

Music Making at Benslow

January – July 2010

80 years of amateur music making

Short Courses
Concerts
Events

BENSLLOW

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TRUST





A very warm welcome to Benslow Music Trust's course programme for January to July 2010.

In 1929 the Rural Music Schools Association was established in Hitchin, and to acknowledge that important link the RMSA's logo still features as part of Benslow Music Trust's logo. BMT itself has been offering music courses at Little Benslow Hills for over thirty years. We pride ourselves upon the quality of our tutors, all renowned professionals, and on our uniquely supportive and friendly atmosphere. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced player, you can meet other amateur musicians from all over the UK, Europe and beyond and share the enjoyment of making music to the best of your abilities.

Our residential courses present exciting challenges, and at the same time we also provide a calm retreat from life's stresses and strains. As well as playing, you can make new friends, wander around our lovingly tended grounds, and enjoy our hospitality and comfortable, homely accommodation.

Among the highlights of our programming this year are:

- The return of the Doric Quartet in February and a new quartet, the award-winning Heath Quartet, in June.
- A new series of Study Afternoons given by world-renowned experts and designed for anyone and everyone who likes music.
- A new course for pianists preparing to take diploma examinations, given by Serbian virtuoso Dorian Leljac.
- The introduction of the Benslow Fest, the first two of which are devoted to recorder and to banjo, mandolin and guitar.
- Two new courses for organists which will take place on the newly restored Walker organ at Hitchin Parish Church under the expert guidance of its organist Alan Childs.

- A course for brass and voices devoted to Venetian polychoral music, led by Peter Bassano and Julian Perkins.
- The return of the Benslow Baroque Opera project at Easter, culminating in public performances at Hitchin's Queen Mother Theatre.

The course list is presented this year in instrumental categories. We hope that this will make finding the course you want easier, but don't forget also to browse the other courses, where unsuspected delights like the hugely successful and congenial Obbligato course might await you. Some courses have also been given new titles. Group string quartet courses, for example, come under the heading Safety in Numbers. Because our courses are never dull, it only seems right that they shouldn't have dull names.

We always welcome suggestions for new courses, and look forward with immense pleasure to welcoming you at Benslow in 2010.

Stephen Pettitt, Head of Music
Lisa Railton Jones, Chief Executive

Become a Member - Benslow Music Trust is a registered charity and is a self funding organisation. So that we can continue to offer a full programme of courses and opportunities for amateur musicians it's vital that we continue to raise funds. To help us do this we encourage you to become a Member of the Trust, which costs just £25 per year, £40 per year for families and £300 for life membership. Please see page 35 for details of how to become a member and of the benefits membership provides.

Development Donations - We need further to extend and improve our facilities. Our Development Appeal aims to raise funds for this through various campaigns. Please contact us for details of our Buy a Brick and Room Sponsorship campaigns and of our 200 Club.

Visit our website at www.benslow.org for more details.

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Key to Benslow Standards

- Benslow Standard 0 – Absolute beginners. No previous experience necessary.
- Benslow Standard 1 – equivalent to Associated Board Grades 1 – 3
- Benslow Standard 2 – equivalent to Associated Board Grades 4 – 6
- Benslow Standard 3 – equivalent to Associated Board Grades 7 and 8
- Benslow Standard 4 – equivalent to diploma standard and above
- Benslow Standard A – course appropriate for Benslow Standards 0 to 4 inclusive
- Benslow Standard B – course appropriate for Benslow Standards 1 to 4 inclusive
- Benslow Standard C – course appropriate for Benslow Standards 2 to 4 inclusive
- Benslow Standard D – course appropriate for Benslow Standards 3 and 4

Key to Ensemble Guide

- G – Pre-formed groups are expected to work as such. Individual applicants are welcome and will be matched as appropriate.
- F – Both pre-formed groups and individual applicants are welcome. Members of pre-formed groups are asked to be flexible about spending some time working outside their own groups.
- M – Both pre-formed groups and individual applicants are welcome, but ad hoc mixing is the prevailing course ethos.
- I – Course for individual applicants

New Year String Chamber Music with the Macnaghten Quartet

4 – 7 January

MIDWEEK
COURSE

10/301

Tutors include Bernard Blay, Nick Fallowfield and Jen Lynch

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: G

Sweep away the Christmas cobwebs and get into musical gear for 2010 by studying your own choice repertoire under the guidance of members of the legendary Macnaghten Quartet.

Resident: £220 Non-resident: £185

One Day Wonder Workshop: Violas

9 January, 9 am

10/101

Tutors: Martin Outram, Julian Rolton (piano)

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

Martin Outram, viola player for Benslow regulars the Maggini Quartet, comes with pianist Julian Rolton for a transformative one day master class style session. As usual the accent is on mutual support and a relaxed environment. The day will end at 6 pm and a light, convivial lunch is included.

£75, Observers £37

String Quartets with the Bingham

15 – 17 January

10/204

Tutors: members of the Bingham Quartet

Benslow Standard: D Ensemble Guide: G

Develop your quartet's skills under the expert guidance of the versatile Bingham String Quartet. Each quartet or other string chamber ensemble will be coached by each member of the Bingham Quartet. We have space for up to ten pre-formed ensembles. Please help us if you are in a pre-formed group by booking for the entire group at once.

Resident: £215 Non-resident: £180

Afternoon Cello Orchestra

23 January, 2.30 pm

10/102

Tutor: Jen Lynch

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

In true Benslow tradition, this popular Saturday afternoon session with the experienced Jen Lynch combines fun with invaluable help with technical and interpretative issues. Music is distributed in advance, so early application is advisable. Course ends at 6.15 pm.

£26

One Day Wonder Workshop: Cellos

31 January, 9 am

10/103

Tutors: Robert Max, Daniel Smith (piano)

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

Robert Max, with the help of pianist Daniel Smith, will coach cellists one to one in a master class like environment on participants' own-choice works. You will play, take part in discussions and listen to other players, all in a friendly, relaxed and mutually encouraging atmosphere. Light lunch included.

£75, Observers £37



Basic String Playing (formerly Elementary Strings)

1 – 3 February

Tutors: Janet Hicks and Jen Lynch

Benslow Standard: 1 Ensemble Guide: 1

For improving the confidence and fluency of beginners. Most of the music won't demand more than first position playing and will be in easy keys. There'll be plenty of technical advice and help with sight-reading. This is the perfect opportunity to enjoy ensemble playing with others of your own standard. *Please note that, unusually, this course begins at 4.30 pm on Monday and finishes at 2 pm on Wednesday.*

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Music for String Orchestra

19 – 21 February

Tutors: David Bass, Janet Hicks, Jen Lynch

Benslow Standard: 2 Ensemble Guide: 1

Discover the rich string orchestra repertoire and enhance your ability to play as part of a body of strings with this popular midweek course led by our deeply experienced tutors. Ideally we prefer you to have had some previous experience of playing in an orchestra.

Resident: £ 190 Non-resident: £155

MIDWEEK
COURSE

10/207

String Quartets with the Doric

23 – 25 February

Tutors: Members of the Doric Quartet

Benslow Standard: D Ensemble Guide: G

We're delighted that the Doric Quartet, a highlight of Benslow's programme last year and one of the very finest quartets of the younger generation, are returning to work with up to ten pre-formed ensembles on this course. Please help us if you are in a pre-formed group by booking for the entire group at once. The quartet gives a public concert – free to course members – as part of the Benslow International Series on 23 February at 8 pm.

Resident: £215 non-resident: £180

MIDWEEK
COURSE

10/213

String Quartets with the Magginis

12 – 14 March

Tutors: Members of the Maggini Quartet

Benslow Standard: D Ensemble Guide: G

Benslow favourites the Maggini Quartet return for another weekend to pass on their wisdom to up to ten pre-formed string quartets. Again, please help us if you are in a pre-formed group by booking for the entire group at once. There's a public concert, part of the Benslow International Series, at 8 pm on Friday 12 March which course members can attend free.

Resident: £215 Non-resident: £180

10/219

Book by telephone: 01462 459446

Safety in Numbers:

Group Quartets

15 - 18 March

Tutor: Brenda Stewart

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

If you're slightly nervous about playing string quartets one to a part, or if you simply aren't a member of a quartet yet, Brenda Stewart's encouraging and sympathetic course is an ideal way to introduce yourself to this rich repertoire. We'll study Mozart's "Dissonance" Quartet, K465, and Mendelssohn's Quartet Op 12. Please bring your own music and number the bars yourself, starting with the first complete bar and ignoring "first time only" repeat bars in your calculations. Brenda prefers players to be at least of Associated Board Grade 5 standard, but you can still come and have fun even if you're more advanced! Resident: £220 Non-resident: £185

"Brenda Stewart is excellent. She shows how to work at the music. Staff very helpful."

MIDWEEK
COURSE

10/306

Excursions in violin and piano repertoire

19 - 21 March

10/220

Tutors: Madeleine Mitchell and Andrew Ball

Benslow Standard: D Ensemble Guide: I

Violinist Madeleine Mitchell and pianist Andrew Ball are both renowned the world over for their adventurous approach to the repertoire, so here's a wonderful opportunity for violinists, viola players, and pianists to receive expert guidance on matters of repertoire and on interpretative and technical issues. Madeleine and Andrew will also give a concert, free to course members, on the Friday evening at 8 pm.

Resident: £195 Non-resident: £160

Safety in numbers:

String playing for beginners

(formerly Foundation Strings)

22 - 25 March

MIDWEEK
COURSE

10/307

Tutors: Bernard Blay, Janet Hicks and Jen Lynch

Benslow Standard: 2 Ensemble Guide: I

A convivial midweek course taught by members of the Macnaghten Quartet and designed for those who have reached the lower end of Benslow Standard 2 (about Grade 4). We'll be concentrating on easy chamber music repertoire played en masse. We'll tell you about the set repertoire in advance, but there will also be some gentle learning challenges presented after your arrival. *Please note that this course begins at 4.30 on Monday and ends at about 2 pm on Thursday.*

Resident: £220 Non-resident: £185

String Quartets with the Alberni

23 – 25 April

10/226

Tutors: Members of the Alberni Quartet

Benslow Standard: D Ensemble Guide: G

Another of our prestigious string quartet courses, this time taught by members of the Alberni Quartet, much-loved Benslow regulars. Again we have space for about ten pre-formed string quartets and would be grateful if quartets could book through a single representative. String trios, quintets and sextets are equally welcome. The Alberni will be giving a concert on 23 April at 8 pm, part of the Benslow International Series. Course participants can attend free of charge.

Resident: £220 Non-resident: £185

*“Fantastic, as always from the Alberni.”***Safety in numbers:****String playing for beginners**

(formerly Foundation Strings)

30 April - 2 May

10/230

Tutors: Bernard Blay, Janet Hicks and Jen Lynch

Benslow Standard: 2 Ensemble Guide: I

The weekend version of this convivial course, taught by members of the Macnaghten Quartet and designed for those who have reached the lower end of Benslow Standard 2 (about Grade 4). Just as in the midweek course, we'll be concentrating on easy chamber music repertoire played en masse. We'll tell you about the set repertoire in advance, but there will also be some gentle learning challenges presented after your arrival.

Resident: £180 Non-resident: £155

Safety in Numbers:**Group Quartets**

17 - 20 May

Tutor: Jonathan Trout

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

It's Jonathan Trout's turn to take care of this Safety in Numbers course designed for those who are reluctant to tackle the string quartet repertoire one to a part. This time we'd like you to be of at least Associated Board Grade 6 standard (the upper end of Benslow Standard 2), and again we'll let you know what works are to be studied in advance. Please note that you need to bring your own music and it helps a lot if you number the bars yourself. Please start with the first *complete* bar and ignore “first time only” repeat bars in your calculations.

Resident: £220 Non-resident: £185

MIDWEEK
COURSE

10/308



Exploring Ensemble Playing

28 - 30 May

10/239

Tutors: Janet Hicks, Jen Lynch

Benslow Standard: I-2 Ensemble Guide: I

Gain more experience and confidence at playing in ensembles, and above all enjoy your music making in this course designed for those of approximately Grade 3 to 4 standards. You need to know how to shift positions, and you may be required to play music in as many as four sharps or flats. If you want to know what music is going to be worked on, please ask us nearer the time of the course.

Resident: £ 190 Non-resident: £155

String Quartets with the Heath

8 - 10 June

10/242

Tutors: Members of the Heath Quartet

Benslow Standard: D Ensemble Guide: G

The Heath Quartet, who this year (2009) won second prize in the fourth International Joseph Haydn Chamber Music Competition in Vienna (no first prize was awarded), makes its first visit to Benslow, offering expert tuition to as many as ten pre-formed quartets. Another unmissable opportunity to benefit from the best in the business. They will also be giving a concert on Tuesday 8 June as part of Benslow's prestigious International Series. Entry is free for course participants.

Resident: £220 Non-resident: £185

MIDWEEK
COURSE

Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Fest (in association with the British Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Federation)

11 - 13 June

10/243

Tutors: Chris Sands, Frances Taylor, Gerald Garcia,
Robin Garside

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

This weekend Benslow and its gardens will resound to the sounds of strumming and plucking as it becomes the home for the first time for the British Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Federation's annual summer school. An expert team of tutors is on hand to give classes in finger-style banjo, classical mandolin and guitar and mixed instruments. Please contact Henry Girvan on 01592 630374 or at henry.girvan@btinternet.com for details of courses and precise standards required.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

MIDWEEK
COURSE

Cello Orchestra

28 - 30 June

10/248

Tutor: Jen Lynch

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

The experienced Jen Lynch gathers a phalanx of musicians around her for this summer midweek course for up to sixteen cellists, who'll play music in anything from three to eight parts. There'll be the usual gentle encouragement, much expertise to call upon, and the enjoyment of working hard together in order to improve technique and gain insight into issues of interpretation. We'll tell you about what music is to be studied in advance, and advise you to apply early so that you arrive well prepared.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

The Macnaghten String Summer School and Weekend

2 – 8 July or 2 -4 July

10/502 or 10/250

Tutors include: Bernard Blay, Janet Hicks, Nic Fallowfield, Jen Lynch

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: G

You'll be coached on the string quartet repertoire by members of the legendary Macnaghten String Quartet and also be given the chance to work in larger groups on this well-established summer school. There will be workshop performances, practical demonstrations and expert advice constantly on hand. If you can't stay for the week, then there's also the useful option to make just a weekend of it.

Whole School

Resident: £400 Non-resident: £350

Weekend only

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

For other courses that might suit you see also

Early Music

Jazz, Light and Popular

Percussion

Relaxation and Exercise



Book by telephone: 01462 459446



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Chorus Clarinets

8 – 10 January

10/201

Tutor: Ian Haysted

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

The perfect course, whatever your experience. Ian Haysted works on a wide variety of repertoire for clarinet choir, which might include original pieces or arrangements of classical, jazz or rock pieces. Less experienced players gain from playing as part of a group, while more experienced players might lead sections or get to grips with different members of the clarinet family. Technical guidance is available as appropriate. Please tell us which clarinets you can bring along.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Wind Chamber Music (Middle Level)

22 – 24 January

10/205

Tutors: Michael Axtell and John White

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: M

Our 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. Please help us if you are in a pre-formed group by booking for the entire group at once.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

The Great Saxophone Experience

25 – 28 January

MIDWEEK
COURSE

10/303

Tutors: Gerard McChrystal and Friends

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: M

The accent is on friendly mutual learning on this popular course. You'll play in ensembles ranging from quartets to a whole saxophone choir, and for additional help there'll be masterclasses and technique clinics. No previous experience of ensemble playing necessary, but pre-formed quartets are welcomed. Music is provided, but you can also bring your own. Please help us if you are in a pre-formed group by booking for the entire group at once.

Resident: £220 Non-resident: £185

Fantastic Flutes

15 – 18 February

MIDWEEK
COURSE

10/305

Tutor: Zoe Booth

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

Zoe Booth's Fantastic Flutes courses have quickly proved extremely popular at Benslow. Her friendly and encouraging approach and the tips she gives will help improve any participant's playing. Music to suit everyone's standard will be provided, but you can bring your own prepared pieces too, and play them in an informal concert on the final day. There will also be some sight-reading and the chance to try piccolo and alto and bass flutes.

Resident: £220 Non-resident: £185

Oboe Extravaganza

26 – 28 February

10/216

Tutors: Andrew Knights, Ian Clarke (piano)

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

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 - we'll inform you in good time - and there'll be some exciting collaborative work with the composers' course.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

“Andrew Knights was an exceptionally brilliant teacher, full of energy and ideas to inspire the students.”

Kerry Camden's Advanced Wind Chamber Music Course

5 - 7 March

10/218

Tutors: Kerry Camden and colleagues

Benslow Standard: D Ensemble Guide: F

Be coached in ensembles small and large, and benefit from workshops and master classes given by a team of sympathetic world-renowned players, led by Kerry Camden, on flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and French horn. You can bring your own choice of works, but there will be a range of mainstream and more unusual repertoire available too. You should be an experienced sight reader.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

RecorderFest

16 – 18 April

10/225

Tutors: Alyson Lewin, Sandra Foxall, Rae Strong, Caroline Radcliffe and Jean McCreery

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: M

A brand new Benslow concept, this weekend Fest is designed to suit recorder players of all abilities. Fit in as you find! There'll be groups for beginners, middle level and advanced players, so if you discover that you are a better player than you thought you were – or the other way around - no problem. We're also hoping to include a few little extras to turn the event into the total recorder experience.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Janet Myatt's New Winds Course

27 – 29 April

10/227

Tutor: Janet Myatt

Benslow Standard: I Ensemble Guide: I

This 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 friendliness, 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: £190 Non-resident: £155

MIDWEEK
COURSE

Wind Ensembles with the Myriads

11 – 13 May

Tutors: members of the Myriad Ensemble

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: G

An exciting new course devised specifically for ready-made groups who prefer to stay in their configurations rather than mixing and matching. The Myriad Ensemble is a dynamic, young and flexible group based around the standard wind quintet configuration, but we'll welcome you if you are a trio, quartet or sextet. Bring your prepared repertoire, and please help us by booking as a complete group all at once.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Janet Myatt's Introduction to Wind Chamber Music

21 – 23 May

Tutors: Janet Myatt and colleagues

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: M

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 Associated Board Grade 3, and Janet likes you to be able 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 simply lack experience in ensemble playing. Whatever the case, this is the course for you.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

"Janet is always focused and very professional. Great tutor."

Book by telephone: 01462 459446

MIDWEEK
COURSE

10/233

Migrating from Descant to Treble Recorder

4 – 6 June

Tutor: Rae Strong

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

Most people learn to play recorders pitched in C - usually the descant - but other members of the family, the treble, bass and tiny sopranino recorder, are pitched in F. Rae Strong's accessible course will help you make the transition and have fun while you're doing it. It will cover everything from basic note learning to ensemble playing, so that you'll emerge from your stay at Benslow an altogether more versatile player.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155



Fantastic Flutes

14 - 17 June

Tutor: Zoe Booth

MIDWEEK
COURSE

10/310

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

Another of Zoe Booth's popular Fantastic Flutes courses. As always, her friendly and encouraging approach and the tips she gives will help improve any participant's playing. Music to suit everyone's standard will be provided, but you can bring your own prepared pieces too, and play them in an informal concert on the final day. There will also be some sight-reading and the chance to try piccolo and alto and bass flutes. If you couldn't make it in February, here's another chance. Or if you could, come again!

Resident: £220 Non-resident: £185

"A revelation! Absolutely fantastic!"

Kerry Camden's Advanced And Not So Advanced Wind Chamber Music Course

18 - 20 June

10/244

Tutors: Kerry Camden and colleagues

Benslow Standard: D Ensemble Guide: F

If you aren't quite sure that you're advanced enough for Kerry's Advanced Course earlier in the year, you can be confident that this course will suit you. Equally, those who are of advanced standards can rest assured that they will be challenged and play with those of compatible standards. Again, a team of sympathetic world-renowned players will coach you in ensembles small and large in workshops and master classes. You can bring your own choice of works, but there will be a range of mainstream and more unusual repertoire available too. You should be an experienced sight reader.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

For other courses that might suit you see also

Mixed Courses

Early Music

Jazz, Light and Popular

Percussion

Relaxation and Exercise





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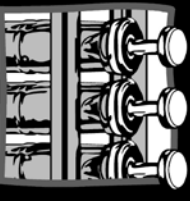
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Chopin at Benslow: The Pianists' Course

5 – 7 February

10/208

Tutor: Raphael Terroni

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

Frederic Chopin was born two hundred years ago, so in this course we'll be exploring some of the rich legacy he left us. Bring your own choice of repertoire. Benslow's regular tutor Raphael Terroni will help participants with technique and interpretation, and there'll also be a chance to learn about some of the great interpreters of Chopin.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Classical Keyboard

19 – 21 February

10/211

Tutor: Timothy Barratt

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

Benslow's beautiful silver-toned Broadwood square piano is available during Timothy Barratt's course on the keyboard music of the Classical era. Trace the piano's development and study technique and interpretation with reference to music by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and their contemporaries. A list of suggested repertoire, which might include duets and songs, will be sent to course participants before the course.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Brushed-up Bach, Smartened-up Stanley

(Organ course given in association with the parish church of St Mary, Hitchin)

26 – 28 February

10/214

Tutor: Alan Childs

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

A weekend for organists of all abilities. Experienced players can prepare any substantial work by J S Bach, while those just beginning to explore the pedals might choose a shorter Bach piece. If you're not comfortable with the pedals, you might bring along one of the many delightful Voluntaries by John Stanley, or any piece of your choice. Our course takes place at the magnificent church of St Mary in Hitchin, which houses a large, recently restored 1871 Walker instrument. There may also be visits to other notable local organs, and participants will have the opportunity of contributing to St Mary's Sunday morning services.

Resident: £205 Non-resident: £170

“Just to say “Thank you” for a great experience, it has been very enjoyable and I hope to return.”



Keyboard Launch Pad

19 - 21 March

10/221

Tutor: Kate Elmitt

Benslow Standard: 0 Ensemble Guide: I

Have you always envied those who can pick out a tune on the ivories? Do you wish you'd had piano lessons as a child? Are you a total beginner who can't read music and knows neither where nor what middle C is? Then join our intrepid participants for this hugely entertaining course run by the amazing Kate Elmitt. By the time you go home, you'll be able to play simple tunes and to read music. Please bring along The Classic Piano Course - the new piano course for older beginners, by Carol Barratt (published by Chester) as well as a notebook and some manuscript paper, which you'll find at any music shop (including John Myatt's in Hitchin). There's a follow-on course, Keyboard Lift Off, from 25 - 27 June, if your appetite is truly whetted.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Preparing for your Piano Diploma

19 - 21 March

10/222

Tutor: Dorian Lejac

Benslow Standard: 4 Ensemble Guide: I

Serbian pianist Dorian Lejac, who teaches at the Royal College of Music and at Chetham's Music School in Manchester as well as in Novi Sad, Serbia's second city, makes his first visit to Benslow to help advanced amateur pianists hone their diploma repertoire to perfection in this master class-style course before they face the examiner. A golden opportunity that shouldn't be missed.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Boldly Into the Unknown: Piano Sight Reading Made Fun

30 April - 2 May

10/228

Tutor: Christopher Roberts

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

Christopher Roberts takes the terror out of sight reading in this relaxed course, which develops the basic skills vital for reading music fluently. He caters for all different abilities, and you'll be participating actively throughout, on your own, in duos and trios, and even with a soloist.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

A Harpsichord Weekend with the Benslow Manuscript

30 April - 2 May

10/229

Tutor: Penelope Cave

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

The Benslow Manuscript, bequested to us and now in the safe keeping of the British Library, is a fascinating hand-copied selection of keyboard pieces compiled in the early eighteenth century which includes works by John Blow, Jeremiah Clarke, Willikam Croft and other notable English composers. Penelope Cave offers the chance to study style and ornamentation in these small-scale works and to compare different sources of them. We'll also look at a twentieth century suite which harks back to their time.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Keeping it Fresh - a Course for Piano Teachers

(in association with EPTA)

7 - 9 May

10/231

Tutor: Heli Ignatius-Fleet

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

In Heli's popular course, run in association with the European Piano Teachers Association as part of its professional development programme (call 08456 581054 for more information), we'll be focusing on performing issues and other pianistic challenges from a piano teacher's point of view. The best way to learn about teaching is by doing, so there'll be active music making and you'll be asked to prepare pieces from a set list. Master classes, workshops and seminars, with visiting tutors making their own input, will also be provided, and participants are given a certificate of attendance at the end of the course.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Keyboard Lift Off

25 - 27 June

10/247

Tutor: Kate Elmitt

Benslow Standard: I Ensemble Guide: I

The follow-on course for those who have experienced Kate's Keyboard Launch Pad (19 - 21 March) and have since perhaps done a little more work. You'll need to be of Associated Board Grades 1 to 3 standard and to prepare three pieces of your own choice before you come. We'll also work on sight reading and simple ensemble pieces. If you have any duets or trios that you think might be suitable please let us know at least two months before the course.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

One Day Wonder Workshop: Exploring the Organ

(Organ course given in association with the parish church of St Mary, Hitchin)

26 June, 9 am

10/105

Tutor: Alan Childs

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

Are you a pianist who's always wanted to try the organ? Is your church crying out for you to use your keyboard skills in its services? Would you like to experience the thrill and privilege of playing a cathedral-sized instrument? This new day course offers an enticing taste of the king of instruments. Explore the large, recently rebuilt organ in the lovely parish church of St Mary in Hitchin with Director of Music, Alan Childs. Light lunch at Benslow included. We expect the course to end at about 6 pm.

£85, Observers £42

The Gallic Piano:**Debussy, Ravel, Satie**

28 - 30 June

MIDWEEK
COURSE

10/249

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

Timothy Barratt, a former pupil of the legendary Vlado Perlemuter, returns to Benslow to help pianists of middling to advanced abilities hone their interpretations of music by composers like Debussy, Ravel and Erik Satie. There will be informal workshops on technique and interpretation as well as discussions about the style. You are welcome to bring your own choice of pieces, which need not be limited to the three composers mentioned, but Timothy will also be suggesting repertoire for both solo and duetting pianists.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

For other courses that might suit you see also

Early Music Jazz, Light and Popular

Percussion Relaxation and Exercise

Julian Williamson's Renaissance Choral Trail

29 – 31 January

10/206

Tutor: Julian Williamson

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

Julian Williamson's theme for this popular course is renaissance sacred polyphony from Europe and beyond. Maybe we'll even sing something from Central or South America! Be prepared to encounter a vast range of styles as you work hard on this beautiful, deeply satisfying repertoire.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Release Your Voice

26 - 28 February

10/217

Tutor: Barbara Alden

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

With her affability and light touch, Barbara Alden enables singers of all levels to address problems of tired, tense or undeveloped voices. She helps correct the habits that can interfere with free-flowing, natural singing using breathing, posture, articulation and resonance exercises. There will be some simple ensemble singing, as well as some exciting collaborative work with the composers' course. Please wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring a small hand mirror and a mat or old towel for floor exercises.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

*"Inspirational and stimulating - both tutors excellent."***One Day Wonder Workshop: Voice**

6 March, 9 am

10/104

Tutors: Graham Trew, Alan Loader (piano)

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

Graham Trew returns for another one day workshop for all singers. Bring two contrasting songs and we'll work on them in a relaxed master class atmosphere, addressing technique, interpretation and performance issues in general and specific terms. We aim to finish at about 6 pm. Light lunch included.

£75, Observers £37

Michael Smedley's Monteverdi Vespers Choral Trail

7 – 9 May

10/232

Tutor: Michael Smedley

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

Michael Smedley celebrates the 400th anniversary of Monteverdi's Vespers with a course concentrating on a capella movements from this monumental piece and on some of the motets and madrigals whose styles and approaches it reflects.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155



Jeremy Summerly's Choral Trail - From Taverner to Taverner

4 – 6 June

10/240

Tutor: Jeremy Summerly

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

Jeremy, as well as being Head of Academic Studies at the Royal Academy of Music, is one of the most distinguished choral directors in the land. Here he explores a wide range of music new and old that could be grouped together under the label 'spiritual minimalism'. So we will sing works by both John Taverner (born around 1490) and his namesake Sir John Tavener (born 1944) and much between. Jeremy's contention is that the minimalist thread in English church music has been an unbroken one for something like half a millenium. Come and see if you agree with him.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

For other courses that might suit you see also

Early Music

Mixed Courses

Jazz, Light and Popular

Percussion

Relaxation and Exercise



Obligato!

21 – 23 May

10/237

Tutors: David Campbell, Veronica Veysey Campbell, John Flinders

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: M

This joyful course explores the beguiling repertoire for soprano, clarinet and piano, although there might be an amount of time devoted to solo or duet repertoire in order to add variety to the weekend. Applications from pre-formed trios are especially welcome, but we'll also do our level best to accommodate individuals in groups of similar ability. Please prepare either Schubert's The Shepherd on the Rock or Mozart's Parto! Parto!, together with Spohr's Six German Songs (any two), Arnold Cooke's Three Songs of Innocence or John McCabe's Three Folk Songs and any own choice piece. We'll end with an informal concert given by course members of pieces selected by the tutors.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155



For other courses that might suit you see also

Woodwind and Brass

Keyboard

Vocal

Early Music

Jazz, Light and Popular

Percussion

Relaxation and Exercise

Book by telephone: 01462 459446

Baroque Chamber Music at Baroque Pitch

12 - 14 January

Tutors: Theresa Caudle and others

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: G

For both period-instrument players and those who are able to play modern stringed instruments with gut strings and baroque bows at baroque pitch (A=415 Hz). Violinist Theresa Caudle and her colleagues from Canzona coach pre-formed baroque chamber groups of wind, string and continuo instrument players. We'll try our best to match up any individual applicants with musically compatible partners. Please help us if you are in a pre-formed group by booking for the entire group at once.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

MIDWEEK
COURSE

10/203

Consorting Viols

25 - 28 January

Tutors: Alison Crum and Roy Marks

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: M

Perfect for individuals and ready-made consorts, Alison Crum's and Roy Marks's well established course will help players improve their skills by studying some of the rich repertoire of sixteenth and seventeenth viol consort music, using one player to each part. Learn about the music's structure and about how better to articulate it through applying historically appropriate techniques. If there's space available, we will consider applications from day visitors. Please help us if you are in a pre-formed group by booking for the entire group at once.

Resident: £220 Non-resident: £185

MIDWEEK
COURSE

10/302

Fifteenth Century Delectations

12 - 14 February

Tutor: Jon Banks

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

The fifteenth century repertoire, sacred and secular, is vast, varied and exquisitely beautiful. Under the gentle guidance of Jon Banks, who plays with world-renowned groups like the Dufay Collective and Sirinu, we explore this rich, alluring and surprisingly immediate world. Improve your ensemble and sight-reading skills by working in small groups with music that is both challenging and intoxicating. We welcome singers and players of lute, string and wind instruments and recorders from an intermediate standard upwards. Whether you're already familiar with the material or completely new to it, this is the course for you. Please note that we'll be singing and playing at modern concert pitch (A=440 Hz).

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

The Benslow Baroque Opera

5 - 11 April

Tutors: Judy Tarling (Orchestral Director), Julian Perkins (Choral and Vocal Director), Jack Edwards (Stage Director) and others

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

Benslow's biennial extravaganza returns, this time with Purcell's masterpiece Dido and Aeneas as its focus. Under the guidance of a first-class team of tutors, we'll be rehearsing at Benslow and at Hitchin's Queen Mother Theatre, and the course will climax in two public performances on 10 April. Participants leave after breakfast the following day. Relevant applicants will be informed of audition dates for major roles.

Resident: £410 Non-resident: £370

10/210

10/501

Matters of Style: Baroque Performance on modern strings

14 - 16 May

10/234

Tutor: Judy Tarling

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: M

Sacrilege? Not at all. Judy Tarling will show participants, who should be of intermediate to advanced standard, how it's possible to apply historical performance principles when you play music written before about 1750 on modern instruments at standard concert pitch (A = 440Hz). We'll look at music by composers like Corelli, Handel and Vivaldi as well as less familiar repertoire, and there might be some solo opportunities. Judy is a much loved Benslow regular as well as a world-renowned baroque violinist, and you'll go away with fresh insights into this wonderful repertoire. Good sight reading ability will be an advantage.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Voices and viols

14 - 16 May

10/235

Tutors: Alison Crum, Peter Syrus

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

The consort song, involving the delicious combination of voices and viols, is one of the most beautiful sonorities of the late renaissance. Come and explore some of this rich repertoire with two leading experts in the field. Singers should be competent at singing one to a part and ideally good sight readers. Viol players who sing and singers who play viols are especially welcome. We like to keep our musicians as busy as possible!

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

“Great to have such access to Judy’s wealth of experience. Tuition well-directed to the needs of the participants. Good balance of theory and practice.”

The Glories of Venice - Cori Spezzati

25 - 27 June

10/246

Tutors: Peter Bassano, Julian Perkins

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

There's nothing more splendid than the multi-choir (cori spezzati) music composed by such figures as Giovanni and Andrea Gabrieli and heard in Venice around the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth centuries. We recreate this world at Benslow, taking full advantage of the minstrels' gallery in our impressive Palmer Hall. We welcome Julian Perkins, who stepped in at late notice to teach our Baroque Choral course last year and who will be training the singers, and Peter Bassano, the renowned trombonist who is himself a descendant of a famous family of Venetian musicians.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

“Julian was both very thorough and forgiving of mistakes. He was very encouraging and also great fun. Learnt a lot.”

International Viol Summer School

17 - 22 July

10/503

Tutors: Alison Crum, Roy Marks and international guests

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: M

One of the most prestigious and well-established summer schools for viol players in the land, our International Viol Summer School offers an invaluable chance for viol players of all ages with a particular interest in English consort music to work with a team of world-renowned players for the best part of a week. There are also sessions on madrigals, consort songs, early renaissance repertoire and the art of continuo playing. Tutors ensure that those wishing to work in depth on repertoire of their own choice will be able to do so. We are looking for reasonably experienced players with good sight reading skills capable of playing at least two sizes of viol.

Resident: £355 Non-resident: £305

“Superb as always.”

For other courses that might suit you see also

Keyboard

Vocal

Woodwind and Brass

Percussion

Relaxation and Exercise



Dance Band

5 – 7 February

10/209

Tutor: Roger Moon

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

An earlier than usual slot for Roger Moon's popular Dance Band course. Resurrect the musical spirit of the 1930s and 1940s and the genre which fostered the likes of Joe Loss, Ted Heath, Vera Lynn and Al Bowlly. We'll have the chance to play some wonderful original published arrangements used by some of the local bands, and gramophone recordings, films, photos and writings of the time will help us rediscover an authentic style. We're looking for saxophones (perhaps doubling clarinet), violins, trumpets, trombones, piano, double basses, drums and guitar – and, at Roger's discretion, even the odd singer. Fluent players only, please.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Free and Easy – How to Improvise Jazz I

11 - 14 February

10/304

Tutors: Viktor Obsust and friends

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

One of Benslow's liveliest courses. If you've ever wanted to play freely, inventing your solos on the hoof, then here's a chance either to learn how from scratch or, if you've already dabbled, to improve your skills. Drummers, bassists, guitarists, pianists, vocalists and all other instrumentalists capable of playing a few two octave scales are welcome. If you play with amplification, please bring your own equipment. Jam sessions tend to evolve after the formal teaching is done each day, and the famous Benslow Bar is the place to be for that. Please note that this course begins on Thursday evening.

Resident: £220 Non-resident: £185

The Benslow Light Orchestra

(in association with the Light Music Society)

26 – 28 March

10/224

Tutors: Keith Stent, Margaret Whittall (leader)

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

There was a time when the Light Orchestra dominated the airwaves, the Winter Gardens and the pier. This popular course, led by deeply experienced Benslow regular Keith Stent, seeks to recreate that golden age. If you are an intermediate or advanced standard string, brass, wind or percussion player and either already love or want to explore this rich legacy, then join forty or so people of like mind for a weekend of pure enjoyment.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Free and Easy –

How to Improvise Jazz II

24 – 27 May

10/309

Tutors: Viktor Obsust and friends

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

Take your improvising skills up to the next level! In this midweek course learn more about basic jazz harmonies and theory and further improve the skills you've acquired in the first Free and Easy course. You don't need to have been on that course as long as you already have some experience of playing and singing and have a minimum technical ability of about Associated Board Grade 4. Drummers, bassists, guitarists, pianists, vocalists and all other instrumentalists are welcome. Again, if you play with amplification please bring your own equipment. Jam sessions in the Benslow Bar are almost inevitable.

Resident: £220 Non-resident: £185

MIDWEEK
COURSE

Book by telephone: 01462 459446

The Benslow Palm Court Orchestra

28 – 30 May

10/238

Tutors: Roger Moon, Miriam Kramer

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

The hallmark of the Palm Court Orchestra was, and is, its flexibility. Playing without conductor, we'll tackle, in time-honoured tradition, a wide range of light, popular and classical music in the expressive style typical of the genre. We welcome string and woodwind players, and at the tutors' discretion brass and piano too. Our rehearsals will be concentrated and demanding but also huge fun. String players must be able to alternate between first and second positions, and viola players particularly should be prepared for repetitive but technically challenging parts.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

Big Band Summer School

27 July – 1 August

10/504

Tutors: Paul Eshelby, Nick Care and guests

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

A wonderful opportunity to enjoy and share your love for the sound of the Big Band in the company of the like-minded. We'll cover a wide range of repertoire under the expert guidance of Paul Eshelby, trumpeter with the BBC Big Band, who has played with everyone from Ella Fitzgerald to Phil Collins via Shirley Bassey. There will be sectionals, and visiting tutors will also give some solo coaching. We're looking for saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass and drum players of intermediate standard upwards, and we'll be working alongside the Big Band Singing Summer School. We begin at 7 pm on the first day and finish after breakfast on the final day. You also get free entry to the A Night of Jazz concert on 29 July.

Resident: £355 Non-resident: £305

Big Band Singing Summer School

27 July – 1 August

10/505

Tutors: Anton Browne, Jenny Howe

Benslow Standard: C Ensemble Guide: I

If you've ever yearned to sing with the sound of a Big Band behind you, then here's your chance. Working under the guidance of Anton Browne and Jenny Howe, two of the finest Big Band singers around, you'll explore and develop vocal techniques relevant to the genre, study the art of stagecraft and presentation, discover how to make a well-known song your own, and learn about microphone technique and singing in harmony. We'd like you to prepare two standard songs from the repertoire and to bring along chord charts. We'll provide songs and duets too. A portable CD player and some kind of recording machine will also prove useful. We begin at 7 pm on the first day and finish after breakfast on the final day. You get free entry to the A Night of Jazz concert on 29 July.

Resident: £355 Non-resident: £305

“Friendly and supportive with many insights into the music. Very friendly and sociable. Very pleasant place to stay for a weekend.”

For other courses that might suit you see also

Strings

Woodwind and Brass

Percussion

Relaxation and Exercise

Rhythm Matters I

19 - 21 March

10/223

Tutor: Ravin "Raz" Jayasuriya

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

Join the charismatic Ravin "Raz" Jayasuriya for the first instalment of his new three-part Rhythm Matters course, which is designed to develop general rhythmic awareness as well as specific percussion skills. During the workshops students will be introduced to a wide range of Brazilian and Cuban percussion instruments and explore syncopation and polyrhythm. Each weekend will focus on specific instruments and musical styles. The course is equally suitable for beginners and for those with some experience of percussion playing. Although the workshops are designed as an integrated course, they also work individually. Non-percussionists who wish to develop their rhythmic skills will also benefit from Raz's expertise.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

*"Excellent course, good mix of theory and practice – and fun!"***Rhythm Matters II**

18 – 20 June

10/245

Tutor: Ravin "Raz" Jayasuriya

Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I

The second instalment of Ravin "Raz" Jayasuriya's course. Please note that to benefit from this course you need NOT have attended Rhythm Matters I. Again, non-percussionists who wish to develop their rhythmic skills will benefit hugely from Raz's expertise.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

For other courses that might suit you see also

Jazz, Light and Popular
Relaxation and Exercise



Composing Music for Amateur Players**26 – 28 February****10/215****Tutor: Stephen Montague****Benslow Standard: B Ensemble Guide: I**

We invite composers young and old, aspiring and actual, to come along to this exciting practical course in which Stephen Montague, whose works are played and recorded by the finest musicians the world over, will explore a variety of contemporary techniques and practices, using both conventional and graphic notation. We'll also be working with other courses in residence and together we'll make a piece for them to play and sing at the end of the course. You will be provided with a list of pieces to listen to in advance.

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

“(Stephen Montague’s) course has really opened my mind to modern composing which is not part of my music A level syllabus.”



Rachmaninov and Russianness

16 January, 2 pm – approx 4.15 pm

10/ST1

Tutor: Geoffrey Norris

Leading authority on Russian music, music critic and broadcaster, and author of the Master Musicians volume on Rachmaninov, Geoffrey Norris leads an informal session on the composer.

£10, £5 for full time students

The musicals of Alan J Lerner and Friedrich Loewe

20 February, 2 pm - approx 4.15 pm

10/ST2

Tutor: Dominic McHugh

Dominic McHugh, who has recently completed his doctoral thesis on My Fair Lady and who is also Editor of the leading music website **www.musicalcriticism.com**, discusses the collaboration of the work's composer and librettist.

£10, £5 for full time students

Chopin: a 200th birthday seminar

20 March, 2 pm – approx 4.15 pm

10/ST3

Tutor: Roderick Swanston

Former President of the Incorporated Society of Musicians Roderick Swanston, who is in huge demand as a lecturer around the world, comes to Benslow to lead this timely discussion about Frederic Chopin, born two hundred years ago in March 1810.

£10, £5 for full time students

Critical listening and writing

17 April, 2 pm – approx 4.15 pm

10/ST4

Tutor: Stephen Pettitt

Benslow's new Head of Music, Stephen Pettitt, a former music critic for The Times, the Financial Times, the Sunday Express and the Evening Standard, talks about the process of active listening and about how to express reactions to music and music making through the written word.

£10, £5 for full time students



Britain – the land without music?

15 May, 2 pm to approx 4.15 pm

10/ST5

Tutor: Julian Williamson

Julian Williamson, a regular tutor at Benslow, offers his thoughts on the well-known assertion made about music in Britain during the nineteenth century. Was there any truth in it, or did some other motive lie behind the common use of the phrase?

£10, £5 for full time students

“Julian Williamson is an excellent tutor and the reason I return to Benslow.”

Shostakovich's Symphonic Strategies

19 June, 2 pm to approx 4.15 pm

10/ST6

Tutor: Christopher Gayford

With particular reference to Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony, conductor and Benslow regular Christopher Gayford talks about how Shostakovich viewed the classical symphonic form and adapted it to suit his own purposes, musical and otherwise.

£10, £5 for full time students



Free Up Your Playing

8 – 10 January

10/202

Tutor: Martin Lawrence

Benslow Standard: A Ensemble Guide: I

A course for anyone who plays anything, or who sings, to any standard. Martin Lawrence, a qualified masseur and a highly sought-after horn player who works for the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, knows how to deal with the bad habits that musicians sometimes acquire. Yoga classes and other body work with and without instruments will help release tensions and free breathing, and individual attention will be given to specific problems. Participants will leave the course better able to realise their full musical potential. Please bring loose, comfortable clothing – and an alarm clock to help you arrive in time for those bracing pre-breakfast sessions!

Resident: £190 Non-resident: £155

“Very friendly atmosphere - excellent staff.”



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10/227 27 – 29 April	Janet Myatt's New Winds Course	p 10	10/243 11 - 13 June	Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Fest (in association with the British Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Federation)	p 6
10/228 30 April - 2 May	Boldly Into the Unknown: Piano Sight Reading Made Fun	p 15	10/310 14 - 17 June	Fantastic Flutes	p 12
10/229 30 April - 2 May	A Harpsichord Weekend with the Benslow Manuscript	p 15	10/244 18 - 20 June	Kerry Camden's Advanced And Not So Advanced Wind Chamber Music Course	p 12
10/230 30 April - 2 May	Safety in numbers: String playing for beginners (formerly Foundation Strings)	p 5	10/245 18 – 20 June	Rhythm Matters II	p 25
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PROGRAMME SUMMARY July – December 2009

Contact us for the latest availability, more course details and advice.

STRINGS

Macnaghten String Summer School and Summer School Weekend	3-9 July or 3-5 July
International Viol Summer School	18-23 July
International Harp Summer School	4-8 August
International Viola Summer School	4-8 August
Baroque Chamber Music at A=440	10-13 August
String Orchestra	21-23 August
Banjo Weekend	11-13 September
String and Piano Ensembles	11-13 September
String Chamber Music: Maggini Quartet	15-17 September
Bach plus - Choir & Orchestra weekend	18-20 September
Mixed Chamber Music: String, Wind and Piano	21-24 September
Cello Orchestra	25-27 September
Guitar Weekend	25-27 September
Group Quartet Workshop	5-8 October
Cello Orchestra Half-day	10 October
String Chamber Music: Bingham String Quartet	20-22 October
Intermediate Strings	26-29 October
Folk Fiddle	30 October – 1 November
String and Piano Ensembles	3-5 November
String Chamber Music: Allegri String Quartet	6-8 November
Foundation Strings	9-12 November
Viol Consorts	27-29 November
String Chamber Music: Coull Quartet	4-6 December
String Chamber Music: Members of the Macnaghten Quartet	11-13 December

WOODWIND AND BRASS

Big Band Summer School	28 July-2 August
International Flute Summer School	4-8 August
Summer Winds	17-21 August
Wind Plus Summer School	24-30 August
Clarinet Weekend	4-6 September
Bach plus - Choir & Orchestra weekend	18-20 September
Mixed Chamber Music: String, Wind and Piano	21-24 September
Woodwind Ensemble	25-27 September
Saxophone Experience	28 September - 1 October
Introduction to Wind Chamber Music	2-4 October
Wind Chamber Music (Advanced)	16-18 October
Big Band Weekend	23-25 October
Symphonic Band	30 October – 1 November
Brass at Benslow	20-22 November

KEYBOARD

Mixed Chamber Music: String, Wind and Piano	21-24 September
Kickstart Piano	9-11 October
Piano Duos and Duets	12-15 October
Refresher course for pianists	26-28 October
String and Piano Ensembles	3-5 November
Cello and Piano Repertoire to Enjoy	13-15 November
Art of Accompaniment	20-22 November

VOCAL (CHORAL AND SOLO)

Vocal Summer School	17-21 August
Singing from Scratch	11-13 September
Bach plus - Choir & Orchestra weekend	18-20 September
Sight-singing for beginners	5-8 October
West Gallery Music	23-25 October
Vocal Workshop	26-29 October
Barbershop Harmony	13-15 November

EARLY MUSIC

International Viol Summer School	18-23 July
Baroque Chamber Music at A=440	10-13 August
Bach plus - Choir & Orchestra weekend	18-20 September
West Gallery Music	23-25 October
Viol Consorts	27-29 November

JAZZ, LIGHT AND POPULAR

Big Band Summer School	28 July-2 August
Jazz Singing Summer School	28 July-2 August
Big Band Weekend	23-25 October
Learn to Improvise Jazz	13-15 November

PERCUSSION

Foundation Course in Brazilian and Cuban Percussion (Module 4)	8-11 September
Brazilian & Cuban Carnival Percussion	2-4 October

CONDUCTING

Conducting and Rehearsal Techniques	10 – 13 August
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THEORY

Harmony for Beginners 2	21-23 August
Preparing for Grade 5 Theory	9-11 October
Arranging and Orchestration	20-22 November

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Paris - City of Dreams	23-25 October
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RELAXATION AND EXERCISE

Alexander Technique	21-23 August
Dalcroze Eurhythmics	9-11 October

MISCELLANEOUS

Autumn Landscapes in Pen, Inks & Wash	12-15 October
Christmas House Party	24-27 December

Benslow International Concert Series

A series of public concerts performed by internationally renowned artists.

Magid El-Bushra countertenor

Christopher Gould piano

Friday 22 January

Doric Quartet

Tuesday 23 February

Maggini Quartet

Friday 12 March

Madaline Mitchell violin

Andrew Ball piano

Friday 19 March

Alberni Quartet

Friday 23 April

Heath Quartet

Tuesday 8 June

A Night of Jazz

Thursday 29 July

All concerts begin at 8pm. Tickets £11/£8 concessions. We offer free tickets for students in full-time education, but only when booked in advance (excludes A Night of Jazz)

Box Office: **01462 459446** (9am – 5pm weekdays)
or email **info@benslow.org**

Information is also available on **www.benslow.org**

Monday Afternoon Concerts

A series of concerts organised by the Friends of Benslow Music Trust.

A Musical Banquet with Adrian Boorman countertenor
and friends

11 January

Amy de Sybel piano

8 February

Sollertinsky Piano Trio (Anya Birchall violin,
Catherine Denton cello, Stephanie Warwick piano)

8 March

Clifton Hughes piano

12 April

Robin Ward harp

10 May

Elisabeth Haram flute and piano

14 June

All Friends' concerts begin at 3pm. Tickets £7 at the door only, including a home-made tea following the concert.

If you would like to become a Friend of the Benslow Music and help us to continue our work, please call us on 01462 459446 or send us an email to info@benslow.org

Benslow Baroque Opera at the Queen Mother Theatre, Hitchin

Purcell: Dido and Aeneas

Presented by members of the Baroque Opera Course

Saturday 10 April (two performances)

Please contact us on **01462 459446** for further details

BENSLOW INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME

Providing loans of quality string and woodwind instruments to talented young musicians unable to obtain their own

Could you gift or loan an instrument to the Scheme, or could you make a donation and help more young people realize their potential?

"I feel so privileged to play this amazing cello – thank you so much"
(Rosie, 2009)

"A massive thank you for the loan of the violin; it will boost my confidence as a performer"
(Tom, 2009)

Helping to nurture musical talent in the UK for over 75 years



Benslow
MUSIC TRUST

www.benslow.org
ilsbenslow@benslow.org
01462 420748

Little Benslow Hills, Benslow Lane, Hitchin, Herts.
SG4 9RB reg. charity no. 313755

HOW YOU CAN HELP

With your help and support as a member of Benslow Music Trust, we can ensure that Benslow continues to flourish. Benslow is the country's premier residential centre for providing for the practical needs of amateur musicians, whether beginners or of diploma level, throughout the year. Because we do not receive any public funding we appeal to everyone to consider joining the Benslow family to help secure our future.

Your benefits as a Member

- Advance information about all our courses
- One month priority booking period over non-members
- Additional rights if you have to cancel your place on a course
- Members' bulletin twice a year
- Borrowing rights to our music library (this can be done by post)
- Practice space before the start of your course, free of charge, if available
- Access to the Members' Forum on our website: www.benslow.org
- Option to be included in the Amateur Exchange Register
- Directing the policy of the Trust through the Council of Trustees

How much is membership?

Individual: £25

Family: £40 (Covers all residing at the same address)

Student: £5 (Up to the age of 25, in full-time education)

Life: £300

Corporate Member

University of Hertfordshire

Benslow would welcome support from other organisations. Please contact us for details

Benslow Music Trust wishes to acknowledge the support of its existing Members, without whom we would not be able to offer such a wide and varied programme of courses.

Benslow Music Trust is administered by a small staff team on behalf of its Council of Trustees.

For further information please visit our website: www.benslow.org

What is in the Library?

There are over 28,000 acquisitions of music in the library, ranging from piano and instrumental pieces, solo songs, sets of parts for string and wind ensembles, chamber music, orchestral and choral works, miniature and full scores. There are over 500 books on music, as well as collections of music magazines such as The Strad, Musical Times and Music and Letters.

The Library is accessible during office hours and during courses. It is staffed by volunteers from 10 am to 12 noon on Mondays and from 2pm to 4pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays. email: library@benslow.org

1. **Availability of Courses:** Booking is open to members and non-members for all courses in the main course programme. Applications are dealt with in order of receipt. For postal bookings each applicant must complete an individual form. All bookings are subject to the booking conditions current at the time of booking.
2. **Enquiries, Reservations and Bookings:** We are happy to answer your enquiries about availability, contents and requirements of courses and to make reservations by telephone or e-mail. Reservations will be held for 14 days. A booking can only be confirmed on receipt of the applicable deposit or fee. The full fee or the deposit (non-refundable), optional insurance premium, plus relevant room supplements are due for each course at the time of booking. Your place will be confirmed in writing or by email. Please check the details promptly, as corrections must be made within 14 days of the date of our acceptance letter. After that time we cannot accept responsibility for any incorrect details.
3. **Part-time attendance:** Part-time attendance on a course may be possible after consultation by BMT with the tutors. This will be charged at a rate in proportion to the standard fees. Priority will always be given to those who are able to attend the courses full-time.
4. **Payment:** The full balance is due six weeks before the start of the course. If the balance has not been settled a month before the course your place may become forfeit. Please note that receipts are not issued for balance payments unless specifically requested. Any alteration to a confirmed booking originated by a course member will be subject to a £15 administration fee. Sterling, cheques and all major credit/debit cards by personal, telephone or postal application accepted. We accept Eurocheques and bank transfers subject to current bank surcharges; call for further details.
5. **Insurance:** Optional, non-transferable, non-refundable insurance is available (half and one-day courses excluded). The premiums payable are shown on the booking form. If opted for, you may be entitled to a refund or transfer of money paid (excluding deposit and insurance premium) according to the conditions below. Insured events must occur after the acceptance of your booking and relate to the insured party. Insurance does not provide cover once the course has started. Documentary evidence may be requested. Each member of a pre-formed group is responsible for his or her own insurance cover.
6. **Conditions of Insurance:** The insurance covers your attendance at the course for which the premium has been paid, if you are unable to attend for any of the following qualifying reasons: a) Your death or illness; b) Death or illness in your immediate family or pre-formed group; c) Transport strike; d) Exceptionally bad weather; e) Pregnancy or childbirth; f) Unexpected family commitments, relating to immediate family only; g) Compulsory quarantine; h) Jury service; i) Unforeseen occupational posting; j) Travel being prevented by Government restriction; k) Fire, storm, flood, subsidence or malicious damage rendering the home of the named course member uninhabitable. It does not cover the following reasons: a) Loss, damage or theft of personal belongings; b) Your travel to and from the Trust; c) Cancellation due to holiday commitments; d) Any reason other than those above.
7. **Cancellation procedure:** Any cancellation must be made in writing prior to the start of the course and will be confirmed in writing within 14 days. Refund is only due if an insured booking is cancelled for one of the qualifying reasons. Deposit and insurance premium are retained. Bookings cancelled fewer than six weeks before the course are charged an additional £20 cancellation fee unless a suitable replacement is provided.
8. **Transfers:** If you wish to transfer your booking to another course or your replacement person, the following conditions will apply: a) insured bookings for one of the qualifying reasons above: a £15 administration fee will be charged and the insurance premium retained; b) uninsured bookings, or insured bookings without qualifying reason: we will retain the deposit and insurance premium; c) bookings cancelled less than six weeks before the course begins: an additional £20 cancellation fee is due unless you can provide a suitable replacement; d) for members of BMT only: the course fee can be transferred to the person replacing you without any administration charge, providing all details are confirmed with the Trust.

9. **Refunds:** If you are entitled to a refund it will be made, where possible, by the original method of payment. We cannot give refunds for individual sessions or meals.
10. **Bedrooms:** Rooms are allocated in order of receipt. We regret that we cannot guarantee to meet your requested choice of room. If the allocated room-type is not acceptable, you must inform us within fourteen days. Priority is given to people with special needs. PLEASE NOTE that a reduction for sharing a room is offered only when the room is actually shared.
11. **Special needs:** Please inform us of any special dietary, physical or medical requirements you have at the time of booking. If you wish to be allocated an en-suite bedroom with facilities specially designed for the disabled, please indicate that on your booking form. Ensuite supplement is not payable when allocated to registered disabled guests who are blue/orange badge holders. We cater for dietary needs on medical and moral grounds, only when notified in advance and by prior agreement with the Trust.
12. **Ensembles:** As priority is given to complete ensembles, it is recommended that one member handle the applications for the ensemble, supplying all relevant details, deposits and supplements. Group reservations must include names of all persons attending. The Trust reserves the right to cancel a group reservation where deposits for all group members have not been paid within two weeks of the initial reservation. Individuals will only be accepted on formation of a suitable group.
13. **Benslow Music Trust:** a) Accepts no responsibility for loss, damage or theft of instruments or personal belongings; b) Reserves the right to alter advertised tutors but will, when possible, tell you if this proves necessary. If we are unable to replace an indisposed tutor and as a result the course cannot take place, we will refund any monies paid; c) Reserves the right to cancel any course. In this event we would hope to give you two weeks' notice and we will refund any monies you have paid; d) Reserves the right to vary the programme without notice and to refuse any application for a course without giving a reason; e) Cannot accept children under the age of sixteen on any of our courses, unless accompanied by a responsible adult (charges for accommodation and meals apply); f) Takes no responsibility for printing errors. Every effort will be made to ensure that all details are correct at time of going to print; g) Takes no responsibility for the quality of services or products from advertisers and vendors. Inclusion in the course programme or presence during a course is not a recommendation; h) Is not responsible for items reported lost which cannot be found. A minimum charge of £5 is made for return of lost property after your departure. Items can be held for a maximum of one month unless agreed in advance.
14. **Complaints:** In the unlikely event of a complaint please speak to any member of staff who will do his/her best to resolve the matter. If you are unhappy with the outcome please put your complaint in writing to the Chief Executive.

ACCOMMODATION SUPPLEMENTS/REDUCTIONS

PLEASE NOTE to book a place on a course we require the full deposit, the appropriate room supplement and insurance premium (optional). Room supplements are payable to guarantee a particular room type subject to availability. When sharing a twin room, the relevant supplement or reduction applies to each person. The resident fee quoted in the brochure is inclusive of single standard accommodation.

Course number	Deposit	Insurance (opt)**	En-suite/Select**	Reduction for sharing
100 series	full fee only *	n/a	n/a	n/a
200/300 series	40	5	45/50	-10
500 series	50	8	65/70	-15

Single occupancy of a twin/double room may be available at a 50% surcharge of the applicable supplement.

* No refunds for cancellations of one day courses ** Payable at time of booking

Bookings and Enquiries

You can contact us between 9am and 5pm from Monday to Friday. Bookings can be made by telephone or by sending in a booking form. We are happy to cater for most special dietary needs. To help us, please supply full details of your requirements in writing at the time of booking. Individuals are not excluded from applying for courses designed for pre-formed groups. We make every effort, in consultation with the tutor, to create new groups of players with similar abilities and interests. As a result, it may not be possible to confirm such bookings until shortly before the course starts.

Course Times

Most courses run from 7pm (arrivals from 4.30pm) on the first evening until 4pm on the last day. This may vary, especially for the summer period, so if in doubt please check for details. For day courses see the specific course description.

Bursaries

Bursaries are available for course members in cases of genuine financial hardship. For some of our courses full scholarships may be available for students in full-time education. All applications are considered on an individual basis. Contact us for more details and application forms.

Accommodation

We are able to offer a choice of accommodation:

Select Premier bedrooms with en-suite facilities (supplement payable)

En-suite Private facilities (supplement payable)

Standard Basic room with shared facilities. Most standard rooms have a hand basin.

For those who are attending as Non-residents, lunch and supper is provided. If breakfast is required, this is available at a small extra charge when booked in advance.

Bed and Breakfast

If your travel requirements dictate arrival and departure times outside scheduled course dates, you may be able to stay for extra nights. Please enquire for availability and details.

Access

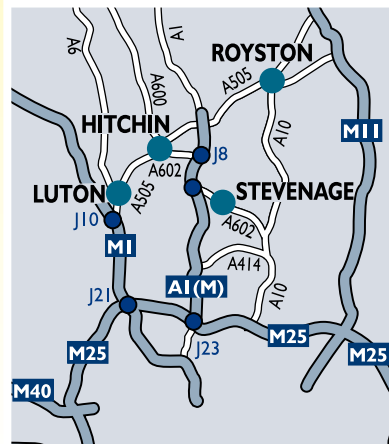
Benslow is able to offer a limited number of fully integrated self-contained accommodation for visitors with restricted mobility in our enhanced facilities.

Private Hire

The unique setting of Benslow Music Trust provides an ideal environment for concerts, private practice or study, business meetings and special events. Competitive prices and special packages can be negotiated to suit particular requirements. Parties from 2 to 150 can be accommodated. Please contact us for further information.

Travel

Based in Hitchin, 30 miles north of London, the Trust is easily reached by road, rail and air. Little Benslow Hills is within easy walking distance, or a short taxi ride, from Hitchin station. Fast train services run frequently from King's Cross, Cambridge and Peterborough.



www.benslow.org

Benslow Music Trust

Little Benslow Hills, Benslow Lane

Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 9RB

Tel: 01462 459446

Fax: 01462 440171

Email: info@benslow.org

Instrument Loan Scheme

Tel: 01462 420748

Email: ilsbenslow@benslow.org

Registered Charity No. 313755

Book by telephone: 01462 459446

The information in this brochure is available in large print, on request.



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MUSIC TRUST

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