

## Training Opportunities for String Teachers

I have a sneaking suspicion that somewhere amongst the membership of the British Viola Society one could find more than a few teachers. Many will be highly experienced, but there will also be those amongst us who have been teaching for less time. As in any society, part of the benefits of membership is the sharing of a common knowledge, and within the realms of viola teaching I am sure we can agree there is just so much to share.

We are very lucky in having, amongst our ranks, teachers of all types of pupils from the modest beginner right up to world class soloists. The **BVS's** President, Louise Lansdown, is the driving force behind the innovative **ARCO project**, and our Vice President, Martin Outram, gives viola classes for the **LRAM** in teaching as part of his work at the **Royal Academy of Music**. This reinforces the wealth of experience we have to draw upon.

For some of us however, a more formalised external course of study could be appropriate to career development needs. Traditionally in the UK it has been quite hard to formalise any training as a string teacher, apart from through the external teaching diplomas on offer by the major examination boards, specific string approaches such as **Colourstrings** or **Suzuki**, or the string teaching course that used to be offered by the **RNCM**.

After many years of planning, the **European String Teaching Association** has finally managed to achieve accreditation for a suite of qualifications, namely the **ESTA certificate for music educators (CME)** and the **ESTA post-graduate certificate (PG Cert)**. The ESTA certificate is a level 4 qualification, newly starting in 2019, and the PG course is a level 7 qualification, now entering its third year. For many, these courses could offer exactly the sort of training you are seeking. The PG course is a twelve-month course designed to fit around your teaching schedule, with a large element of online learning, mentor guidance and a compulsory residential element at the annual summer school. The CME course is still currently in preparation, but more information can be obtained directly from the organisation.

The website to visit to find out more about these courses is [www.estaeducation.co.uk](http://www.estaeducation.co.uk) and, if you are a member of ESTA there are great discounts to be had from early application.