

## **International Somerakademie Bad Leonfelden. August 2017**

Between 8th and 16th August I once again attended the International Somerakademie Bad Leonfelden run by Thomas Riebl. I started my trip with a short visit to Salzburg to watch the principal players of the Vienna Phil play Strauss Capriccio and Mendelssohn Octet among other works, including some Mozart.

I took a short train journey and then bus into the remote town of Bad Leonfelden, which for two weeks a year is taken over by string musicians from all over the world. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to play to Thomas Riebl in four different classes. I have been working on the first movements of the Walton Concerto and Stamitz Concerto in preparation for auditions in the coming months, so it was an amazing opportunity to receive inspirational advice from Thomas on this core repertoire. He also asks all students take Bach to his masterclass. For this I prepared the Allemande, Courante, Bourrées and Gigue from the 4th Cello Suite.

I would highly recommend any aspiring violists to consider attending this course. Along with the fantastic teaching there is a great atmosphere and we also go on a hike, which for me was a highlight! Here is a video diary, mostly of my running training up in the mountains in preparation for the marathon: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TM0Gb4U6q\\_o&t=43s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TM0Gb4U6q_o&t=43s)

**Alistair Rutherford**

**September 2017**