

Grace Ramsey's summer music

This summer I enjoyed a range of courses and adventures, including completing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh, which involved climbing Scafell Pike, and performing a programme of Bach and Bloch in a church recital! Two key musical memories which particularly stood out to me however were my course at the University of Oxford, where for a week I studied BA Music, attending lectures and writing and editing a full undergraduate-styled essay (our brief was focused on gender/disability in *La Traviata*-a wonderful opera by Verdi!). It involved a lot of studying and reading, but I thoroughly enjoyed immersing myself into the world of academic music; I think it's particularly important to understand and be aware of both the historical and social contexts of a piece you're playing, whether you're an academic musician or not, and so this was perfect for me! I also attended my last course with Aldeburgh Young Musicians, which was an intensive Chamber Music course. I loved being a member of AYM as I was able to play such a diverse range of music, particularly contemporary music, which I wouldn't normally have the chance to play within an ensemble - a favourite of mine was Muhly's 'Drones, Variations and Ornaments', along with an incredible arrangement of Schumann's 'Fantasiestücke' Op.73 for solo clarinet, harp, two violas and flute, which was truly mesmerising!

September 2019