

Northern Recorder Course

Tuesday 6th April -
Tuesday 13th April 2010

at Burton Manor College, Cheshire

The Course

Now in its 45th year, this course offers a relaxed, supportive and friendly environment for recorder players of all abilities to make music.

The Northern Recorder Course was founded in 1966 by Dennis Bamforth and Colin Martin and has grown to become one of the foremost recorder courses in the world. A particular feature of the NRC is the interesting range of music available to be studied. Whilst many classics from the established recorder repertoire are played at the NRC, there is always an impressive amount of innovative and newly composed music specifically for recorders.

Repertoire from the Medieval period to the present day is studied in a variety of ensembles from recorder orchestras to suit players of all abilities to Trio Sonatas and one to a part classes.

Burton Manor College is a stunning location for a recorder course, providing a creative and stimulating environment for making music. A grade II listed Arts & Crafts building set in 30 acres of beautiful grounds, Burton Manor is one of the largest short-term residential colleges in the UK with excellent facilities for adult education. Although the Manor is close to both Chester and Liverpool it has the feeling of a rural retreat with superb views over the Dee Estuary and the Welsh hills. The NRC has exclusive use of the Burton Manor for the duration of the course.

The dimensions and acoustics of the playing rooms are excellent with views over the grounds. All the playing rooms are located in the Manor itself, thereby minimising walking between sessions. This feature is particularly welcome in inclement weather! The Manor has a licenced bar, free wireless internet access and free internet access on the college PCs. Catering is of a high standard and all meals are served buffet-style, giving course participants the opportunity to eat at their own pace. In fine weather many take their meals out onto the sunny terrace adjacent to the dining room. Afternoon tea is always a particular treat at Burton Manor with delicious home-baked cakes. Course participants can choose from a variety of residential and non-residential packages to suit their individual requirements. For further details about Burton Manor please visit their website at: www.burtonmanor.com

What's new for 2010

The NRC has an enviable reputation as being one of the most innovative recorder courses in the UK. Each year offers new classes and new ideas, many previously unheard of within the recorder world. The 2010 NRC will be no exception to this rule - here are just a few highlights:

We welcome a resident accompanist to the course: **Rosemary Robinson**. Rosemary is well-known as a superlative keyboard player. From accompanying Alan's Masterclasses to leading the Jazz & Blues Orchestra in "Take 5", Rosemary will make a significant contribution to the course.

The eminent composer **Paul Burnell** makes his debut tutoring on a recorder course with an exciting range of classes exploring contemporary notation and structural devices, along with some more conventionally notated modern recorder music. Say it, Hit it! involves rhythmic spoken-word ensembles and percussive pieces.

We are delighted to welcome **Alan Davis** back to the NRC as a tutor after a twenty year break. Along with Masterclasses, orchestral conducting and his technique class on English Grounds, Alan will endeavour to get us to love our scales. This class is a must for all recorder players!

Andrew Melville continues to develop his reputation as one of the most innovative recorder tutors in the UK with his sessions. "The Language of Music" explores the ideas in Deryck Cooke's book of the same name and gives us a great excuse to play a lot of interesting and enjoyable music.

The **National Gemshorn Orchestra** (NGO) made its debut at the 2009 NRC. Massed ranks of gemshorns may be a rare sight and sound but they performed to such acclaim that Steve Marshall has composed a concerto for the NGO to perform in his evening session in the 2010 course!

Footnote: A Word to the Traditionalists

If you are more comfortable with Gabrieli than Glass or prefer Trio Sonatas to Gemshorn Orchestras, fear not! Along with the new, the experimental and the downright wacky, the NRC offers a great selection of classics, both old and new, from the recorder repertoire.

The Tutors

Brian Blood: since his teens Brian has worked as a professional recorder player on film, TV, radio, recordings and concerts. Brian is now managing director of Dolmetsch Musical Instruments and designs the Dolmetsch Gold Series and Millennium square large bass recorders.

Ruth Burbidge studied at the Royal Academy and at Trinity. She has a wide teaching experience in school and college and has performed on harpsichord and recorder. She now teaches flute and recorder and runs Recorder *MusicMail*.

Paul Burnell is a composer who has written for many professional and amateur soloists and ensembles. Recorder compositions include 'Ember / Kindle' for Duo Ricecare, 'Vitus' for descant recorder with piano or tape and '24 Steps' which exists as an arrangement for recorder orchestra by Steve Marshall. Paul is assistant conductor of the London CoMA ensemble (seen on BBC4 in 2009).

Alan Davis needs little introduction to recorder players. As a performer, teacher and composer, Alan has been active on the UK recorder scene for over four decades. He has performed extensively as a recorder soloist in both early and contemporary music and in recent years has increasingly devoted his time to composition. He currently teaches the recorder at Chetham's School of Music and in the Junior School of the Royal Northern College of Music and is a regular tutor at NORVIS and the South Bohemia Summer School for Early Music. He also continues to direct Birmingham Schools' Recorder Sinfonia which he founded in 1979.

Ruth Hayward: since graduating from Trinity, Ruth has taught recorder and flute to both children and adults. Ruth has benefitted from lessons from many teachers, including Piers Adams. Ruth is also in demand as a performer both as a soloist and ensemble player.

Laura Justice has a growing reputation as one of the leading young British professional recorder players. Laura graduated from the Royal College of Music in 2002 and has performed in prestigious venues including the London Coliseum with English National Opera and St George's Hanover Square as

part of the London Handel Festival. Laura co-founded the award-winning recorder ensemble Fleuri in 2002 and spends much of her time performing and teaching recorder. You might also find her on the other end of the phone at Recorder Music*Mail!*

Steve Marshall has a background of jazz, blues and rock although years of music theory study have tamed the beast somewhat. He publishes his (and his wife Ann's) compositions under the banner of May Hill Edition, which features over 200 titles, ranging from solos to large pieces for recorder orchestra. He is musical director of the North Cotswold branch of the SRP and is highly in demand as a visiting conductor for the SRP. Steve's latest innovation is the first permanent "Easy" recorder orchestra.

Andrew Melville is a composer and is assistant conductor of the London Recorder Orchestra. He has composed many pieces for recorder orchestra and runs an evening class in Wandsworth, London. Andrew tutors at several recorder courses and festivals, always choosing refreshingly innovative and interesting repertoire.

Janice Ormerod has a well-deserved reputation as a bass recorder specialist and her bass workshops are in increasing demand at SRP branches and independent recorder groups. Janice tutors at the Stockport Recorder College and directs their Senior Ensemble. She performs with the Barrowmead Ensemble and has been a member of the Great Bass section of the Manchester Recorder Orchestra for some years. Janice is Chairman and a regular conductor of the Manchester Branch of the SRP.

Pam Smith studied piano, viola and clarinet at Chetham's School of Music and went on to teach music in secondary schools. Pam is Musical Director of the Cheltenham & Gloucester branch of the SRP, the Phoenix Recorder Orchestra, the Exeter Recorder Orchestra and the Chamber Recorder Orchestra of the West. Pam tutors at the Cheltenham Recorder Festival and will be conducting at the inaugural Hothorpe Hall Recorder Orchestra weekend in December 2009. It is no surprise that Pam is greatly in demand as a visiting conductor of the SRP as she is a gifted tutor with that rare ability to inspire even the most modest of recorder players. Pam is the Resident Tutor at the NRC.

Northern Recorder Course 2010 Timetable

	Tuesday 6 th April	Wednesday 7 th April	Thursday 8 th April	Friday 9 th April	Saturday 10 th April	Sunday 11 th April	Monday 12 th April	Tuesday 13 th April
Breakfast	Breakfast served from 8.00 in the Dining Room							
Session One 9.15 - 10.45	Technique Classes: Playing One-to-a-Part Demystified – Brian Blood * Elementary Recorder Technique - Ruth Burbidge Where have the dots and bar-lines gone ... ? - Paul Burnell English Grounds – Alan Davis Finding your voice: Exploring the expressive capabilities of the recorder – Laura Justice Blow that Bass! Bass Recorder Technique - Janice Ormerod From Sight to Sound – Pam Smith							
Coffee	Morning Coffee 10.45 – 11.15 served in the Lounge							
Session Two 11.15 - 12.45	“Classic” Recorder Orchestra – Alan Davis * Elementary Ensemble – Laura Justice New music with traditional notation – Paul Burnell One to a Part – Pam Smith							One for the Road Pam Smith
Lunch	Lunch served from 12.45 in the Dining Room							
Lunchtime Recital 1.30 – 2.00	To be confirmed							
Session Three 2.00 - 3.00	Arrival	Chamber Orchestra - Pam Smith Consorts by Alfonso Ferrabosco The Younger – Brian Blood Having fun with performance – Paul Burnell Learn to love your scales – Alan Davis Alternative Wind: Sessions for Renaissance Reeds and Gemshorns – Janice Ormerod						Departure
Session Four 3.15 - 4.15		* Easy Recorder Orchestra – Steve Marshall The Language of Music: basic musical terms 13 th C – 21 st C - Andrew Melville * One to one lessons - Ruth Hayward The Chill Out Zone – Laura Justice Say it, Hit it! – Paul Burnell Trio Sonatas / Chamber Music - Ruth Burbidge						
Tea	Afternoon Tea 4.15 – 4.45 served in the Lounge							
Session Five 4.45 - 5.45	Welcome Session Steve Marshall	Jazz & Blues Orchestra – Steve Marshall Masterclasses with Alan Davis (Fri, Sat, Sun Mon) * Basic Music Theory: Back to the Beginning (Wed, Thu) – Janice Ormerod On equal terms: music for everyone to get their teeth stuck into! – Laura Justice * Elementary Ensemble – Pam Smith * One to one lessons – Ruth Hayward						
Dinner	Dinner served from 5.45 in the Dining Room							
Session Six 7.30 - 9.00	Janice Ormerod	Alan Davis	Paul Burnell	Laura Justice	Pam Smith	Steve Marshall / Andrew Melville	Course Concert	

Classes marked with an asterisk * are suitable for elementary players

2010 Northern Recorder Course Enrolment Form

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN COMPLETING THIS FORM

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Your name as you would like it on your name badge:

If you are not planning to attend the course for the full week please state the dates you will be attending:

Which type of package would you prefer?

Residential Packages

Accommodation will be allocated in order of application. The NRC is a popular course and you are advised to enrol as soon as you can to secure your first choice of accommodation.

Single room with ensuite bathroom: Weekly rate: £640

Single room with shared bathroom: Weekly rate: £590

Single bedrooms are only available to those attending the course for the full week

Twin or double room with shared bathroom: Daily rate: £78 / Weekly rate: £540

Who would you like to share a room with (if applicable)?

Non Residential Packages

Lunch and tuition (no accommodation): Daily rate: £48 / Weekly rate: £330

Lunch, dinner and tuition (no accommodation): Daily rate: £58 / Weekly rate: £400

Additional meals: Breakfast £5 / Lunch £8 / Dinner £10

If you have any special dietary or accommodation requirements, please outline these (for example, vegetarian or requiring ground floor accommodation).

Your Recorders

Please circle the recorders you will bring to the course:

Garklein Sopranino Descant Treble Tenor Bass Great Bass Contra Bass Bigger!

“Classic” Recorder Orchestra – Alan Davis

Previous orchestral experience is not a prerequisite but players should be advanced standard/Grade 8 plus.

If you would like to play in the “classic” orchestra please indicate your preference of instrument. All recorders from Sopranino to Contra Bass are required:

First choice:

Second choice:

Chamber Recorder Orchestra – Pam Smith

Previous orchestral experience is not a prerequisite but players should be advanced standard/Grade 8 plus and confident in playing one to a part.

If you would like to play in the chamber orchestra please indicate your preference of instrument. All recorders from Sopranino to Contra Bass are required:

First choice:

Second choice:

Masterclasses – Alan Davis

Please indicate if you would like Justine to send you information about participating in Alan's Masterclasses.

Please detach your completed enrolment form from the brochure and send it with your deposit to:

Justine Spence

The Secretary, Northern Recorder Course

142 Peverell Park Road, Plymouth PL3 4NF

The deposit of £100 should be paid by cheque made payable to Northern Recorder Course.

If you have any queries about the course or completing this form please contact Justine either by telephone on 01752 257455 or email at: justine@northernrecordercourse.org

The Course Structure

The course is designed to allow you to tailor the timetable to meet your individual musical interests. Each day is divided into six playing sessions as detailed on the enclosed timetable. Almost all sessions are open to all course participants - simply turn up to the class of your choice and play. Players are welcome to attend different tutor's classes in each session every day, should they wish. For example, you could go to Laura's Chill Out Zone in Session Four on Wednesday and Paul's Say it, Hit it! on Thursday. The music list for the course details the music to be studied in each session on each day of the week. All course participants are sent a music list in January 2010.

At the 2010 NRC, the only classes which are not open to all course participants are the "Classic" and Chamber Recorder Orchestras and Alan Davis's Masterclasses. If you would like further information about participating in Alan's Masterclasses please indicate this on your enrolment form. For both the "Classic" and Chamber Recorder Orchestras desks are allocated prior to the course. Players in these orchestras need to attend the daily rehearsals and to perform in the course concert on the Monday evening. If you would like to play in either or both of these orchestras please complete the appropriate section(s) on the enrolment form.

The timetable is planned to ensure that players of all abilities* are catered for in every session. The only exception to this is Session Six, the final session of each day, when all the course participants including tutors and staff come together to play. In these sessions players of more modest ability benefit from sharing a part with several strong players.

* To get the most out of the course it is recommended that players are at least Grade 2 standard. You are welcome to contact Justine Spence for advice if you are unsure of your playing standard. Classes are provided for players of more modest ability (up to about Grade 4 standard) with highly experienced and empathic tutors. These classes are marked with an asterisk on the timetable. At the other end of the scale even the most proficient of players will find challenges on the course.

Prices/Facilities

Set music for the course will be available from Recorder MusicMail, who will also provide an extensive music shop throughout the week of the course. Dolmetsch Musical Instruments will bring a full selection of both their handmade and plastic recorders for the duration of the course. The Early Music Shop will bring a very large selection of instruments, accessories, CDs etc to the course. Additionally, Barry Holder, EMS's Recorder Technician will be available to undertake instrument maintenance on site. Three of our course participants, Shirley Brown, Jan Epps and Chris Thomas will have a selection of their beautiful hand-made cards for sale.

At the NRC you can choose from residential or non-residential packages depending on your circumstances. For example, if you live locally you may prefer to travel in to the course each day, paying only for your meals and tuition. You also have the flexibility to attend the course for just one day, for the full week or for as many days as you like. Daily rates comprise a 24 hour period at the NRC.

All residential packages are full board and prices vary according to the type of accommodation:

Single room with ensuite bathroom: Weekly rate: £640

Single room with shared bathroom: Weekly rate: £590

Single bedrooms are only available to those attending the course for the full week

Twin or double room with shared bathroom: Daily rate: £78 / Weekly rate: £540

All residential packages include breakfast, morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and tuition. All bedrooms have tea and coffee making facilities, wash hand basins and towels provided.

Non Residential Packages:

Lunch and tuition (no accommodation): Daily rate: £48 / Weekly rate: £330

Lunch, dinner and tuition (no accommodation): Daily rate: £58 / Weekly rate: £400

All non-residential packages include tuition, morning coffee, afternoon tea plus lunch or lunch and dinner.

Additional meals: Breakfast £5 / Lunch £8 / Dinner £10

Even more orchestras in 2010!

Recorder orchestras have been a big feature of the NRC since Dennis Bamforth first pioneered the modern recorder orchestra at the 1973 course. Orchestras are an increasingly popular type of recorder ensemble and it's not hard to see why. Large scale orchestration gives recorder players the opportunity to be part of exciting textures and colours that quartets and quintets simply can't achieve. At the NRC you can choose to play in no less than four different recorder orchestras:

“Classic” Recorder Orchestra (Session Two) conducted by Alan Davis: runs on similar lines to established orchestras like Manchester, Phoenix, Scottish, Wirral etc. There are several people playing each part, apart from Sopranino and Descants 1 and 2 which only require one player in order to balance the orchestra.

Chamber Recorder Orchestra (Session Three) conducted by Pam Smith: essentially a one-to-a-part orchestra, now in its third year at the NRC. Rehearsals are intense and challenging but also fun and incredibly rewarding. For both “Classic” and Chamber orchestras players need to be at least Grade 8 standard, attend the daily rehearsals and play in the concert on the Monday night of the course.

Easy Recorder Orchestra (Session Four) conducted by Steve Marshall: the runaway success story of the 2009 NRC, in 2010 Steve will once again be taking us through music which is carefully chosen so that even if you are at grade 2 playing standard, you will have a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Jazz & Blues Orchestra (Session Five) conducted by Steve Marshall: an exciting innovation for the 2010 NRC, this orchestra will trace the history of Jazz & Blues at a playing level similar to “Classic” recorder orchestra. For both Easy and Jazz & Blues orchestras, there is need to sign up in advance – just turn up and have fun. You are welcome to play treble one day and tenor the next if you fancy or stick to bass all week. It's up to you.

Having said all this, if you are not a fan of recorder orchestras (and there are many NRC participants who fall into this category) there are always plenty of choices in every session. So if orchestras aren't your thing, you won't find yourself twiddling your thumbs for an hour whilst everyone else is playing.

If you would like to participate in this dynamic, enjoyable and rewarding recorder course, then complete the enclosed enrolment form and sent it, together with your deposit of £100*, to:

Justine Spence
The Secretary, Northern Recorder Course
142 Peverell Park Road
Plymouth
PL3 4NF

Email: justine@northernrecordercourse.org

Telephone: 01752 257455

If you have any queries about the course please don't hesitate to contact Justine Spence.

* You are strongly advised to obtain holiday insurance. Deposits are non-refundable and the balance of your course fees are non-refundable within one month of the course date.

You will be sent confirmation of your enrolment shortly after Justine receives it. If you have heard nothing from her 4 weeks after sending your form and cheque please contact Justine.

A detailed music list, course timetable, general information and the notification of the balance of fees will be sent to each course participant in January 2010. The balance of your fees should be paid up in full by Monday 29th March 2010. Generally, course participants are required to provide their own music although tutors often provide music. Classes in which music will be provided will be noted on the music list.

The course website can be found at: www.northernrecordercourse.org