

Cellocourses newsletter #7

July 2012



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

Dear Cellist,

New things are happening here at Cellocourses.com.

The Big News is that over the summer, I am expanding my publishing. Soon you will be able to buy and download pdfs of music for cello and piano (old and new music) and more **Unsung Heroes Cello Ensemble** scores. These are the scores for six or more cellos. I am also now preparing **Volume 2 of Unsung Heroes** with Max Carrington, my fantastic graphic designer.

For some time I've had a series of arias that I use with my pupils on my computer thinking I will put them together for a publisher. It then became obvious that I follow on from the release in 2009 of my first self-publication, **Unsung Heroes Renaissance Volume 1**.

These arias follow on from the idea behind the series, **Time Pieces for Cello**, in which you explore great music by a wide range of composers from an early stage. So what you are about to get is Stage I: gorgeous Baroque arias. Whether you've been studying for one or twenty years these pieces encompass the technical issues that go with each stage of your evolution. For instance, playing in thumb position is a big technical issue to explore, so there will be a **Dowland** Ayre entirely in the first place we learn this hand position, and then a **Purcell** Aria, helping you to travel into and out of thumb position. Those thumbs will soon become melodic and eloquent!

A friend of mine David Heyes, a superb double bass player and teacher, suggested that maybe I could make sure that bass players

get more repertoire, so some of this material will go into a section for bass players too. If you have bass-playing friends, they may find something they like here.

As was the case in Time Pieces, the piano parts are not too difficult. This is a deliberate ploy so it means pianists can easily sight-read rather than need the music before a rehearsal.

Last years workshops saw us studying new, more historically recent **Unsung Heroes** scores: music by Tchaikovsky, Pearsall, Parry and Elgar. After this first wave of ensemble scores is released, I will add to the range historically with these pieces and others.

There are plans to add mp3 files too so you can play along to the music in your practice or rehearsals.

There is a new collection of music for piano and cello coming out by Mark Sinclair. **One Chair in a Room** is original, highly melodic and atmospheric music - just what cellists love to play.

The album will be released as downloadable sheet music and the standard of these pieces is from Grade 6 upwards.

Some of you will know that I am now on **Facebook**. For me this means I can update news very quickly and add articles and music files you may find interesting.

Meanwhile, I am getting ready for this years wonderful week of Unsung Heroes here in Lewes from August 5th – 10th. We are playing some amazing music and bringing a special focus to two of Spain's most eminent Renaissance composers, Victoria and Morales. They travelled to the musical hub of Europe, Rome, to explore and expand their art before returning home to a very different cultural climate.

Anyone wanting to make a last minute dash to be with us - just drop me a line!

With best wishes,
Catherine

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