

Senior Arpeggione Course, Suffolk. October 2017

We have just returned from another senior Arpeggione course in Suffolk, a delightful week with 22 young violists. We have had students in the past from Israel and France but it has been quite a London-based course until now. So it was very exciting to be joined by students from Wales, Manchester, Birmingham and Guernsey. This course is based around preparing those heading for auditions so they have an opportunity to play their programmes and meet some teachers from the conservatoires.

We were visited by Jonathan Barritt, Martin Outram and Roger Chase for coaching, masterclasses and concerts. My regular team of Steve Tees and Mickey Posner was there all week and we were joined by Julian Rolton on the piano. As well as playing in one or two masterclasses, they each worked on two chamber works, some orchestral pieces and had some jazz improvisation sessions on Steve's arrangement of Rocker.

The concerto competition, to play Hoffmeister or Stamitz concerto first movement from memory, is to help them prepare a classical concerto for auditions. Georgia Russell won the competition and performed the first movement of the Stamitz concerto in both the Suffolk and London concerts.

Being in a Tudor barn, we had an evening of Tudor food and dancing. It was another fabulous week of relaxed violists producing inspired music and having fun.

I am now taking applications for the junior and intermediate course in April. If anyone has any interested students, please look at the website for more information.

arpeggione.org

Jacky Woods
October 2017