

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY QUARTET COACHING BY THE SEA 2018



Join the Victoria String Quartet:

photo:Kevin Laitak

Benedict Holland and Catherine Yates, violins
Susie Mészáros, viola
Jennifer Langridge, cello

Bring your quartet to the pretty village of Overstrand, from **Friday 4th May 2018 – Monday 7th May inclusive**, for three days of intensive coaching and an optional performance showcase. This is designed to be a small and friendly course for existing string quartets of all standards, with opportunities for relaxation and sightseeing.

Who are we?

The Victoria String Quartet unites some of the most experienced chamber musicians in the UK: All four of us have performed together in different ensembles for many years, and between us we can boast an impressive pedigree: The Chilingirian Quartet, The Sorrel Quartet and Psappha Ensemble, naming just a few. We are thrilled to join together in our new formation to explore and perform the rich and varied string quartet repertoire. We are based in Manchester and all four of us teach at the Royal Northern College of Music and give masterclasses both in the UK and internationally.



Why Overstrand for the location of the course?

The course will take place in the beautiful setting of the North Norfolk coast. Although it's a peaceful and relaxing place, the village also has good amenities, a cosy pub and great walks from the doorstep (which is just 5 minutes on foot from a lovely beach). The seaside town of

Cromer with its pier and beaches is in easy reach by a short bus ride or a scenic cliff/beach walk where there are supermarkets etc., and there are many places of interest to visit close at hand.



Course Location:

The Belfry Arts Centre (and adjacent primary school). Overstrand is accessible by train and bus via the bustling seaside town of Cromer. The Arts Centre has good facilities, including a small café, and good parking and is very much at the heart of the village.

Schedule:

Friday 4th May

5pm: Registration

7.30pm: Concert by the Victoria String Quartet, featuring quartets by Schubert, Elgar and Wolf as part of the Cromer Music Evenings Society (tickets included in cost of the course)

Saturday 5th

Three coaching sessions plus scheduled private preparation sessions.

Evening: Optional fish and chip supper with the other quartets and tutors at an award-winning local restaurant

Sunday 6th

Three coaching sessions plus scheduled private preparation sessions.

Evening: Optional walk from Overstrand to Cromer along the sandy beach and back along the golf course.

Monday 7th:

Two coaching sessions with optional play through in the afternoon.

4pm: Course ends after a cup of tea!

Cost:

The cost of the course is £300 per person, which includes a concert ticket on the first evening, but **does not** include accommodation or meals. There is a wide variety of excellent accommodation nearby, both b&b, airbnb, hotel and self-catering and the coast is well-known for locally sourced food (and drink!).

*Please note that for this course to run, we require a minimum of four and a maximum of six quartets.

Tutor Biographies

Ben studied the violin at the Royal Academy of Music with Manoug Parikian and at the RNCM with Yossi Zivoni. As a chamber musician he was a founder member of the Matisse Piano Quartet and is a member of the Pleyel Ensemble. As an orchestral leader he has guest-led many of the country's major orchestras, including the Hallé, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Northern Sinfonia, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Ensemble, Orchestra of Opera North and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. Throughout his performing career, Ben has been a champion of contemporary music and of working with living composers and is the violinist in the acclaimed contemporary ensemble, Psappha. He has been the Leader of Sinfonia ViVa since 2001 and its Artistic Advisor since 2006, appearing as both director and soloist. Solo appearances have been in concertos by Weill, Arnold, Vaughan-Williams, Vivaldi and Mozart, including his performance of Mozart's A major concerto with the Orchestra, recently broadcast on Classic FM.

Ben has always put teaching at the heart of his work, with classes at the Royal Northern College of Music (where he was awarded a professorship in violin in June 2016) and Chetham's School of Music. He also undertakes consultative classes in contemporary techniques for the Birmingham Conservatoire and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. Ben's violin is a rare Rogeri of 1710.

Catherine studied with Malcolm Layfield and Lydia Mordkovich at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester as well as taking further courses at Yale University and the Britten-Pears School for Advanced Musical Studies in Aldeburgh. Always a keen chamber musician, she became a member of the Sorrel Quartet in 1989, performing and broadcasting both at home and abroad and laying down an extensive and much acclaimed discography that includes the complete quartets of Shostakovich, the major quartet works of Britten and a much lauded disc of Elgar. In July 2007, Catherine was appointed as Principal 2nd Violin with the Hallé and she held this post for six years prior to her most recent appointment, that of Deputy Head of Strings at the Royal Northern College of Music. She combines her work in education with a busy freelance career as Guest Principal with many orchestras and she continues to enjoy performing as a chamber musician on both violin and viola.

Susie is a member of the world renowned Chilingirian Quartet. After her studies at the Yehudi Menuhin School, she was appointed Principal Viola with the Camerata Salzburg and was a regular chamber music partner of her teacher, the great Hungarian violinist Sándor Végh. She made her Wigmore Hall debut as a duo with Yehudi Menuhin in 1977 and performed with Vladimir Spivakov and Arthur Grumiaux. At 17 she won the Gold Medal at the Royal Over-Seas League competition and was a string finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year and played with many leading chamber ensembles including the Nash Ensemble. Susie was leader of the Fitzwilliam Quartet, Prometheus Ensemble and concert master of Kent Opera and regularly performed recitals on Radio 3 on both violin and viola. Susie has appeared as soloist with the BBC Symphony, BBC Concert and BBC Welsh orchestras. A sought after teacher, Susie taught at the Yehudi Menuhin and Purcell Schools and currently teaches at the Royal Northern College of Music and Royal College of Music teaching violin, viola and chamber music.

Susie has performed as a guest principal with orchestras such as the Philharmonia, Britten Sinfonia, London Mozart Players and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and is regularly invited to sit on juries including the Trondheim and Bordeaux International Quartet

competitions, the Royal Overseas League competition and the 'Help Musicians' awards. She plays on a viola by Jacob Fendt.

Jen studied at the Royal Northern College of Music with Eduardo Vassallo and went on to become a Junior Fellow at the RNCM as part of the Nossek String Quartet, which had a successful recital career for 10 years until 1999. Jen has been a member of Psappha Ensemble for 23 years, touring across Europe, North and South America, Australia, and most recently to Jerusalem. The group performs regularly on BBC Radio 3 and has made eight CD recordings. Jen has often performed as a soloist with Psappha, most notably at the Royal Albert Hall for the BBC Proms in 2004, playing Maxwell Davies, 'Linguae Ignis' for solo cello and ensemble. Alongside her work with the Victoria Quartet and Psappha, Jen is Principal cello with the Northern Chamber Orchestra and she is a cello tutor at the Royal Northern College of Music and also at The University of Manchester. She plays on a Peter Walmsley cello, 1729.



Photo: Georgina Child