trust, Hattori Foundation, Haverhill Soloists Competition, Martin Music Trust and Sir John Barbirolli Cello Competition.

In 2006, James received the Soloist Diploma with distinction from the Musikhochschule Basel where he studied with Thomas Demenga. Previously, he studied with Hannah Roberts at the RNCM. He has also benefited from many masterclasses, and IMS Prussia Cove where he has studied with Steven Isserlis, Ralph Kirshbaum, Miklos Perenyi and Boris Pergamenschikow. James is a regular at the Prussia Cove masterclasses in Spring and the Open Chamber Music in September. He has also studied with Pieter Wispelwey, Robert Cohen and David Geringas.

James's arrangements for eight cello and various other combinations have been performed at festivals throughout the world.

If he finds time, James enjoys high-mountain climbing!

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Seven-day courses of music, masterclasses
and beautiful French countryside

at
La Mariette, Parçay-sur-Vienne,
Indre-et-Loire

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