

Cellocourses newsletter #4

December 2008



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.

I write to send you best wishes for this Christmas and a very happy and exciting new year.

This year has seen the culmination of a lot of hard work for **String Theory Cello Ensemble**. We have developed a programme called **Through Coloured Glass** which features a lot of the repertoire you have played on courses and in workshops.

The idea behind the programme is one of music as contemplation. The music mirrors a journey from the troubles of the world to a still point at the centre. From there, you are lead forward to return to everyday life, refreshed. We play the cycle continuously for an hour and the audience receives the music. Our last performance was in a small theatre-bar and there was lighting to colour the journey by Clare O'Donoghue who lights in opera houses here and throughout Europe.

Next year we will be performing and recording **Through Coloured Glass** and are now working on a serene Christmas album which includes music written for us.

You can keep up to date on us at www.stringtheorycelloensemble.com

The **Big News** is that I am publishing the first volume of **Unsung Heroes** scores in four parts on May 1st. The collection will be educational: as well as notes on style and technique, there will be notes on each specific piece that are easily read next to the score. Design of the cover is under-way now by Max Carrington, my graphic designer. He has also made some vibrant cello case stickers based on my card design, which are now ready to go onto your cello case!

A children's volume of **Unsung Heroes** will appear later and volumes to include music in 5 & 6 parts are part of my future plans. Full details and an order form will be posted on my site soon.

The first **Unsung Heroes of 2009** is on Saturday January 31st here in Lewes. We will study music by Palestrina and Byrd. I am in Cambridge on April 18th, Lewes in May and London in October.

This year's Summer Course is from July 22^{6th} - 31st at All Saints Centre, Lewes and I have some wonderful new scores for us to work on and perform.

A **new performance workshop** for young cellists takes place in Lewes on Saturday February 14th. This is an opportunity to play with a pianist and to receive helpful musical, performance and technical tips. So, if you are about to do an exam, a performance or just want to gem up, do put in an application soon as places are limited. The class is open for ages 6 – 18. I will be doing a similar class for adults later in the year.

The new year is when students seem ready to feng shui their playing habits, and to that end, there are several **Thinking Aloud** practice workshops coming up. **Adult learners** have already turned their workshop into a course as we meet every six months now to develop ideas and improve on ways of working. Each time a new student or two drops into the group. If you are feeling the need to refresh, check for the workshop for you!

I look forward to an exciting new year and look forward to seeing you again.

Don't hesitate to ask any questions :

- either by email to catherine.black@cellocourses.com
- or feel free to call me on 01273 470558 - please leave me a message and number if I'm not available to speak to you at the time.

With best wishes,
Catherine