

ProCorda 2016 by Mabon Llyr

Having travelled for over five hours, arriving to a prepared hot meal at the Guesten Hall at Leiston Abbey was the perfect welcome. After being shown our rooms we headed over to the newly refurbished barn with our instruments to participate in some ensemble playing. It was great to hear so many violas playing together, a truly rare occasion. In the evening it was really nice just to catch up with old friends and to get to know some less familiar faces.

The first morning was a particularly memorable one. It had been dark when we arrived the previous evening so there wasn't much to see. One only appreciates the sheer beauty of the place with the frost and at sunrise. There was something very special about walking through the Abbey house where we were staying and hearing the sound of the viola coming from every single room. Having so much time to practise was such a luxury, being away from the stresses of modern life makes it so much easier to focus on the viola.

The best thing for me about this course is the fact that everyone has a one-to-one lesson with a different teacher every day. I feel like I remember each lesson I had during the week as a result of that. Another fantastic thing about the course is the opportunity to perform in front of fellow violists in the daily performance classes. It is really helpful to have so much input from other people.

Despite the inevitable cold weather, there is such a warm atmosphere on this course. Living with other like-minded people means that everyone gets on so well, and when the end of the week comes, you wish you were staying for longer.

Mabon Llyr

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