

Cellocourses newsletter #3

December 2007



I'm Catherine Black. I'm a cello teacher and I also create & organise courses for cellists and other instrumentalists. You can get much more information about me and my courses if you look at my website - www.cellocourses.com.

Here is my third newsletter. In the last newsletter I concentrated on the Practise workshop. This time I'm covering.. well read on and find out.

During the year **Unsung Heroes** has developed in an exciting way. The 1-day workshops seem to be becoming a course. With students returning regularly, I am now sending out scores in advance with practice notes so we can follow up the previous workshop's developments.

What I love about the workshops is the enthusiasm and the involvement of the cellists who come. Several cellists have only been playing a matter of months and are pleased to find they can play fabulous music with others quicker than they previously thought. Many have made new friends and others, who live locally, have set up their own cello ensemble.

A new edition of *Unsung Heroes* has been created for junior school children. This takes place on March 1st here in Lewes from 10am - 12.15. We will be playing music by Tallis and Campion and learning about the composers and the times in which the music was written.

1- Day workshops this year are on April 12th 10.30 - 4pm when Fiona Murphy and I will be teaching one of our favourite composers, John Dowland - one of the great song writers of all time. There is another on October 11th and further dates will be posted as I hope to do one in London.

The third **Unsung Heroes Cello Ensemble Summer Course** takes place between August 3rd - 8th and is rapidly getting close to my original vision of it. This year we have the philosopher and writer, Kevin Burns giving a lecture on the Renaissance to give the music we are studying more of an overall context. Students will be preparing to give their own concert during the week. As well as learning the music, they will be researching the composers so each can take part in introducing the music in concert. A reading and listening list will be posted so those who wish to, can make this a fuller experience.

For those of you sensing the seasonal need to make resolutions, how about coming to the **Practice Workshops** and address the eternal need to work

more efficiently and effectively? The need to refresh applies to all of us. As you develop it's easy to stay working within the same parameters. We all need new input on a regular basis.

These workshops are on Saturday February 16th 10 -1pm for **Adult Learners** and March 1st 1- 3.30 for **Long term adults and secondary school students**.

Last October saw another **Performance Workshop** with theatre director Pat O'Toole and pianist Jonathan Zoob. A date will be posted for this year's **Getting the Bigger Picture** and is open to **any** cellist wishing to develop their performance skills. Again, students are returning to this important workshop which in the words of Katrin “really cracked something for me”. Those of my students who come on this workshop do change, develop their presentation skills and become more confident. There are obvious implications for how you are in life and work too!

Congratulations to Caroline Evans who presents **Inside Out** (GCSE Music Composition Course) with me. She is the author of the **Aural Test Survival Guide** in eight volumes published by Edition Peters and in October was awarded the Retailers' Award for distinction in printed music publishing. You can see Caroline looking extremely glamorous receiving the award on www.editionpeters.com

Speaking of which, if anyone needs extra help with their GCSE Music writing, you can come along on Saturday 19th and 26th of January from 10 - 2pm. See Inside Out page [www.cellocourses.com/composition.htm] for more information.

I look forward to seeing you and send my best wishes for an amazing and fruitful year!

Catherine

If you have any questions, do call me on 01273 470558 or, email me at catherine.black@cellocourses.com