

IMS Prussia Cove

Inspiring Young Musicians

31st January – 3rd February 2020

An education project with MusicAbility, Cornwall Music Education Hub and South West Music School.



Inspiring Young Musicians brought talented young students to study with musicians from IMS Prussia Cove during an intensive long weekend residential course. **Emily Nebel**, **Michael Gurevich** (violin), **Tim Boulton** (viola) and **Sally Pendlebury** (cello) offered chamber music coaching to 24 students aged 11-18. The students then led a series of concerts in local primary schools before performing in a public concert in St Petroc's Church, Bodmin, alongside the IMS musicians.

This project, now in its third year, continues to be hugely successful. Preparation took place at IMS Prussia Cove's Open Chamber Music seminar in September 2019, when the 4 IMS musicians travelled to a remote part of Cornwall to rehearse Haydn's 'Sunrise' Quartet and Stravinsky's 3 Pieces for String Quartet. During the week, they worked with music education specialist Patrick Bailey to create a series of education resources for primary schools (videos and lesson plans), which were sent to the schools in advance to help staff prepare their students.

In January 2020, the IMS musicians returned to Cornwall to coach a group of young musicians from the South West of England. Following IMS Prussia Cove's tradition of creating chamber groups which combine young musicians with more experienced performers, the course allowed young students to play alongside outstanding professional musicians. Students took part in chamber music coaching, technical sessions and presentation training, studying a wide range of repertoire including works by Haydn, Mozart, Bach, Schubert, Dvorak, Bartok, Glazunov, Boccherini and many more.



During an 'open mic' performance, many of the students performed to their peers and tutors in an informal environment, as well as hearing the IMS musicians perform. They also received presentation training from Patrick Bailey, who helped the students to prepare for their school concerts, discussing how to inspire and engage the younger students.

On the final day of the course, the students took on the role of senior musicians, travelling in small groups to 8 primary schools in the local area to present short performances of the works they had studied during the weekend. They reached an estimated total of 1,000 primary school students aged 3-12. The concerts were hugely inspiring, offering joyful performances in schools where most students have little experience of live classical music, and few learn instruments. The sense of excitement from both students and staff was palpable. Finally, a public concert in St Petroc's Church, Bodmin offered all students the opportunity to perform to family and friends, alongside performances of the Haydn and Stravinsky works by the IMS Prussia Cove musicians.

IMS Prussia Cove especially values the opportunity to work with other music and education organisations in Cornwall. *Inspiring Young Musicians* is ably led by Tim Boulton, an IMS violist based in Cornwall who has a significant influence on many of the area's music education activities. Tim's expertise as a music educator and local knowledge are invaluable to the success of this project. We also worked closely with Cornwall Music Education Hub, who play an important role in the project, liaising with the schools and arranging transport. We were pleased to follow the advice of CMEH this year, basing the course in North Cornwall in order to reach schools in an area which is offered fewer opportunities of this nature.

Facts and figures

IMS musicians: 4	Course students: 24	Students ages: 11-18
Coaching hours: 80	Works studied: 20	Number of concerts: 9
Schools visited: 8	School students reached: c. 1,000	Schools students' ages: 3-12



Feedback

Course students

‘What an inspirational course! Both in terms of our personal playing, and seeing young people’s reactions to what we do. It has shown there’s still a place and a want for classical music in schools. The staff have been hugely inspirational to me as well as welcoming and supportive. I hope many more people are able to experience what I have in the future.’ Jake

‘This weekend has been thoroughly enjoyable. I have learnt an extraordinary amount from small things such as practise techniques to more complex ideas like harmonic progression. Working with Michael has enabled me to hear and experience how an amazing professional musician practices and has inspired me to continue practising and improving.’ Robbie

‘I loved how they prepared us for the concerts at the primary schools and made us take pride in how we played and present the pieces. I learned **a lot** in such a short amount of time. When Tim explained the history of the pieces it helped me really get the character.’ Hester

‘This weekend has been such an amazing experience, the IMS musicians were so helpful and lovely. My playing over the weekend improved dramatically and I felt so proud and honoured to play and hopefully inspire the next generation of musicians.’ Imogen

‘This was my first every strings weekend and I really enjoyed it and would love to do more in the future. My playing has definitely improved lots. Performing for the primary schools was really enjoyable. I like how we had the freedom to plan the concerts out ourselves.’ Natasha

‘I really enjoyed the course as the music gave me some challenges but by the end I could play it. Playing to the primary schools was great as I never got to hear anything like it in primary school.’ Anna

‘I really improved my awareness in playing chamber music. I loved playing the Haydn and expressing myself in the group. I started to think about my bow when I was playing in terms of pressure, point of contact and speed’ Laria

‘I really enjoyed the whole weekend, especially playing in smaller groups and having a few different pieces to learn. Playing alongside such amazing musicians who were a similar age alongside such talented tutors was an amazing opportunity’ Ruby

‘This was an incredible opportunity to play alongside tutors who are both incredible players and teachers. Both my musicality and technical ability have transformed throughout the weekend. Sharing our music with young children was eye-opening and I feel we really made a difference’ Lucas

‘I look forward to these opportunities I may get in the future. It was just a really happy and enlightening course.’ Ben

‘Listening to different professionals’ ways of playing and teaching has been fascinating, I think it was a very worthwhile experience. The performances to primary schools also works well – not only do you feel like you’re inspiring people but it also provides a way of learning the skills of performing and presenting a concert.’ Bella

‘The kids responded so well to the music and I think that they really enjoyed it. I’m definitely going to come back next year.’ Helena

‘I had my first opportunity to lead an ensemble, specifically building the confidence to do so. It felt as if, while playing, there was a discussion between players. If this course runs again next year I have every intention to return.’ Isaac

‘Wow! This course gets better and better each year! The visiting to schools was such a fantastic experience. The idea that those children might someday take up an instrument makes me proud that we have influenced that through our playing. I am looking forward to next year!’ Ollie

‘These string courses are the one big opportunity I have in the year to play such challenging, rigorous and enjoyable chamber music. The intense playing and mentoring has brought on my musical skills in ways I could never achieve alone. I only wish these courses happened more often! I loved the freedom to plan our concerts, and the primary schools really enjoyed our performance. It was a concert like that that inspired me to begin learning the violin.’ Emma

‘I feel as though I really improved my awareness in playing chamber music. I found it was a great way to express myself. It was a great experience and I would love to repeat it all over again.’ Gui

Primary schools

‘The children were entranced, all children sat and watched, even the young ones! Some have since shown an interest in taking up violin lessons’ Otterham C P Primary School

‘The students particularly liked hearing inspirational young musicians making classical music accessible to young ears. Super presentational skills from the young musicians who engaged our children really well [...] above all they were able to enjoy real musicians performing on real instruments which is a highly enriching treat’ Nanstallon Primary School

IMS musicians

‘The students were made to feel like they were in a safe space to be creative and learn. I think the afternoon with Patrick carried a critically important message, forcing the students to verbalise what they believe the value is of all this. I ended up playing together with the students in all but one of the pieces and I think that helped a lot. It was a really great and definitely worthwhile few days.’ Michael

‘My experience was fulfilling and educational for me, as well as for the students. I was impressed by the students’ willingness to learn, and also pleased to see and hear them improve over the weekend, both with their pieces and their playing in general. My group had fun putting together the presentation for the primary school students – I think it was empowering for them to go from being the student to teaching and inspiring others.’ Emily

‘I had a great time, really enjoyed it all. I think the course works really well as a concept and not only is it inspiring for both the young people and ourselves to rehearse and perform, but the fact they are part of the presentation helps with their public speaking, and really importantly focusses all of us in thinking about why we do what we do.’ Sally

‘Being the third time we’ve run this course I thought the whole thing flowed exceptionally well and the outcome in terms of the quality of the learning experience for everyone involved was also exceptional. Once again, Patrick’s input really focussed everyone’s minds on the primary school concerts and all the performers were amazingly confident and assured in their communications with the young audiences, pitching the introductions at just the right level and freely engaging with questions and unexpected comments with a natural flow. The concert was totally engaging for us all. In fact I was rather left in awe at the capabilities of my young colleagues who performed with such a sense of joy and commitment – I doubt many professional musicians can retain that infectious engagement with the roots of music making after years of training and highly pressurised concerts!’ Tim

Biographies

Emily Nebel violin (USA) Emily has gained recognition as an orchestral leader, appearing with the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Staatstheater Darmstadt as well as other ensembles in Germany, Sweden and Belgium. An avid chamber musician, she is frequently invited to chamber music festivals around the world.

Michael Gurevich violin (Netherlands) Michael's varied performing career includes as soloist, director and leader with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, leader of the Budapest Festival Orchestra and leading roles in the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Amsterdam Sinfonietta. He is a member of the London Haydn Quartet and a frequent guest with the Nash Ensemble.

Tim Boulton viola (UK) For more than two decades Tim performed internationally in chamber groups and chamber orchestras. He taught viola and chamber music at Guildhall School of Music & Drama from 1988–2005. A natural musical communicator inspired equally by performing, conducting and teaching, Tim has been central to many innovations and developments in youth music in Cornwall over the last 16 years.

Sally Pendlebury cello (UK) Sally is a member of The Fitzwilliam Quartet, The Angell Piano Trio and Möbius Ensemble and regularly plays guest principal cello with London Sinfonietta, Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, English Chamber Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic and Salzburg Camerata. She teaches at the Royal Northern College of Music and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.

Partner organisations

MusicAbility embraces the unique and life-enhancing potential of music to stimulate a broad spectrum of educational, creative and health benefits within the community. Their mission is to use music as a catalyst for the development of personal abilities, cultural awareness and participation whilst generating social, psychological and physical integration.

Cornwall Music Education Hub is a partnership of music and arts organisations who work together to support quality musical learning for children and young people in Cornwall. The partnership is led by Cornwall Council and funded by the Department for Education through Arts Council England.

South West Music School is a Centre of Advanced Training and a music charity working with talented young instrumentalists, singers and composers aged 8–18 in the South West of England. They provide students with the same standard of music education as specialist music schools and junior conservatoires, whilst allowing students to stay in their existing education and continue to take part in other activities in their local communities.

IMS Prussia Cove

Patron: HRH The Duke of Kent KG **President:** *Sir Simon Rattle*

Directors: *Tessa Gaisman MBE (Chairman), Alexandra Maund (Chair of the Friends of IMS), Robert Boas, David Cairns, Jonathan Gaisman QC, John Gilbooly OBE, Maria Lucas-Tooth, Frank Mampaey, Gilbert McCabe, Haakon Overli, Sir Martin Smith, Peter Tunstall-Behrens, David Whelton OBE*

General Manager: *Rosie Yeatman* **Development and Outreach Manager:** *Hannah Morrow*

Unit 6, Old Paradise Yard, 20 Carlisle Lane, London SE1 7LG

020 7620 4405 | www.i-m-s.org.uk | hannah@i-m-s.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 270204